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HENRY BRANDIS

For thirty-two years Henry Brandis has advanced—"served" is too weak a word—the University of North Carolina School of Law. He came in 1940 as Assistant Professor of Law and became Associate Professor in 1941, Professor in 1947, and Dean on July 1, 1949. Fifteen years later on June 30, 1964, he voluntarily terminated his career as Dean, and he now retires as Graham Kenan Professor of Law and becomes Professor Emeritus. From the outset his objective was as he stated it in his first Dean's report in 1949: "It is our devout ambition that the School, through its library, its student body, its faculty and its graduates, may not only occupy, but may truly deserve a place of steadily increasing importance in the field of legal education and in the life of our state."¹ Now he may claim the rare satisfaction of having served extraordinarily well such a high goal and having his fellows know it.

His Record as Dean

Everyone reading his fifteen reports, as I have read them, reads between the lines a larger picture of a Law School Faculty moving into a growing participation: in the affairs of students beyond the classroom; in civic affairs in Chapel Hill; in the affairs of the University of which the School of Law is a part; in the affairs of the North Carolina Bar Association, the State of North Carolina, and the Association of American Law Schools; and in the affairs of the nation. It may be said that the fifteen years of the life and record of Henry Brandis during his Deanship have become the living illustration of the School of Law at its growing best in all these relationships:

He was teacher and scholar and wrote his share and more of articles appearing in the *North Carolina Law Review*. He was an administrator with his door open to all the students all the time with a regularity that has become a legend.

He served as adviser to the Chancellor and President of the University on crucial questions of law and policy; as chairman of numerous Faculty Committees, including those on Tenure and Academic Freedom and on the Visiting Speaker Ban Law; and as member of other Faculty Committees.

He served as a worker in the civic affairs of Chapel Hill and in his

¹Brandis, *The Law School*, 28 N.C.L. REV. 73, 83 (1949).

church, where he sat in the congregation, served on committees, occupied the pulpit, and appeared before the district board in defense of a local minister involved in questions of orthodoxy.

He participated in the activities of the North Carolina Bar Association and chaired or worked on many of its committees. He served as a member of state commissions authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly.

He served as chairman or member of many committees of the American Association of Law Schools. He participated in national affairs and served in the armed forces of the United States.

A Precise Mind

To all these meetings and committees and assemblies he brought a mind which is a precision instrument. The superintendent of the Chapel Hill School Board stated that he was one of the most valuable school board members he had known in his experience, and gave this illustration of his meaning: "An important question would come up for discussion. One member after another would tell what he thought about it but nothing was being settled. And then Henry would come in with a few precise sentences that would pick up the differing viewpoints, bring them into focus and point the way to a solution which was not so obvious before he spoke." Any member of the University faculty can tell of his doing the same thing in faculty assemblies when the point under consideration was getting lost in the confusion of many voices. And so in other gatherings where he worked.

A Precise Conscience

If his mind is a precision instrument, it is wedded to a conscience working with no less precision. He has his own high code of conduct and comes as close to living up to it year in and year out as any man I know. Let me illustrate my meaning.

He had practiced law in New York City for two years when he came to North Carolina to work with me in laying the foundations of the Institute of Government. That was forty years ago, and I can hear him protesting now: "For two years I have not heard the question raised as to whether it is morally right to break a contract, but only what will it cost."

He resigned from a school board that refused a Negro child's appli-

cation to the public schools for reasons he did not think would stand up in court.

Once he was called upon to testify in court that the Law School of the North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham was equivalent to the School of Law in Chapel Hill so as to keep a Negro applicant out of the School at Chapel Hill. He did not believe it was equal and steadfastly refused to testify that it was in the face of pressures that had been strong enough to triumph over other men in other places at that time.

Retrospect and Prospect

He quit his deaning on June 30, 1964, of his own free will, at the age of fifty-five, ten years short of the Trustee limit of sixty-five for administrative responsibility. He quit with the satisfaction of knowing that more than half of the then two thousand living alumni of this School of Law had gone through its classrooms in the fifteen years of his deaning. He quit with the satisfaction of knowing that there was never a moment in those fifteen years when he was not the undisputed leader of the School entrusted to his keeping. He quit with the satisfaction of knowing that without exception his students and his colleagues wanted to see him keep on going as Dean and that they were happy to see him keep on going as a colleague. He shared the satisfaction of pulling in harness with them in the service of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina, the School of Law of the University of North Carolina, the South, and the Nation.

During the eight years since June 30, 1964, Henry Brandis has carried a full-time teaching schedule and continued his extra-school service. In 1969 he received the O. Max Gardner Award "to that member of the faculty of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, who, during the current scholastic year has made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race." At the meeting of Law School Alumni last year he was hailed by Dean Dickson Phillips as the number one citizen of this School of Law.

Twenty-eight years ago I said that Henry Brandis was as fine a combination of brains, character, and personality as I had taught in twenty years of teaching. After forty-seven years of teaching I repeat that statement now—in tribute to the man who was once my student, later my colleague, then my dean, once more my colleague, and always my superior.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS ALBERT COATES

