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Standing for Excellence, Reaching for Justice

Dean Kellye Testy

Nineteen hundred and seventy five was a busy year: President Ford dodged his second assassination attempt, Billie Jean King won Wimbledon, Saturday Night Live premiered with George Carlin as host, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest swept the Oscars, first-class postage increased from ten to thirteen cents, Matsushita developed an innovative recording product called “VHS,” the Vietnam War came to an end with the surrender of Saigon, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia, I started high school, and the School of Law published its first intramural edition of the Law Review.

Now over thirty years and thirty volumes later, it is my great honor as Dean to introduce this special issue of the Seattle University Law Review, which commemorates this significant anniversary of its first issue. To celebrate the Law Review’s thirty-year milestone, this issue includes a reprint of one of the comments from the original 1975 intramural publication, as well as commentary by the two leaders of the effort: Professor Thomas J. Holdych, the Law Review’s founding faculty advisor, and Mr. Robert Medved, the Law Review’s first Editor in Chief.

What is evident from Professor Holdych’s and Mr. Medved’s accounts, as well as from the larger oral history of the School of Law, is that the Law Review was founded through a fierce dedication to academic excellence, a core value to which we have held fast since our founding in 1972. Standing for excellence has served the law school well, seeing it through its early years as it established itself as a respected training ground for outstanding lawyers, and seeing it through its transition to Seattle University that began in 1994 and culminated with our 1999 move into our first-class home in Sullivan Hall.

Through those years of our institutional maturation, the Law Review has been an unwavering voice for our highest aspirations. Draw-
ing to its work each year a new group of talented students who take on the significant responsibility of producing an academic journal in addition to going to law school, the Law Review is one of our most important unifying threads. As each group of new members earns its stripes by authoring notes and comments, by perhaps becoming members of the editorial board the following year, and then by finally handing over those responsibilities to their successors, the students weave a web that binds them together and with the School of Law long after their duties are done. At alumni gatherings, I can always count on seeing our former Law Review members, who typically are both eager to see each other and eager to reconnect with the faculty and staff in order to fondly remember “their” years on the Law Review. We are and will always be grateful to you for the service you have given the School as you have built with your own hands the outstanding reputation that we are increasingly enjoying.

As the School of Law continues its growth and development as one of the nation’s leading law schools, we will continue to stand for academic excellence as we reach for justice through law. It is compelling to note the subject of the very first article in the 1975 issue that we have reprinted here: the constitutionality of searches near the U.S.-Mexican border. The more things change, the more they stay the same. The issues raised in that piece are perhaps even more urgent today as our nation grapples with significant legal issues concerning immigration, police power, and national security.

Boldly and thoroughly examining pressing issues of law and justice has been and should continue to be the mission of our Law Review as we stand for excellence and reach for justice. Our world needed our scholarly voice in 1975 and it needs it now.

Congratulations to the Law Review for its first thirty years and many thanks to each and every graduate who, during their tenure on the Law Review, made it what it is today. May your outstanding work be an inspiration for those whom follow. After all, look at what four students with typewriters and carbon paper did in 1975!