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Editor's Notes

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EDITOR'S NOTES

On March 16, 1970 Richard S. L. Roddis became the tenth dean of the School of Law.¹ During the past 18 months that office has been in the able charge of Luverne Riek, who became acting dean upon the resignation of Lehan K. Tunks in September 1968. Professors Tunks and Riek remain with the School as members of the faculty.

Dean Roddis received his legal education at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1954. Prior to joining the University of Washington Law Faculty in 1968, Dean Roddis was Commissioner of Insurance for the State of California. He continues to serve in many advisory positions within groups interested in the regulation of the insurance industry.

Dean Roddis assumes responsibility for guiding the development of the Law School at a critical point in the history of American legal education. In 1968 Bayless Manning, Dean of the Stanford School of Law summarized the current state of legal education:²

The nation's accredited law schools . . . are almost carbon copies of each other in their educational programs. Their curricula and teaching methods closely adhere to a model that crystallized at the turn of the century. Training patterns in the law have undergone less development in the last three-quarters of a century than those of almost any other discipline and certainly less than any other profession; contrast, for example, the dramatic modernizing changes that have occurred during that period in our schools for training doctors, engineers, and business executives. Only a handful of today's law faculty members have . . . the methodological skills required to go beyond the study of words; to investigate the actual operation of the legal process where it counts—where it makes its impact felt with overwhelming force upon the lives of the people.

...

The foundations and governmental sources that support research into virtually every other area of human activity by and large have been predominately inhospitable to legal research. This inhospitality results from a conception of a law school—only partly a caricature—as a place where brilliant, but slightly eccentric law professors alternate between sitting in their offices, where they endlessly read advance sheets of judicial opinions, and standing in their classrooms where they endlessly ask uninformed students unanswerable questions.

1. The following professors have served as dean or acting dean of the School of Law since its founding in 1899: John T. Condon, 1899-1926; Alfred J. Schweppe, 1926-1930; Leslie J. Ayer, 1930-1931 (acting); Harold Shepherd, 1931-1936; Judson F. Falknor, 1936-1949, 1950-1951; Alfred Harsh, 1949-1950, 1951-1952 (acting); George Neff Stevens, 1952-1962; Lehan K. Tunks, 1963-1968; Luverne V. Riek, 1968-1970 (acting).

2. Manning, *Introduction: New Tasks for Lawyers*, in *LAW IN A CHANGING AMERICA* 3 (G. Hazzard ed. 1968) (The publication of the working papers of the American Assembly of the same title held in Chicago in March 1968).