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The Hogg Years

Hon. Rosalie E. Wahl[†]

In the annals of William Mitchell College of Law, the decade of the deanship of James F. Hogg will stand out as a period of remarkable growth and accomplishment. The law school under Dean Hogg's leadership has achieved and maintained high standards of legal education in a constantly changing world and profession. The Warren Burger Law Library has risen in stately splendor at a cost of over \$10 million to become, in Dean Hogg's words, "an important symbol of our pride and of our continuing commitment to the mission of our law school."¹ That mission, virtually unchanged for 95 years, is to offer a high quality program of legal education to a diverse student body which includes a good many prospective lawyers and judges who must, or choose to, work full- or part-time during law school.

To put together, to hold together a distinguished faculty of 36 full-time members and considerable numbers of adjunct instructors, an academically strong student body 1,063 strong—diverse as to gender, race, age, background, and experience—an experience staff, crucial volunteer trustees, and an operating budget of approximately \$14 million requires the skills and talents of an extremely able person, if not a miracle worker.

Enter James F. Hogg, Esq. If not young Lochinvar come out of the west, he at least was from Down-Under. Born and educated as a barrister in New Zealand, with advanced degrees from Harvard Law School, James Hogg became a professor of law, teaching for over a decade at the University of Minnesota Law School with shorter stints at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. He became an expert on international law, advisor to the government of Indonesia and the United States Department of State. He was a partner in a large St. Paul

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1. Donor Report and President's Report, p.2, April 10, 1995.

law firm, then served 10 years as vice-president and associate general counsel of Control Data.

This background in legal education, the practice of law, and corporate management James Hogg brought to William Mitchell when he assumed the deanship. Deaning is not easy under the best of circumstances and no one would say that William Mitchell—with its strong, independent thinking law faculty, student body, and law alumni, and its own special mission—lends itself to the ordinary application of corporate management principles. The enterprise was and is legal education—emphasizing academic excellence in both legal scholarship and research, and the practical realities of the ethical, effective practice of law.

The Hogg years of achievement were not without their times of crisis, and problem wrestling and moments of truth, but the dean has brought the school to the end of this stage of its journey with a steady hand and with a vision for the future as he turns the deanship over to his successor. In Dean Hogg's view, William Mitchell College of Law is ideally situated to put into practice many of the recommendations of the MacCrate Task Force on Law Schools and the Profession. And I listened with pride, from my position as chair of the Commission to Review the Substance and Process of the American Bar Association's Accreditation of American Law Schools as Dean Hogg suggested in his testimony before the Commission, that "the ABA standards are, and should be, a reflection of the mutual interest of the bench, bar and law schools and not just a reflection of law school interests separate from, and even perhaps divorced from, the interests of the profession."²

I pay tribute to Dean James F. Hogg for his outstanding contributions to William Mitchell College of Law, to legal education, and to the profession. My favorite memory of him, however, will be, not in his academic robes, but at the wheel of his elegantly spiffy little sports car as he transported me to the Law Review banquet at which I spoke on racial and gender bias in our judicial system and profession.

The road goes ever on.

2. Hearing of the Commission to Review the Substance and Process of the American Bar Association's Accreditation of American Law Schools, January 6, 1995, transcript, p. 3.