School Views

Views
A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

of

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The State University of New Jersey had incorporated in it in 1946 the Law School. There merged the finest school of its kind in the State with a college almost two centuries old. This marked the beginning of a new era for an institution which already had a colorful background. As Rutgers takes its place among the great law schools of the nation, it is fitting that we recall the events which have marked its growth.

In 1908, Richard Currier founded the New Jersey Law School. Also instrumental in this inception were Charles G. Barnard and Charles M. Mason. The latter served as Dean of the Law School from 1910 to 1927, and left a lasting impression as "an inspiring teacher and a faithful friend."

The State early took official cognizance of the fine school it had. In 1909 the Board of Bar Examiners recognized it as a school of established reputation. Students were thereby permitted to count time in the school as part of clerkship, a privilege which has carried through to the present day. In 1912, permission was given to grant the LL.B. Degree.

The Mercer Beasley Law School was founded in 1926 by Spaulding Frazer. This school became merged into New Jersey Law School in 1935, and Frazer became its Dean.

In 1937, a total of 2,335 students were enrolled—the second largest roster in the country.

At a meeting in the Downtown Club in Newark on October 25, 1935, representatives of five schools signed articles of agreement, which established the University of Newark. Those schools represented included New Jersey Law School, Mercer Beasley Law School, Newark University, Dana College and Seth Boyden School of Business. Three schools emerged as components of the new University: the School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Law School. Classes were held in the old Ballantine Brewery on Rector Street in Newark, which the New Jersey Law School had been occupying for five years. In 1937, the first class graduated from the University.

The next decade saw continued growth in stature and reputation under the capable direction of Dean George S. Harris. Perhaps the most notable achievement during this time was the accrediting of the Law School by the American Bar Association in 1941, the only school in New Jersey so honored.

The thriving urban institution became a part of the State University on July 1, 1946. Just previous to this in 1945, action by the Legislature of New Jersey and the Trustees of Rutgers University had created the State University.

Today 623 students enjoy the immediate benefits of these years of the school's development, and its graduates daily are serving the people of New Jersey as members of its Bench and Bar.

Rutgers University, chartered in 1766 as Queen's College, chosen in 1864 as the land-grant college of New Jersey by the Legislature, designated in 1943 as the State University of New Jersey by agreement between the State of New Jersey and the Trustees, is the eighth oldest college in the United States and the only colonial college which has become a state university.

The Legislative Act of 1945 and the resolution of the Trustees accepting the act provide for the designation of the University as the State University, its dedication to the public higher education of the people of the State, increased participation by the State in the management of the University and its supervision and control through visitatorial powers by the State Board of Education.