



UNC  
SCHOOL OF LAW

## NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW

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Volume 73

Number 2 *The University of North Carolina School of  
Law: A Sesquicentennial History*

Article 9

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1-1-1995

# (Sesquicentennial) A Wonderful Journey: 1945-95

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### Recommended Citation

William B. Aycock, *(Sesquicentennial) A Wonderful Journey: 1945-95*, 73 N.C. L. REV. 571 (1995).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.unc.edu/nclr/vol73/iss2/9>

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## **A Wonderful Journey: 1945-95**

WILLIAM B. AYCOCK

In 1945, for me it was out of the Army and into the UNC School of Law classroom. It has been my good fortune to remain here ever since. Thus, the fifty-year period covered by this Volume coincides precisely with the period in which I have been a member of the law school family. My profound thanks go to Dean Judith Wegner, who conceived of the idea of a history for the sesquicentennial year, and to all those persons who under her leadership have brought the project to fruition.

During my student days, the faculty consisted of nine professors: Coates, Wettach, McCall, Breckenridge, Van Hecke, Hanft, Dalzell, Brandis, and Baer. All nine stayed the course until retirement and the circle remained unbroken until the death of Professor Van Hecke in 1963 at the age of seventy-one. The last survivor of this magnificent group, Professor Baer, died in 1993 at the age of ninety-two. Currently, the full-time faculty consists of thirty-nine persons. Of these, twelve are women and three are African-Americans.

In 1945, the student body consisted of forty-two white students, including two women. In the fall of 1994, the student body numbered 708, of which 308 were women and 120 were minority students. Of the minority students, eighty-one were African-American, seventeen were Asian-American, sixteen were Hispanic, and six were Native-American.

In 1945, support personnel for the faculty and students, including the law library, consisted of three persons. It has now grown to fifty.

In 1945, the law library held 51,000 volumes. Currently, the number of books and microforms number 392,751.

The Law Alumni Association was organized in 1952. Alumni contributions the first year amounted to \$1,025. In 1994, nearing the end of the sesquicentennial campaign, over twelve million dollars have been raised.

The curriculum has been enriched to meet the new demands; new clinical programs have been added.

Student organizations have multiplied. Among the additions are the *Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation* and the Holderness Moot Court.

This thumb-nail sketch of tangible developments seemingly indicates revolutionary changes. But on the contrary, the many changes have come about in an evolutionary way. This history will shed light on how it all came to pass.

Changes in the physical dimensions of the School do not reveal the intangible qualities existing in 1945 that for the most part remain today. As a student, I observed the civility that existed among the faculty, students, and staff. This precious attribute has prevailed through the years. Transgressions have been few. The law school is still a good place to work.

The law school faculty then and now exercises the prime responsibility for educational policy. The Dean is the leader. Wettach was the Dean in 1945. He was followed by Brandis, Phillips, Byrd, Broun, Acting Dean Link, and Wegner. Each of these Deans was a member of the law school faculty at the time of selection; thus the role of the faculty was already understood and respected. The law school then and now emphasized the importance of good teaching. Research is regarded as a necessary ingredient of good teaching. Further, when research results in publication, it is another form of teaching for wider audiences.

As a member of the law school family, I rejoice in the success of our alumni. To me this truly is "smelling the roses on the way." At the same time, I grieve when occasionally a member of the family falls below the standards we expect.

My half-century as a member of the School of Law family has been one of gratification. My devotion to the law school could not be greater.