

1996

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Recommended Citation

Libera, Thomas M. (1996) "Dean James F. Hogg and William Mitchell College of Law (1985-95)," *William Mitchell Law Review*: Vol. 21: Iss. 3, Article 14.

Available at: <http://open.mitchellhamline.edu/wmlr/vol21/iss3/14>

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Dean James Hogg and William Mitchell College of Law (1985-95)

Thomas M. Libera[†]

James Hogg caught the attention of William Mitchell's Dean Search Committee and the Board of Trustees in 1985 with his unique blend of legal experience in teaching, and his private and corporate law practices. It seemed like the right mix for the Dean of a law school devoted to teaching law students to become practicing lawyers.

In my three years as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I had almost daily contact with Dean Hogg. Through this working relationship, I became well aware, and appreciative, of Jim's incredible emersion in performing his administrative duties as President and Dean, in providing leadership to the faculty, and his relentless dedication to our development efforts.

Most memorable was our joint personal solicitations of major law firms, corporations, and foundations for contributions to the Warren E. Burger Law Library. One of our most successful was the call Dean Hogg and I made on the Kresge Foundation in Troy, Michigan. The success of that one day gave us the impetus to complete a \$7 million fundraising campaign.

My experience with James Hogg confirms that he was the right choice for Dean of William Mitchell. He led the college through what may be described as its worst and best times. From the divisive experiences of hotly debated litigation to the successful completion of the Warren E. Burger Library, he steadfastly led the college with professionalism, integrity, and loyalty. His constant commitment was that of improving the quality of the faculty — the very foundation of any college.

Best wishes to Gail and Jim in the future.

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