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HOW TIME DOES FLY

Hon. Ron Hachey†

Almost ten years ago, I was seated in room 107 of William Mitchell's Continuing Legal Education building. I was watching Jim Hogg handle his first press conference following his assuming the presidency and deanship of my alma mater. William Mitchell College of Law had just finished the painful assignment of settling several harassment claims and lawsuits brought by employees and dealing with the horrible publicity related to these events. Some of the media present wondered why anyone would be interested in the top job in view of the adverse publicity that had surrounded the college for nearly two years. The media also wondered what Jim expected in the areas of community respect, the future membership of the Board of Trustees, alumni/alumnae support and development, faculty retention, and student enrollment. Prior to Jim's arrival, there had not been any significant changes in these areas in a very long time, and the media wondered how Jim assessed the college's future. In a word, the media present wanted to know where the law school would be five, ten, even fifteen years down the road.

I shall never forget how calm and collected Jim was as he gave positive and firm answers to the questions that those present were shooting at him. He made it very clear that the misgivings of one man would in no way set an institution back, or mar its future, particularly one like William Mitchell College of Law. Jim emphasized what the law school had done in its 85 years of existence, the crises it had endured and persevered, its reputation both locally and nationally, and the fact that its student body was comprised of students from 27 states and several foreign countries. In short, Jim was anxious to get on with contributing to the law school's bright future.

Jim's first priority was to erect a new library on campus. He knew it would be a major undertaking which would require the dedication and support of every member of the William Mitchell

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family, including the trustees, staff, faculty, alumni/alumnae, as well as support from our local community and our friends at the national level. Our fundraising goal was set at \$6.7 million, and the building was to be known as the Warren E. Burger Law Library. Our goal was reached—a total in excess of \$7 million. The library today, a beautiful edifice on campus, is rated among the best law libraries in the United States. The personal sacrifice and dedication of so many, including Dean Hogg, are beyond description. These success stories will live forever. Jim's dream has become a reality, and the beautiful building stands today as a lasting monument to the contributions Jim and so many others made.

On the academic side, Jim came to William Mitchell with a world of valuable experience. He was a professor of law at the University of Minnesota for several years, and he also served as the Executive Assistant to the University's president. Jim knew the problems of leading faculty and securing and retaining outstanding professors of law. Jim was familiar with the problems faced by students, how to handle public relations, and the host of difficulties one might encounter in assuming the top job at any law school in the United States. Jim came aboard well-seasoned and equipped to handle his assignment. Indeed, Jim proved himself exceedingly capable of handling all assignments presented to him during his tenure.

Today, William Mitchell enjoys an enviable reputation of top-rank equivalent. It is an independent, free-standing law school with top flight faculty. The college is debt free (assuming all remaining pledges for library contributions are paid), and it commands great local and national respect. William Mitchell offers to many the opportunity to obtain a quality legal education, including those who must work during the day and attend classes at night. Other success stories during the last ten years are too numerous to list here. Jim Hogg has given more than his share of dedication and hard work to reach and maintain the school's current position.

Thankfully we are not saying "farewell" to Jim when he steps down as President and Dean of the college. Jim will remain a powerful representative in our community as well as our state, and he will still have a positive impact on the college's public relations. Indeed, we are so lucky.

Ten years under Jim Hogg's leadership have been productive, challenging, exciting and successful. His contributions have moved William Mitchell just a bit closer to the mainstream of legal education. The value of his efforts is inestimable. Jim Hogg is the kind of person who is not only willing to take from the law, but also is willing to give back to it. He has left his mark and joins with others before him who have shaped the destiny and future of my alma mater. Jim, William Mitchell College of Law is better today because you were here. I wish you many years of good health and happiness.

