

# University of Pennsylvania Law Review

FOUNDED 1852

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Formerly  
American Law Register

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VOL. 118

APRIL 1970

No. 5

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JEFFERSON B. FORDHAM

EARL WARREN †

The Law School of the University of Pennsylvania will lose a great dean, but the profession of law will gain greatly by Dean Fordham's change of operations which will afford him more time and energy to pursue uninhibited his natural talents.

The life of a law school dean is a particularly demanding one in these times, and it must, of necessity, circumscribe his activities in other areas. It has curbed Dean Fordham less than most people. In the eighteen years of his deanship he has engaged in a score of activities, all of which were designed to improve the standards of justice in our Nation.

It was not necessarily the number of activities in which he engaged but the contributions he made in each of them that is so impressive. Throughout the years, he has been dedicated to constitutional government, both in the national and state context. One of his pre-occupations has been with governmental structure and operations, with emphasis on local government. He has stressed throughout the fundamental importance of vital and responsive agencies of local government. His emphasis on state constitutional law is that it should be "organic," in the sense that it not be bogged down with heavy-handed prohibitions and limitations which prevent the organs of government from responding to the changing needs of an expanding society—a weakness characteristic of many burgeoning state constitutions.

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† Chief Justice (Retired), Supreme Court of the United States. B.L. 1912, J.D. 1914, University of California, Berkeley. Member, California Bar.

So preoccupied has he been with the meaning and application of the Constitution of the United States that he is said by his colleagues to carry a copy of it in his coat pocket for reference at all times.

His activities and accomplishments cannot be narrowly encompassed because they include the reform of both substantive and procedural law, the fields of legal aid, minority group representation in legal education, public housing, law school reform, world peace, and much more. These activities he carried on through membership on presidential, state, and municipal commissions, in the council of learned legal societies and in activities in the Association of American Law Schools, of which he is currently the president. He has been a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and for years fought to establish a Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. Throughout all those benighted years, his voice was resonant and clear, and finally, largely due to his efforts, such a section was established in 1966, and he became its first chairman. This was a just and timely recognition of his lifetime devotion to the Bill of Rights.

In international affairs, his longstanding fight against isolationism and the Bricker Amendment has paid dividends in the councils of the American Bar Association.

One could enlarge on each of his activities, but there are others whom I presume will do so in this volume, and I, therefore, will not preempt that privilege. It is not fulsome to say, however, that Dean Fordham has been one of the most courageous, forward-looking and effective forces for justice in our day, and as such is entitled to the felicitations and best wishes of every member of the legal profession. Throughout his career, he has justly earned the accolade accorded to him by the late Chief Judge Charles E. Clark of the Second Circuit, himself a one-time great law school dean—"He is composed of a core of Vermont granite enclosed in a covering of Southern charm."