

1996

Tribute to Dean James Hogg

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Recommended Citation

Hamilton, Neil W. (1996) "Tribute to Dean James Hogg," *William Mitchell Law Review*: Vol. 21: Iss. 3, Article 9.
Available at: <http://open.mitchellhamline.edu/wmlr/vol21/iss3/9>

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Neil Hamilton†

This issue of the law review honors Jim Hogg and the William Mitchell community as a whole for a 10 year deanship at a time when law school deans average terms of just over three years. Jim's long and successful term as dean is a unique achievement for him and all of us.

As all who read the daily press know, we live in a period where academic administrators experience a free-fire zone of interest group politics. Since the late 1960's, a significant subset of the academic community has viewed university administrators as symbols of an oppression which permeates society as a whole. Higher education, especially the humanities and social sciences, is beset with controversy, turmoil and instability.

In this wider context of turmoil, the college, under Jim's deanship, has become an island of stability and continuing growth. The college is now a strong regional law school. Jim's legacy includes a reputable faculty, an excellent library, a highly capable staff, a committed group of alumni and a growing endowment. This legacy is the foundation for the college's future security and growth; we have in place all the building blocks to dream even greater dreams, and to realize them.

Having served on the Dean Search Committee for the past 18 months, I was proud of the fact that 10 former or sitting law school deans were interested in our deanship. Without exception, they emphasized the college's growth during Jim Hogg's deanship and our enormous potential for even greater excellence.

A 10 year successful deanship is a long and cumulative effort, especially in this difficult period in higher education. Jim's commitment to the college and to excellence in our mission, his integrity, his pertinacity, his courage and his stubbornness have seen us through. I also know Jim as a tested and true friend, the most precious of life's gifts. It is a time to honor Jim's legacy.

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