

University of Michigan Law School

## University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository

---

Articles

Faculty Scholarship

---

1959

### Centennial Observance

Marcus L. Plant

*University of Michigan Law School*

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles/2271>

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/articles>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Marcus L. Plant. "Centennial Observance." *Mich. St. B. J.* 38, no. 8 (1959): 29-31.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [mlaw.repository@umich.edu](mailto:mlaw.repository@umich.edu).

# CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

By *MARCUS L. PLANT*

**P**REPARATIONS for the appropriate observance of the University of Michigan Law School Centennial were started more than two years in advance of the 100th anniversary date. The arrangements were planned and are being carried out by two committees. One is an alumni centennial committee of forty-five members selected so as to be representative of law school alumni in all areas of the country. The other is a committee of members of the law faculty.

At the initial joint meeting of the two committees, it was concluded that even though the occasion would mark a century of accomplishment and progress, the eyes of the participants ought to be directed primarily to the present and the future rather than the past. Furthermore, the committees were unanimous in believing that attention should be directed to basic and fundamental matters, with the treatment having a philosophical rather than purely technical orientation. Accordingly, the general theme selected for the discussions and activities is "Frontiers in the Law and Legal Education." It is confidently expected that the papers presented at the Centennial will prove to be contributions of permanent significance in the legal literature of these times, and it is



Chairman of the Faculty Centennial Committee, Mark Plant has had an unusually active extra-curricular program. In addition to a heavy teaching load, he represents U. of M. on the Big Ten's Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives, writes law books and legal articles, and is an associate editor of the Journal.

planned to publish them in book form as a lasting record of the occasion.

While the official opening of the Centennial observance will take place on the

evening of Thursday, October twenty-second, with a buffet dinner and light entertainment in the Lawyers Club in Ann Arbor, the main part of the program will consist of a series of lectures and addresses on Friday, October twenty-third, and a general university convocation on Saturday, October twenty-fourth. All events except the meals (at which attendance must necessarily be limited by the facilities available) will be open to the public. It is expected that the proceedings will be held in the Rackham Lecture Hall.

The speakers are all men of high distinction in public life and in their respective areas of the legal profession. The subjects to which they plan to devote their attention embrace some of the most basic problems of the profession and of the country in modern times.

#### JUDGE BROWN TO SPEAK

John R. Brown, judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the fifth circuit, of Houston, Texas, will be one of the two speakers Friday morning, October twenty-third. He is planning an analysis of the relation between the national and state governments in our federal system. The development of this problem over the years has resulted not only from the expansion of the functions of the national government in the areas of power granted to it by the federal constitution, but is also related to the prohibitions in the federal constitution applicable to the states (such as the equal protection clause and the due process clause) and to limitations imposed on the discretion of states in exercising state powers. The results are especially manifest in the areas of labor relations, education, regulation of business, sedition laws, and taxation. If the tendencies of the last few decades continue, what is the future of the states as entities in the federal system? For example, with respect to taxation is it not conceivable that the burden imposed by the federal government could become so great that the independence of the states will reach the vanishing

point? With respect to education, consideration will be given not only to the integration-segregation problem, but also to the problems which seem certain to result if the federal government embarks on a large-scale program of financial aid to education.

#### CARSON DISCUSSES LIBERTY

Ralph M. Carson of New York City, member of the firm of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland & Kiendl, will be the second speaker Friday morning. Mr. Carson's discussion will be devoted to the subject of individual liberty in the modern state. The effects of the ramifying state on personal liberty in the field of private law will be considered. A view of the movement of history since 1859, and an estimate of its movement in the next century, will be presented. Past and contemporary applications of the law will be employed in perspective with the classical background. What are the prospects from 1959 on in the field of private law with respect to such matters, for example, as improved judicial techniques, improvements in techniques of legislative decision, and control of the volume of litigation? What part should lawyers and the legal profession play in this connection, and what is the responsibility of those who have charge of legal education?

At noon on Friday there will be a luncheon. The Governor of Michigan and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court have been invited to speak on that occasion.

#### GRISWOLD AND LEVI

On the afternoon of Friday, October twenty-third, there will be addresses by Dean Erwin N. Griswold of Harvard Law School and Dean Edward H. Levi of the University of Chicago Law School. It is anticipated that these speakers will present their respective general philosophies of legal education with particular reference to purposes and goals. In this connection they will consider the challenges that are confronting legal education today and are likely to confront it

in the future and how those challenges can be met.

For example, during the Michigan Law School's first hundred years, formal legal education has displaced the apprentice system as the principal method of preparing lawyers for their profession. As Dean Pound has pointed out, it has only been during the last fifty years that the university law school with full-time teachers, high standards of admission, and the three-year curriculum has achieved a commanding position. Along with this have come higher standards of admission to the bar. Is this the end of the evolution of the American law school as an institution? If it isn't, what is likely to be the course of its growth in the years that lie ahead? Should it limit itself to producing graduates trained for the profession? Should it integrate its training with education in the other social sciences? Can it be expected in the future to produce graduates who will influence the public policy of the nation as much as lawyers have in the past?

On Friday night at the centennial banquet, the principal speaker will be the Right Honorable Lord Hartley Shawcross of London. He will speak on the rule of law in international affairs. Certainly this is a "legal frontier," perhaps in these times the most critical of all. Is there reason to think that in the events which have transpired since World War II a basis has been laid for the orderly conduct of international affairs and settlement of international disputes on a foundation of principles and procedures which are essentially legal in character? Have there not been some promising successes in the last decade in the settlement of international disputes and in the prevention of the spread of local wars which lend support to the hope that the peoples of all countries are gaining an understanding of, and a desire for, the rule of law in international matters? Or have these apparent successes been only the result of a fairly even balance of power among the great powers of the world? Lord Shawcross'

experience in this field has been rich, and it is certain that his presentation will prove to be especially stimulating.

#### JUSTICE HARLAN

At the convocation on Saturday morning, October twenty-fourth, the principal address will be given by Mr. Justice Harlan. He will discuss the place of the lawyer as a leader in American society in the formulation of basic public policies. It seems generally agreed that in the past American lawyers have played a prominent role in this respect at the national as well as the state level. However, there are those who believe that in modern times the lawyer is abandoning or losing this birthright and that the unfortunate trend is likely to continue in the future. Such persons raise a variety of questions. Is the pre-eminence of the lawyer in national affairs being replaced by the leadership of the scientist? Instead of asserting a vital influence on the course of our national life in fundamental matters, are the members of the legal profession permitting themselves to be submerged in errand-like functions performed largely for governmental agencies and industrial enterprises? In general is the lawyer becoming a sort of "organization man" rather than a dynamic, creative leader of his fellow citizens as he has been in the past? To the extent that these fears are well founded (if they are), what is the responsibility of those who have charge of the education of lawvvers? What is the responsibility of professional organizations? What are the implications for the future, not merely for the legal profession but for the entire country?

Viewing the program as a whole, a significant and provocative intellectual experience seems in store for those who attend. In addition, the return to Ann Arbor of many alumni and their families who have not been back for many years, together with the presence of other distinguished visitors and guests, forecasts that the occasion will be one of pleasure and joy. The event promises to be a distinguished one in the history of the school.