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## L. KINVIN WROTH: A PERSONAL CANADIAN APPRECIATION

I became Dean of Dalhousie Law School in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in July of 1985. Since then Kinvin Wroth has been one of the constants, and one of the big pluses, in my working life.

I had met Dean Wroth before 1985 because Dal Law School has had a special relationship, a "connection," with the University of Maine School of Law since the mid-70's. The Maine Connection, or the Dalhousie Connection depending on which end you are looking at it from, was made first in resources and environmental law, neither of which is my field, so I missed most of the pioneering stage of this happy relationship. When, in 1982, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canada's Bill of Rights, came into force, constitutional lawyers on both faculties saw that they too had a great deal to talk about with one another. Then, with the signing of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement in 1988, it became apparent that the two law schools and their constituencies had yet another substantial interest in common. Through that maturing process I have been very much involved, and I know that it is Kinvin Wroth to whom credit is due for the shine on this facet of our law schools.

For the past ten years the Dalhousie-Maine Law School relationship has owed everything to Kinvin Wroth's steady hand. No matter how busy his daily round has been, or how pressing his local concerns, he has always found time for the Dalhousie Connection. Working with him in this connection for the past five years I have seen clearly the attributes that have made Kinvin Wroth such a successful two-term dean. He is an unflaggingly calm, confident, and careful, but imaginative administrator. He has a keen intellect, a warm heart, and a fine sense of wry humor.

The Dalhousie-Maine relationship has had three components. Since the mid-70's, faculty members from each law school have, in most years, visited the other to participate in symposia, conferences, and informal academic discussion. On his visits to Halifax, Kinvin Wroth and his faculty have been gracious, stimulating guests. In Portland he has been a fine host, making Dalhousie faculty members, and me personally, feel welcome. Always the atmosphere has been one of genuine interest and appreciation. I have always felt that Dean Wroth and, perhaps because of him, his faculty and students think that legal and societal developments in Canada matter. He is always well informed about our policy debates as well as the impact of American policies on Canadian interests. Most Canadians have learned not to expect that sort of thing in their dealings south of the border.

The Canadian Studies Programme at the University of Maine School of Law is, I believe, Kinvin Wroth's creation. He has taken the initiative to pursue funding through the Canadian Embassy in

Washington and other sources, but this is only the formal manifestation of his readiness to grapple with the emerging issues that concern our two countries and our two law schools. His involvement in the last two years with issues growing out of the Free Trade Agreement I have seen to be somewhat different, and particularly interesting. Here, Professor Wroth is very much in his own field. Here too, he has taken a leadership role not only with his students and colleagues but in the Maine Bar and as an advisor to the Governor. A special relationship between the organized bars and individual lawyers in Maine and Nova Scotia is in a very early stage of development, but it is clear that whatever shape it takes will owe much to Kinvin Wroth. Certainly the extent to which Dalhousie Law School and members of its Faculty have been treated by the Halifax Bar as significant in this development is due to the fact that the Portland Bar treats Dean Wroth as central to it. At a summer meeting of the Maine State Bar where these matters were discussed and in meetings with the Maine delegation in Halifax, the respect accorded Kinvin Wroth by some of the leading practitioners in Maine has been apparent and warmth of their friendship obvious.

Throughout the life of the Dalhousie-Maine Law School connection the Tri-Lateral Moot Court Competition, in which the University of New Brunswick Law School is the third participant, has been an annual feature. With all law schools involved in an increasing number of competitive external moots, faculty resources for "the Tri-Lateral" have at times been stretched but Dean Wroth has always been steadfast in maintaining what may soon be called a venerable institution. Maine teams have most often won, and they have always arrived in Halifax and Fredericton enthusiastic and well-prepared to be excellent ambassadors. When the competition is held in Portland the details are always well in hand.

The third on-going component of the Dalhousie-Maine Connection has been student exchanges. Nearly every year at least one student from Maine and one from Dalhousie has attended the other's law school for one term, usually in the third year of their LL.B.'s. Traditionally, true to the beginnings of the Dalhousie-Maine Connection, these students have been particularly interested in marine and environmental issues. Over the years it has become apparent both that Dean Wroth has taken a personal interest in encouraging these exchanges and that the Maine students who have come to Dalhousie will graduate with very good feelings about the University of Maine School of Law and its Dean.

One other aspect of the Dalhousie-Maine Law School relationship which I particularly enjoyed was a unique experiment; an international joint appointment of a fulltime faculty member. In the autumn of 1986, Professor Colleen Sheppard was appointed to the Law Faculty at Maine and to the Dalhousie Law Faculty in an arrangement by which she taught in Halifax in the autumn and in Portland

in the spring term. In addition to teaching Labour Law and Comparative U.S.-Canadian Constitutional Law at Dal and Constitutional Law II and Canadian Legal System in Maine, Professor Shepard took responsibility for organizing very successful symposia involving members of both faculties at Dalhousie in the autumn and at Maine in the spring. This arrangement continued for two years, until an offer too good to refuse for her spouse took Professor Shepard to the Faculty of Law of McGill University in Montreal. For me, this sharing of a faculty member was the high point of the Dalhousie-Maine Connection. The real point here, however, is that in the course of the three-way negotiations which established this very special set-up I saw in Kinvin Wroth the special qualities of carefulness and patience, coupled with imagination and creativity, that have made him such a successful administrator. I found Kinvin as gracious in the kitchen as in the living room.

The State of Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada have a great deal in common. Interests in ocean study and the environment brought the Dalhousie-Maine Connection into being. Over nearly twenty years similar qualities of life, human rights concerns, and now economics and free trade have added to its substance. The warmth that I and many members of the Dalhousie Law School Faculty feel for the relationship is due in no small measure to Kinvin Wroth.

Finally, I do want to mention a small thing of some personal importance to me. In the summer of 1985, Dalhousie Law School's library and building were substantially damaged by fire. The ensuing four years, during which the Dalhousie-Maine relationship flourished, were, for us, very much involved with rebuilding the library, both its holdings and the Weldon Law Building which was substantially enlarged and renovated. In October of 1989, in conjunction with Dalhousie's Fall Convocation, the re-opening of the building was celebrated. Special guests, including Canadian law deans and the Dean of the University of Maine School of Law, were invited. Mid-October is a very busy time in all law schools so I was not surprised when my fellow Canadian deans found they simply could not come for a purely ceremonial occasion, and I was very pleased that most of them sent representatives, many of them with a special relationship with me or with Dalhousie Law School. But none pleased me as much as the fact that there, walking in our convocation procession, and sharing this ceremonial highpoint in my term as Dean, was Kinvin Wroth. For me, that symbolized the strength of the Dalhousie-Maine Connection and our friendship.

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