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A TIME TO REMEMBER — ROBERT B. YEGGE'S 12 YEARS (1965-1977) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER COLLEGE OF LAW

In the spring of 1965, a few days after my acceptance of a teaching position at the University of Denver College of Law, two of my classmates at Yale Law School left a copy of *Dicta* on my desk accompanied by a note which read: "We knew you would select a school of excellent repute. This is the law journal of your new school." I browsed through the publication which was a joint product of the Colorado Bar Association and the College of Law and was disappointed to find that the students did not even have their own publication. Distressed over not having made a thorough investigation of the school before accepting the position, I must admit to having second thoughts about coming to Denver. However, having already accepted the offer, I decided to join the faculty, consoling myself and assuring my friends that I did not have to stay at Denver for more than a year. Now, thirteen years later, I am still here and have no desire to move. The College of Law has three first-rate publications, the *Denver Law Journal*, the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*, and the *Transportation Law Journal*, and has started another—*The Clinical Education Perspective* (with the AALS). In addition, two professional journals (*Administrative Law Journal* and the *Law and Society Review*) are now published here. And the person primarily responsible for this transformation is the one to whom this issue of the *Journal* is dedicated—Robert B. Yegge, a distinguished colleague and a close friend who assumed the position of Dean of the College of Law the year I arrived here.

Bob Yegge assumed the leadership of the College of Law in turbulent times. It takes little reflection to recall the divisive pains of a society groping for its identity in the late sixties. These societal challenges reinforced the new dean's basic thesis about legal education: lawyers must possess the understanding and the skills necessary to guide human behavior in an environment where change is pervasive and to shape a society in which inequities and coercion are minimized and human dignity is ensured.

As dean, Bob Yegge initiated innovative and far-reaching measures to realize his vision of legal education at the University

of Denver College of Law. As a result the past decade has witnessed both a reevaluation of legal education at the College of Law and a significant outreach by the College into the court system, the legislature, and the community. The serious student of the law is now exposed not only to the rigors of the traditional legal education—the teaching of doctrines, skills, and policy in the classroom setting designed to instill lawyerly thinking—but also to the stark realities of the human condition in the prisons, hospitals, drug treatment centers, court chambers, and the corridors of the state house. Thus, practical first hand exposure to contemporary problems of law and legal policy supplements the classroom and the library. If one were forced to choose one principal legacy of Bob Yegge's helmsmanship, it would necessarily be the nationally recognized, pacesetting clinical approach to legal education which has become a unique "Denver Law School approach" during his brief tenure. The students have been and will continue to be the principal beneficiaries of Dean Yegge's creative response to complex societal needs.

His student years at Princeton and Denver, further enriched by private practice, part-time teaching, scholarly writing, and a close community involvement, had prepared Bob Yegge well for his role as dean of a college of law in a metropolitan setting. Early in his deanship in 1966, he made a tripartite commitment to the faculty of the College of Law—that the College of Law must be a place for teaching the accumulated traditions of the law and awakening the imagination of future practitioners to tomorrow's problems; that the College of Law must be a research center in the entire spectrum of law and the social sciences to support research necessary to meet the challenges facing the legal profession in the stormy years ahead; and, that the College of Law must be an active member of the community, a leader in community involvement and in community action.

Even a slight acquaintance with the College of Law in 1977-78 will show Dean Yegge's success in accomplishing these goals. During the past decade, a remarkable change has occurred in the teaching environment at the College of Law. The number of law students has doubled. The College has been a national leader in promoting equal opportunities for women and minority groups in entering the bar. The full-time faculty has grown from a meager eleven to more than thirty. As the statistics have changed, so has

the curriculum. Expanded opportunities for specialization, clinical education, interdisciplinary joint degrees, and graduate legal education are now commonly available at the Law Center. Reputable graduate programs provide opportunities for study in Master of Laws in Taxation, Master of Science in Law and Society, and Master of Science in Judicial Administration. Joint Degree programs are offered in conjunction with the College of Business, the Graduate School of International Studies, the Graduate School of Librarianship, the Graduate School of Social Work, and many departments in the College of Arts and Sciences as well as with the Colorado School of Mines. The Natural Resources Program is of the premier class; the Program in Transportation Law is unique among American law schools and arose as part of a relationship between Dean Yegge and the Motor Carrier Lawyers Association. The International Legal Studies Program, actively supported by the Dean, now offers more than a dozen courses and seminars and continues to make its impact felt far beyond our national borders. First established by Dean Yegge, the Administration of Justice Program utilizes interdisciplinary faculty and research techniques in dealing with the multiple aspects of the effective delivery of legal services to our young, elderly, poor, and culturally disadvantaged.

The exceptional amount of independent research and writing conducted at the Law Center in the last few years has allowed the faculty and students to make significant contributions to the advancement of twentieth century legal thought. Major studies and pilot projects have been completed in many fields, including international law, environmental law, commercial law including corporate law and securities, criminal law and procedure, litigation, administrative and constitutional law, poverty law, family law, clinical education, counselling and negotiations, intellectual property law, sports law, legal curriculum, legal profession, and in the use of paralegal personnel. Clearly, Dean Yegge's commitment to the establishment of quality in institutional research has been significantly realized.

Bob Yegge's sensitivity to the needs of the community and the law school's role in meeting those needs has had a dynamic impact in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Region, and national thinking about American legal education. While the Clinical Programs have sharply increased the Law Center's visibility in the

community, Dean Yegge has also played a pivotal role in assisting the legal profession to meet the new challenges posed by a technocracy where complacency would surely foreshadow defeat. Thus, the Program for Advanced Professional Development which he fashioned and nurtured is one of the most active in the nation and is built on the assumption that lawyers need to be learners all their lives if the profession is to adequately meet its societal obligations. The community demands and deserves continuing professional competence, and the College of Law is committed to assume a role of leadership in providing proper educational opportunities toward this end.

As specialists and experts in different fields of law and social sciences, members of the faculty have made significant contributions as teachers and scholars. The impact of their written and spoken words has been felt not only in the State of Colorado and the United States, but in the international community as well. The credit for creating first the environment which made it possible to attract these people at the University of Denver and secondly the intellectual fervor at the College of Law which has kept them here goes to Bob Yegge.

“Contributing” has always been an adjective of common usage when describing Bob Yegge. He clearly exemplifies the professional with the keen sense of public responsibility and the ethical instincts so vital to a profession which has been subjected to a frontal assault on its integrity in the wake of scandals at the highest levels of government. His professional activities at the national, regional, and local levels are too extensive to recount fully here. Suffice it to say that his counsel and advice have been sought and freely given to national bar organizations, governmental agencies, the judiciary, professional and research organizations and publications, institutes of higher education, public interest and art and culture forums, foundations, and charitable organizations. Society, in turn, has bestowed a plethora of honors and awards upon Dean Yegge for his exemplary contributions in many diverse areas of civic performance.

His scholarship is on a level equal to that of his civic performance. He has published numerous works in a wide variety of areas including commercial law, jurisprudence, criminal law and procedure, legal education, the legal profession, legal services, parapro-

professionals, torts, civil procedure, civil rights, law and technology, consumer law, and judicial administration. His numerous books, monographs, and contributions to professional journals reflect his broad intellectual capacity.

While one could easily document the significant and extensive impact of Robert Yegge's deanship upon legal education in Denver and elsewhere, and others will, this personal note needs to be added, lest we would miss the true value of his presence at the College of Law.

In an age where responsibility is often lost in bureaucratic mazes and integrity is compromised by the politics of the moment, Robert Yegge stands out, personifying not only responsibility and integrity, but also courage, creativity, and imagination. He is leaving the College of Law with the same dynamic energy with which he arrived. His friends wish him well in his new ventures.

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