

June 1990

With Thanks from a Student and Alumna

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Recommended Citation

Nancy D. Mills, *With Thanks from a Student and Alumna*, 42 Me. L. Rev. 280 (1990).
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.mainerlaw.maine.edu/mlr/vol42/iss2/6>

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WITH THANKS FROM A STUDENT AND ALUMNA

On the first day of orientation for my law school class, we sat in the Moot Courtroom. After introductory remarks, the Dean was announced. He wore a button down collar shirt, Rep tie, gray suit, and Bean boots. He welcomed us and he told us how great we were. Mostly, he cracked jokes, some about himself, and rattled whatever it is he keeps in his pockets. It was classic Kinvin; and I knew, then, that I had chosen the right place.

Kinvin taught my first year, first semester Civil Procedure class. Ah, Mrs. Sibbach. We hardly knew you, in spite of what seemed like a lifetime together. Perhaps for inspiration for this piece, I consulted the *Sibbach* case in my textbook. It occurs to me that the vagaries of Rules 35 and 37 may have escaped me when I note that I took the trouble to write "Petitioner" over "Sibbach" in the case name and "Respondent" over "Wilson & Co." But tackling the complexities of Civil Procedure was not, thankfully, a source of extreme stress in Kinvin's class. He did not humiliate us; he very much wanted us to learn his subject. After searching for insights that few of us could give, Kinvin often would offer a soliloquy on Civil Procedure, usually beginning at the very end of class and continuing well after. No one ever left. His commentary was referred to as "pure gold" and if we took the time, later, to reflect on the case and the "gold," we understood Kinvin's mastery of the subject.

Kinvin was respected by my classmates for his scholarship and he was liked for his wit and his decent treatment of us. I recall telling him that once and he seemed surprised and touched that that might be so.

As the second Dean of the Law School, Kinvin had a tough act to follow. But he has handled that reality in a way that became his own trademark: with a keen wit, a lot of self-deprecating humor, and a tireless dedication to the success of the Law School.

Kinvin has been a very visible Dean. He has cruised the corridors and his door has been kept open. He has attended the kegs, parties, banquets, luncheons, meetings, arguments, picnics, and road races. More often than we could have dared to expect, Dee has accompanied him and they both have made whatever the event a little more special. Kinvin's presence among the students has been important to a school such as ours and is an important reason why our Law School is attractive to so many.

Kinvin's devotion to the Law School has been nowhere more evident than in his work with alumni and friends of the Law School. He has been dedicated to attracting top students to the Law School through, among other things, increasing available funds for scholarships. To that end, he has been an active ex-officio member of the

Board of Directors of the Alumni Association and active in its Annual Fund Drive. But Kinvin's promotion of continued participation by alumni and members of the legal community in Law School affairs has not been motivated solely by financial concerns. He knows that everyone benefits in many ways from continued participation in Law School activities. He truly enjoys an evening in Presque Isle as much as one in Washington, D.C. if it is spent chatting with alumni and friends about the school and students, past and present. Based on the increasing attendance at Alumni Association regional meetings and the annual dinner, the alumni enjoy the camaraderie as well.

One of Kinvin's greatest legacies to the Law School is the success of the Godfrey Fund, which will bring distinguished faculty to the Law School each year. The Fund was an ambitious undertaking and added a significant number of responsibilities to his already burdened schedule. This accomplishment is truly an extraordinary first for our Law School and will stand always as a measure of Kinvin's commitment to advancing the quality and reputation of the Law School.

His transition from pure scholarship to administration must have been difficult but Kinvin has managed it well. He has an eye for the practical. I recall my actually editing a piece that he wrote for the second 1982 *Law Review* volume. When presented with the edited piece, Kinvin replied that some of the changes were "not really his style" but were "okay." My audacity was exceeded only by his graciousness.

Recently, I saw the Dean's List on a bulletin board at the Law School. At the bottom, of course, appeared the following message: "Good work! L.K.W." I smiled to think that some things don't change; but, I regret, they do. Kinvin has chosen to step down as Dean. The school, alumni, and the legal community will long benefit from the product of his years as Dean. On behalf of students and alumni, Good Work! and thank you, Kinvin.

Happily, Kinvin will continue to teach at the Law School. Kinvin, I hope you teach Civil Procedure. I hope you hold onto the Bean boots and do not empty your pockets. I hope you joke and laugh at yourself and the rest of us. But, Kinvin, get rid of Mrs. Sibbach. Notwithstanding (I think) the Court's decision, many of us have held her in contempt for years.

Nancy Diesel Mills

