The Challenge and Promise of Public Legal Education

Lauren K. Robel
Indiana University Maurer School of Law, lrobel@indiana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub
Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Legal Education Commons

Recommended Citation
Robel, Lauren K., "The Challenge and Promise of Public Legal Education" (2005). Articles by Maurer Faculty. 2792.
https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub/2792
The challenge and promise of public legal education

Editor's Note: At the invitation of ISBA, President Clyde D. Compton, Dean Lauren K. Robel, I.U. School of Law-Bloomington, is our "Perspective" columnist this month.

I am privileged to serve as dean of the oldest law school in our state, which means that, like all teachers, I spend my time thinking about the future. For more than 160 years, Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington has served as an exemplar of the values of public legal education, which include access to the profession and a deep and abiding belief that the citizens of our state deserve the services of lawyers with excellent skills, moral courage and high ethical values. The challenge that our faculty members face daily is connecting that vision of public legal education to the future of our profession; the challenge I face as dean is preserving the values of public legal education in an age of state fiscal scarcity.

Sometimes it helps to look back. The Law Department was announced in the 1841-42 Bloomington catalog, which stated that the design of the board of trustees was "nothing less than the building up of the Law School, that shall be inferior to none west of the Mountains; one in which the student will be taught, that he shall never, in the attorney, forget the scholar, and the gentleman." The population of the entire state at that point was fewer than 700,000; and an historian described Indiana's challenges: "In 1841 [the state's] debt in its totality amounted to $15,088,146; there was no prospect of any equivalent returns, and the affairs of the commonwealth generally were not such as to invite citizenship. Hence of the great tide of immigration pouring westward by way of the National Road to Indiana, the returns, and the affairs of the commonwealth generally were not such as to invite citizenship." The design of the board of trustees was right.

The idea that lawyers trained in Indiana would be at the forefront of constitution drafting in Iraq, members of the judiciary of Thailand, law school professors in Taiwan, or engineers, inventors and others connected to distributors, manufacturers or customers from Paris to Beijing. The federal and state regulatory webs they will negotiate could hardly have been imagined by our founders, who lived in a state barely 26 years old. The interdisciplinarity of their work – the need to work closely with scientists, engineers, inventors and others – much less the notion that some fields of law require a Ph.D. as well as a J.D. would have been surprising.

And the idea that lawyers trained in Indiana would be at the forefront of constitution drafting in Iraq, members of the judiciary of Thailand, law school professors in Taiwan, or business leaders in Germany would have been unimaginable. But these global connections to our state are as important in 2005 as convincing some of those travelers on the National Road to stop and invest in our state's future might have been in 1841.

(continued on page 6)
CLE this month: new ethics rules

The new Indiana ethics rules are now in effect as of Jan. 1. What are the changes, and what do they mean to you as a practitioner? ICLEF, with special thanks to the ISBA's Legal Ethics Committee and the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, is pleased to present a 2-hour (ethics credit) CLE program all across Indiana to address the new rules.

Remaining dates and locations this month: March 17, Merrillville; March 18, South Bend; March 24, Evansville; and March 30, Terre Haute.

All programs start at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. For a brochure and registration form, visit www.inbar.org or call ICLEF, 317/637-9102.

Perspective
continued from page 5

And the challenges to the “public” part of legal education are strong. As the state faces fiscal demands from every quarter, it is good to be reminded that public legal education has, almost since statehood, been an important piece of Indiana’s vision for its future and its citizens. The skills and judgment that lawyers trained in our state law schools bring to realizing our dreams about the future are still vitally important—whether they are new lawyers lured to the state through the excellence of the educational experience they can achieve here, or those who grew up here and take their knowledge of and affection for our state around the globe. Indiana deserves no less.

1. George S. Cottman, Centennial History and Handbook of Indiana (1915).

Rod Taylor
CHRISTOPHER & TAYLOR
1219 North Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Tel: 317-635-9000
Fax: 317-686-2290
rodtaylor@abatelegal.com

Practice Areas:
• Motorcycle and Aviation Litigation
• Business Litigation
• Class Action Litigation

Rod Taylor practices in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio and the District of Columbia. AV rated; Preferred Lawyer List of Martindale-Hubbell, handling hundreds of cases throughout the United States, representing ABATE of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Motorcycle Riders Foundation and American Motorcyclist Association; with the following FAA pilot authorizations: Airline Transport, Commercial, Multi-instrument and Private; FAA Type in jet aircrafts—CITATION I, CITATION II, BRAVO, CITATION V, CITATION VII; certified as an Airframe and Power Plant Mechanic No. 2835214. Founder and President of the Miracle Ride Foundation, creator of the Indianapolis Air Show and the Miracle Ride, raising more than $2 million for Riley Hospital. Former Editor in Chief of Indiana Law Review.
Nominations sought for ISBA Board of Governors positions

Any member of the Indiana State Bar Association who desires to be considered for nomination to a vacancy on the Board of Governors should convey that interest to the chair of the Association’s Nominating Committee. Members who are nominated will face an election at the annual meeting of the Association Assembly to be held in Indianapolis in October, after which a two-year term will commence.

District vacancies for the term October 2005 through October 2007 are as follows:

- District 1, representing Lake County;
- District 4, representing Allen County;
- District 5, representing the counties of Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe, Warren and White;
- District 10, representing the counties of Adams, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Huntington, Jay, Madison, Miami, Randolph, Tipton, Wabash, Wayne and Wells; and
- District 11, representing Marion County.

Letters of interest and résumés, not longer than two pages in length (with information as to leadership positions or other activity within the State Bar as well as other affiliations), should be sent to John D. Proffitt, Chair, ISBA Nominating Committee, Indiana State Bar Association, One Indiana Square, Suite 530, Indianapolis, IN 46204. The deadline for receipt is April 4.

---

SERIOUS ATTORNEYS FOR SERIOUS INJURIES

Personal injury and wrongful death cases resulting from fires & explosions often turn on the ability to re-construct them. We have a 30-member team of investigators, attorneys, paralegals, and staff with significant experience in fires & explosions, including those involving lighters, natural gas, chemicals, service stations, tankers, motor vehicles, and personal watercraft. We also have state-of-the-art video & computer modeling capabilities. We’re ready to work with you and your clients on a referral or co-counsel basis. All you have to do is call 1-800-525-8028.

Indianapolis
2859 N. Meridian
1-317-920-6400
www.wkw.com

Richmond
2901 E. Main
1-765-962-9113

Muncie
3620 N. Everbrook Lane
Suite A
1-765-284-2474

WILSON KEHOE & WININGHAM
Serious Attorneys for Serious Injuries

- Brain or Spinal Cord Injuries
- Medical Malpractice Injuries
- Fire or Explosion Injuries
- Products Liability Injuries
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Other Personal Injury & Wrongful Death Accidents

---

Child Support Software
Indiana SUPPORT MASTER™

- Parenting Time Credit Worksheet
- Calculates Child Support
- Prints Worksheets
- Handles Large Incomes
- College Worksheets
- Subsequent Children
- Medical Expenses
- Interest and Arrearage Calculator

Professional Software Corporation
Fast, accurate support calculations since 1989

309 Main St. voice 812/833-3781
POB 716 fax 812/838-9445
Mount Vernon
IN 47620
mhawley@bamberger.com

www.supportmastersoftware.com