

University of Pennsylvania Law Review

FOUNDED 1852

Formerly
American Law Register

VOL. 138

NOVEMBER 1989

No. 1

DEDICATION

DEAN ROBERT MUNDHEIM

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Presenting an encomium for Dean Mundheim is a daunting task, for the person who has just stepped down as the administrative head of the Law School has never sought publicity or praise. To declare, as judges so often do upon the retirement of a colleague, that the honoree embodies the virtues of a Thomas More or the wisdom of a Solomon would not do justice to the quiet humility that has made Bob's achievements so noteworthy.

Simply put, Robert Mundheim is an uncommon person. He has never sought acclaim or the empty affirmation of others; rather, he has led a life based on moderation. As a result, in a career filled with honors, there is little distinction between the public and private sides of Dean Mundheim. In each sphere he acts for himself, not in the egotistical manner that we moderns have come to associate with self-centered activity, but according to the lofty code that cautions above all else "to thine own self be true." The effect is a record marked by courage, yet tempered by prudence and restraint.

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Dean Mundheim has sought to avoid conflict, but has resolutely faced a crisis whenever duty has made him responsible to those who call for fairness. When praised, that type blushes, a response so many of us have forgotten in our quest for fame and recognition.

Robert Mundheim has meant many things to us, but above all he has been a fine leader of the Law School and a good citizen.

Let's look at the record: When Bob Mundheim became Dean in 1982, Annual Giving was at \$444,000 per year; today we have tripled that figure. In 1982 our annual budget for the Library was \$700,000; today it is about \$2 million. In 1982 we had five endowed chairs; today we have ten. In 1982 we had an endowment of \$5-1/2 million, today the endowment is over \$31 million.

In addition, Bob has been instrumental in putting together an outstanding program on law and economics and in fashioning a most innovative course in legal ethics.

Aside from the long list of accomplishments that I will not repeat, Bob has supervised the remarkable rebuilding of a faculty that had seen the departure of a large number of senior superstars.

Underlying Bob's attentive repose, and perhaps just another way of describing it, is a kindness and gentility that all who work with him have come to respect and admire. These virtues have made it possible for Dean Mundheim to lead his colleagues in keeping the school abreast of the rapid changes of our day: the presence of substantially more women in the student body; the demand for more minority representation in the faculty; the stress of steadily increasing tuition; continuing pressure to increase student aid.

There is also an intangible aspect of Bob's leadership role. Throughout his tenure he has revered the School as an institution. He believes, and I believe strongly, that its influence depends on its scholarship, integrity, and the way the faculty and administration deal with the students. Force of reason, he insists, is the only dependable basis for the appropriate discharge of the School's task. These factors, more than any other, have made the School the overwhelming interest of his life over the last seven years.

Finally, a few words about Dean Mundheim as a citizen and friend. Bob has been a teacher *par excellence*. He served with distinction as counsel to the Treasury Department and was a principal in the negotiations for the release of the Iranian hostages back in 1979. He is a loving husband, and attentive father, and a staunch and warm colleague. Bob exercises a unique influence over the lives of men and women, young and old, who come to him seeking advice and

inspiration. More often than not, he revives their faith that, in a world beset by declining standards, justice and truth are still the guiding principles of human behavior.

I am personally thankful for the occasion to be associated with one who stands so high in our profession; with one who stands out so clearly in the community. I have had the opportunity, as few others have, to see those "little nameless unremembered acts [of] kindness" which, in Wordsworth's phrase, mark "[t]hat best portion of a good person's life."

