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Terry Bethel (1990-1991 Acting)

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Fall 1990

'Bye, Bye, BG'

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Recommended Citation

"Bye, Bye, BG" (1990). *Terry Bethel (1990-1991 Acting)*. 7.
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

'Bye, bye, BG'

Perhaps it was with a bit of prescience that Bryant Garth—known to many as BG—wrote that it was not necessary for him to include a “dean’s message” with each issue of the *Bill of Particulars*. Only a few months after the last issue appeared, he announced that he would take a leave from the School to become the director of the American Bar Foundation (ABF).

The School made remarkable progress during his four years as dean: One-third of the current faculty were hired; the law library acquired its 400,000th volume, making it the largest law library in the state; and applications for admissions exceeded all prior records. Because of his efforts, the University established the Center for the Study of Law and Society, a forum for faculty across the campus who are interested in law-related research.

With the Center, he organized two major conferences. The first, “Growth of the Large Law Firm,” addressed the effect on the profession and on legal education of the growth in the number of lawyers and the number of large law firms. Papers presented at the conference formed a symposium issue of the *Indiana Law Journal*. The second conference, “International Commercial Arbitration,” provided the basis for an international study of commercial arbitration that will take several years to complete.

Professor **John Flood** calls Bryant Garth “the greatest single force in promoting law and society research on the Bloomington campus,” noting that “there is no better qualified person to direct the largest law and society research institution in the U.S.—the American Bar Foundation.”

BG was a very effective fund raiser for the School, and during his tenure the School’s endowment tripled. It may seem unusual that a scholar would also be a successful fund

raiser. However, when you consider that “BG not only likes lawyers, but much of his research focuses on what lawyers do, his success in asking for their support for the Law School should come as no surprise,” says Assistant Dean **Arthur Lotz**. “He can talk to any lawyer about any aspect of the profession and the problems lawyers face. He is, sadly for us, a natural to head up the ABF.”

BG’s support was critical for the establishment of the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) at the School. Student and faculty donations to PILF have enabled several students to take public interest jobs in the summer.

Describing him as “a dean of outstanding integrity, a sense of purpose, and a dedication to the highest standards of scholarship, Professor **John Baker**, a former dean himself, applauds BG “for taking one of the worse jobs in academics and sticking with it for this long.” He adds, “BG has been a dean who has worked hard to create diversity in the law school. Perhaps more than most, he understands the importance of diversity to the intellectual mission of the school and the profession.”

Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice **Randall T. Shepard** remembers that “the circumstances under which he came to be dean were very unusual. He had not sought the post initially, and it was his stewardship as acting dean that led the faculty and others to urge him to reconsider. This was as high a compliment as the faculty could bestow and had a unifying effect that allowed the School to move forward in many areas.” In addition, said Shepard, “he made considerable contributions toward cementing a closer relationship between the School and the bar. He encouraged members of the

faculty to become members of the bar, and I’ve sworn in quite a number of them in the last several years. He also encouraged CLE program participation on the part of the bar. In general, his objectives have been to build the School’s national reputation while cementing the relationship with the legal community in which it is located.”

As the School searches for a new dean, **Terry Bethel**, who has been the



associate dean of the School for the past four years, will serve as acting dean. A 1971 graduate of Ohio State College of Law, Bethel was managing editor

of the *Law Journal* and elected to the Order of the Coif. Before joining the faculty in 1980, he taught at the University of Missouri—Columbia School of Law for three years and had been in practice in Columbus for six years with Baker & Hostetler. Bethel’s practice and teaching focuses on labor law. He is a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He teaches Labor Law I and II and Contracts.

Serving as associate dean gave Bethel insights into the work of a dean. “Being dean is a much more difficult job than most people realize,” says Bethel. “There are a lot of constituencies, many with competing visions for the school and with conflicting expectations for themselves. BG did a good job of managing the conflicts that inevitably arise in an institution as diverse as this one. He’ll be missed, and some of us won’t realize how much until we try to replace him.” □