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Celebrating Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

Alfred C. Aman Jr.
Indiana University School of Law

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Celebrating Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

On Dec. 5, 1842, more than 150 years ago, this law school began with an inaugural lecture by Judge David McDonald, the school's first professor. That address was titled simply "The Study of Law." He delivered it in the chapel of Indiana University to the new Law Department—approximately five students and assembled guests. On Dec. 3, 1992, two days shy of our actual sesquicentennial anniversary, we celebrated our past and our future in a number of ways. Justice Shirley Abrahamson, JD'56, delivered the Sesquicentennial Lecture, published in this *Bill of Particulars*. Later that evening, we celebrated with a gala dinner in our



own law library. We looked especially to the arts, and to two artists in particular, to celebrate this law school's 150th anniversary. In honor of this event, Distinguished Professor Rudy Pozzatti created a silkscreen print, which appears as the cover of this *Bill of Particulars*, and Distinguished Professor David Baker composed a

three-movement jazz suite titled "Celebration."

Why turn to the arts to celebrate this law school anniversary? Every lawyer—every good one—is an artist. Every lawyer has to be able to see essential forms within unfamiliar patterns. Every lawyer has to learn to think across genres, institutions, jurisdictions, and conventions in order to create with the law. Every lawyer has to find fresh solutions—sometimes to old problems, sometimes new ones. Sometimes defining the issues themselves is a high art.

Why should we turn to the arts for inspiration in the law? To me, law and art both represent time, and they

President Ehrlich, Chancellor Gros Louis offer best wishes

"Congratulations on your 150th anniversary. The Law School can look with justifiable pride on its distinguished past and with enthusiasm for its prospects in the years to come. As the world becomes smaller, law will play important new roles, as it has throughout the course of the school's history. Tonight, we congratulate the school's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and alumnae for their roles in leading the law and the school from its noble past to a bright future."

—Tom Ehrlich, President, Indiana University

"I am very pleased to offer my congratulations to the Law School family on this memorable occasion. As the University has grown since 1842, so too the Law School has reflected that growth and the energy that drove it. Having been Chancellor of the campus since 1980, I have come to know the Law School well and, because of comments from my counterparts across the country, to know its unique features. Many law schools, or so I am told, tend to float away from the university to which they belong and become islands unto themselves in

some corner or perhaps handsome quadrangle of the campus. John Donne said almost 400 years ago that no person is an island and I would like to think that no school within a university should be an island either. What has most impressed me about this law school is its active and full participation in the total life of the Bloomington campus. Faculty members in the school have given generously to campus governance; participated creatively in interdisciplinary centers and projects; contributed conscientiously to debates on undergraduate education; made known their presence as members of an intellectual community that is a university at its best. The Bloomington campus would be diminished greatly without the involvement of Law School faculty and students. Similarly, the university would be diminished without what the Law School has given to its reputation. Thus, today's occasion is indeed one justifying celebration and gratitude. I am confident that a rich future will develop from the school's rich past. All good wishes and drink a toast for me."

—Kenneth R.R. Gros Louis, Chancellor, IU Bloomington

do so in similar ways. Like the arts, law defines the cutting edge. The future of the knowable, the history of the imaginable, these are the time frames of the law. The law, like art, turns to the past in its search for models and insight into the present. The law, like art, is lasting. Law and art alike teach us to appreciate the past while simultaneously freeing us from it. Music and the visual arts express us in ways that link the past and the future; like the law, they

require that we imagine the future. The arts also reflect and express something very basic and timeless—human feeling and emotion, essential aspects of the human condition that are also the basic stuff of law.

The arts are entertaining, but in a way that allows us to take the measure of the world, and with it, the dimensions of our very souls. The law, too, can be something like this. Helping to solve the great human problems of society with law takes

creativity and sensitivity. The arts inspire these, by inviting us to think beyond words, and then to find the words.

We tell our students that we are training them to think like lawyers—but that means educating them to think like artists: to keep technique firmly connected to judgments, rationality to dreams, traditions to innovation, routine to improvisation.

Students should be seen and treated as aspiring artists, not techni-

Law, art: Part of 'ceaseless stream'

Rudy Pozzatti, Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts at Indiana University, created "Celebration of the Law" in honor of the law school's 150th birthday. His work is well known throughout the world. He has had numerous one-man exhibitions in various museums and galleries throughout the U.S., Italy, and Germany, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Pushkin Museum in Moscow, the Toronto Museum of Art, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.

He has won numerous awards. In a booklet titled "The Art of Rudy Pozzatti, Four Decades of Printmaking," Dario A. Covi has written about Pozzatti in a way that also echoes the spirit of our own sesqui-centennial:

"It is not a nostalgic yearning for what has gone before that Pozzatti seeks to communicate... but admiration for what man through determination and



creative gifts has been able to make and to maintain over the centuries. For Pozzatti is not in love with the past as such, but sees it as part of a ceaseless stream of which he too is inevitably a part.

"He can be inspired by a reading of Dante, by travel, both far and near, or simply by thinking about the world around him, both the natural and the man-made, by concern about current phenomena and past events, by the lasting and the disappearing."

cians. Soon, as first-rate lawyers, they will have the technique necessary to handle the easy cases and answer the basic questions, but they will also have the creativity and judgment to put form and shape into an amorphous set of facts that do not neatly

fit a ready-made legal pigeonhole. Knowing the questions to ask is not just a technical skill. It is a creative, imaginative enterprise. As artists, students and the lawyers they will become must have the technique of their craft well in hand, but the goal

is not technique for technique's sake.

As law teachers, we aspire to be artists too, giving our students a feeling for the materials, knowing—or hoping—that the results of a legal education will unfold for them over a lifetime. Like the practice of any art, legal education is never finished. At best, it is ever fresh, a language of connection to others that each attorney speaks with his or her own distinctive and wonderfully individual accent. As law becomes more global in the coming century, the diversity of these accents will undoubtedly increase, placing even more weight on the creative and artistic elements of the legal imagination.

As legal educators, we aim to inspire an appreciation of the creative role of law and a sense of what it means to mix vision with skill and wisdom with action. We aspire to stand for these qualities not only before our students and the academic community, but also for our alumni and alumnae at the bar and bench. We try to be good witnesses for these enduring values. In the stewardship of this school, all of us aspire to honor our graduates from our first 150 years by carrying their art forward, into the future.

So at our school's sesquicentennial, we celebrate creativity and the arts because theory and technique alone are not enough. The living reality of human beings in need of law demands that we be artists.

—Alfred C. Aman Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law

Celebrating the law—and all that jazz



David Baker, Distinguished Professor in the IU School of Music, composed a piece of music especially for the law school to celebrate this milestone in our history.

David Baker, a graduate of the IU music school, is now chair of the jazz department. He has performed with some of the greatest jazz artists of our times, including Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Lionel Hampton, Quincy

Jones, and Wes Montgomery. His records and publications are numerous. He has written more than 2,000 original pieces of music in a variety of genres, including jazz compositions, orchestral works, sonatas, concerti, string quartets, vocal music, film scores, and music for television.

Baker has written more than 60 books and more than 130 articles. He has more than 50 recordings to his credit, appearing either as performer, conductor, arranger, or composer.