The Cleveland-Marshall College of Law 1897-1977

Cleveland State Law Review

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In 1897 Willis Vickery, Judge Arthur Rowley, and Judge Charles Bently, with the cooperation and assistance of leading members of the bar, founded the Baldwin University Law School. The school was incorporated under the name of The Cleveland Law School as the law department of Baldwin-Wallace College in 1899, and gained recognition as the first evening law school in Ohio and the first law school in the state to admit women. In 1916 another group of Cleveland attorneys, Alfred A. Benesch, Frank T. Cullitan, and David C. Meck, Sr., founded The John Marshall School of Law.

The Cleveland-Marshall Law School was established in 1946 as a consolidation of The Cleveland Law School and The John Marshall School of Law. The school became The Cleveland-Marshall College of Law of The Cleveland State University through merger in 1969.

Today almost 1200 men and women are enrolled in one of the nation’s finest facilities for legal education — the newly-built 7.5 million dollar Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Building on the campus of Cleveland State University. In this dedication year in the new building, the college continues in the traditions of the past in providing quality legal education in day and evening sessions, and a leading program of clinical legal education.

The law college also welcomes the arrival of Robert L. Bogomolny, who became Dean on September 1, 1977 after finishing his duties as Professor of Law at Southern Methodist University. A native Clevelander, Dean Bogomolny received undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University, and has pursued a notable career in private practice and government service in addition to his work as an educator and author of numerous articles in legal journals.

On October 20, 1977, Dean Bogomolny and University President Walter B. Waetjen presided over a commemorative ceremony to open the dedication year in the new Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Building. The law college was honored on this occasion by the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, who was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. His Royal Highness delivered the following remarks upon presentation of a commemorative plaque.