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Dean Lockhart, The Man

Bill Lockhart is truly an extraordinary man, not because his achievements have been so numerous and diverse—though they have—and not because his accomplishments carry a distinct mark of excellence and eminence—though they do. He is unusual because he is that combination of multiple gifts and powers rarely coalesced in a single human being. And we have spoken merely of the professional man; only those familiar with Bill's deep devotion to his family and heroic dedication to his church can fully comprehend how remarkable a person he is.

In these pages, others more knowledgeable and qualified will, we are sure, talk of Bill Lockhart, The Teacher, and Bill Lockhart, The Scholar; they will probably tabulate his impressive list of publications and may even attempt to catalogue (no doubt incompletely) his prodigious extramural professional undertakings. On teaching, it is enough for us to note that, although we were not Bill's students (at least not in the formal sense of having taken his course), during our stay at Minnesota, countless stu-

dents and alumni spoke to us of his prowess on the podium. As for Bill's scholarship, we need only voice our conviction that his seminal insights on the constitutional treatment of obscenity will long survive the collage of Supreme Court opinions to date on the subject.

But we would offer a few words on Bill Lockhart, The Dean. Simply put, for us the conclusion is inescapable that the law school at Minnesota could not have done better with any other. Bill thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. He confronted the profound issues of legal education imaginatively and contemplatively; he approached the myriad details of law school administration with enormous energy and infectious spirit.

Moreover, his great energy and spirit spilled over into areas untravellered by most deans. For many years he was his own "Admissions Officer," personally visiting dozens of colleges annually, and earnestly and effectively "selling" bright undergraduates not on going to his law school particularly but on the virtues of pursuing a legal career generally. Nor was he one bit less interested in students when they arrived on the premises. Despite the pressures to which many other deans have succumbed, Bill insisted on teaching a large constitutional law class every year, in part because he was determined to get to know personally as many law students as humanly possible. And outside the classroom he was, during the time we were there at least, his own Student Counselor. Indeed, perhaps our sole criticism of his performance during our stay at Minnesota was what we believe to be the inordinate amount of time he devoted to students—personally chatting in his office with every entering freshman (upwards of two hundred, sometimes) during the first several months of the school year; in the early seventies, with the benefit of hindsight, this enterprise now affords additional evidence of his decanal sensitivity and expertise, if not actual prescience.

Most law faculty members are mercifully shielded from the painful intricacies of dealing with the university administration. Thus, few of us directly observed his skill in weaving through that bureaucratic maze. But, if results are an accurate measure, Bill was superb. He invariably secured the law school's needs; indeed, he came near to satisfying the law school's wants. His relationships with the school's alumni were more visible—and they were similarly rewarding, both in terms of maintaining close and cordial affiliations and in establishing, exclusively through his personal exhaustive effort and determination, a tradition of financial support previously unknown in the state.

The plain fact is that virtually every aspect of Bill's deanship was a triumph, all bearing the imprint of his individual talent, vigor and style. But, at the substantial risk of immodesty, in our judgment one skill stood out among the others. He was a master in selecting excellent prospects for his faculty and in persuading them to come to Minnesota. All of them continue as his colleagues, many at Minnesota and some, like ourselves, in other places. Much like the consistently successful horseplayer, Bill's system of picking winners remains his own secret. Not so the reasons for his prevailing on the choices to join his faculty. Bill projected an intellectual liveliness and personal warmth, a feeling of hearty cordiality and total informality that characterized the institution and appealed greatly to beginners and more seasoned teachers alike. Bill and Mary Lockhart at once made you feel wanted, liked and comfortable. There was neither pretense nor pretentiousness about him—though we occasionally suspected that he was capable of a certain exaggeration at a faculty meeting when a policy that gravely concerned him appeared to be in jeopardy.

In the early sixties, Bill invited the two of us, his very junior colleagues, to join him in the publication of teaching materials in constitutional law. Bill has been the ideal collaborator. From the beginning, Bill Lockhart—The Teacher (here, of his colleagues) encouraged us to develop our own notions—regardless of his immense expertise in the area, irrespective of the fact that he had already prepared a full and refined set of materials over a number of years, and despite our being riders on the coattails of his contract with the publisher. He gave us our sway over those segments of the book that were assigned as our primary responsibility and was genuinely eager to receive our comments on his portions. But, all having been said and done, he was the man of wisdom in the field. His adroit perceptions and penetrating judgments mark the entire project. Beyond this, his ability to get the job done throughout the drudgery of annual supplements and burden of frequent revisions has never ceased to be amazing. Bill has always been ahead of the deadline, whether this has meant completing the supplement manuscript each year on his hideaway island in northern Minnesota (no telephone there, messages reaching him by boat) or doing a thoroughgoing revision while simultaneously performing his duties as dean, serving as president of the Association of American Law Schools, presiding over the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography and studying drafts of model codes and restate-

ments in preparation for a meeting of the Council of the American Law Institute (plus whatever else occupied his spare moments at the time). Perhaps this occasion may afford his collaborators some opportunity to express our admiration, gratitude and debt.

As dean, Bill Lockhart has set an exceedingly high standard, particularly for his successor but generally for all his peers. It is both appropriate and inevitable that his law school confer this distinction on him at this time—and we are deeply privileged to participate. Bill's retirement as dean signifies the end of an era for Minnesota. But those of us who know Bill recognize that his relinquishment of this mantle represents just one more benchmark in his continuing brilliant legal career.

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