

Introduction and Remarks  
Jerome Hall Inaugural Lecture  
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Today we inaugurate the Jerome Hall Lectureship in Law, a lecture to be given every other year in honor of the memory of Professor Jerome Hall, a member of this faculty from 1939 to 1970.

Jerome Hall was a great teacher and scholar, but his path to academia was not at all foreordained. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1923, and first pursued the practice of law in Chicago. It appears he was not terribly happy with this course and he sought advice from one of the most famous practitioners in the times -- Clarence Darrow. Darrow advised Hall to "swim with the current" and do in life only what he found interesting. Hall wanted to teach and write. Darrow's advice changed the course of Hall's life as well as the study of law for generations of students.

Professor Hall began teaching full time in 1929, first taking a position at the University of North Dakota. After three years he began to do graduate research at the Columbia and Harvard law schools and received doctoral degrees from both institutions in 1935. From 1935 to 1939, he served as Professor of Law at Louisiana State University and joined the Indiana University law faculty in 1939, where he found a home and taught for over 30 years. In 1970 he retired from IU and joined the faculty at Hastings Law School where he continued to teach well into his eighties. In fact in 1986, at age 85, he was still very much a presence in the classroom. When asked by a student why he continued to teach, he replied "because I have much to say".

During the course of my deanship I have had many occasions to speak with many of Jerome Hall's students. It is interesting to me to see how right he was -- he did, indeed, have much to say, and he had an enormous impact in the classroom and in print. He clearly was the kind of teacher who made his mark on students and helped prepare them for the practice of law in ways that were effective and long-lasting.

I know that there are some former students of Professor Hall in the audience today. I thought I might share just a few comments from some of the many letters I received from Jerome Hall's students who could not be here today. One letter states: "Jerome was by all accounts a rare and illustrious teacher and scholar. His vision of the law as the philosophical embodiment of a multitude of facets of our lives, as the global structure making civilized living possible, has found expression in his many writings. While criminal law was the bread and butter topic of his time at IU, I always felt that his real love was jurisprudence and the philosophy of law. His mind was clarity itself..."

Another former student writes: "I studied criminal law and jurisprudence under Professor Hall....Although I have never practiced criminal law, I can say without equivocation that he had a greater impact on my legal education and career than any other exposure during those cherished law school years. I still keep on my library shelf his *General Principles of Criminal Law*, the most difficult legal writing I have ever been asked to master, and *Theft, Law and Society*."

As young students, we were all intimidated by his stern and demanding manner in the classroom. Yet, in casual conversation,...his warmth and good humor caused us all to gather around him.

Once, in response to a student's comment upon the lone light from his office, which we would see regularly from the street in the late evening hours, he said that he was drawn to the law school at night "as a moth is drawn to a light."

Hall's dedication and distinction as a teacher lives on in his students. His creativity and scholarly productivity also lives on through the important books and articles he has written. Many of his works became classics in their field. Hall's *Theft, Law and Society*, first published in 1935, was one of the most significant contributions to American criminal law of its time. His readings in jurisprudence, first published in 1938, was the first comprehensive book in the field and became widely used in both the United States and England. His *General Principles of Criminal Law* was revered in 1948 as "the most important treatise in criminal law produced by American legal scholarship." Professor Hall was awarded Indiana University's highest faculty rank, Distinguished Service Professor, in 1957, and he also held the University's Leiber Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching.