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Some years ago I become so incensed at the deterioration of our Law School that I began voicing my concerns; not quietly. As a result, I was invited to several of the annual Visitations, then elected to the WLAA Board, and now this year serve as WLAA President.

I found much justification for concern: following the University merger and concurrent events our Law School had indeed fallen upon hard times. The repeated rapid turnover of Deans and the publicly voiced concern of the ABA Accreditation Committee bore ample witness. I found also that my concerns as an alumnus and practitioner were shared by the Law School faculty and administration and the causes better understood. I learned, for example, that when the faculty and administration sought to cut back the swollen size of the student body to a number that could be given quality education with existing staff, facilities and budget, the University replied that the budget would be cut severely if they did so.



Dale L. Sorden
'53

I am happy to report that those dark days have passed. For several years now our School has been climbing steadily towards its former eminence. Many share the credit but surely most must go to the unbelievably effective efforts of the quiet man: Dean Orrin Helstad.

I am pleased also to report, however, that your WLAA has played a most useful role. WLAA Board members and Visitors, after learning the facts, had useful discussions with University administrators, Regents and legislators. The fruit has been good. WLAA funds, contributed by you, have filled many small but important gaps in what could be done with budgeted funds, particularly in connection with recruiting and keeping quality faculty and in keeping quality students.

The resuscitation of our Law School has come far. It must continue. Your contributions, and if possible your personal involvement, really are important and needed. "Forward."

Sincerely,

DALE L. SORDEN