

Dean Robert S. Stevens

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DEAN ROBERT S. STEVENS

To Robert S. Stevens, Teacher, Dean and Scholar, this volume of the Quarterly is affectionately dedicated.

Dean Stevens joined the Faculty of the Cornell Law School in 1919, and taught succeeding classes of students for thirty-five years, except for short periods devoted to the service of the public, especially during the second world war. Thus his membership on the Faculty has spanned more than half of the period covered by the history of the Law School; and his teaching has contributed mightily to the development of more than half of all the law students who have attended Cornell University. His teaching was, from the beginning, marked by the scholarly and analytical approach which is characteristic of all great law teachers, and through the years his own growth and development, due to contact with able and inspiring students, was manifest. He was primarily responsible for the introduction and development at Cornell of two new and successful teaching methods, problem seminars and the comprehensive examination.

After two periods as Acting Dean, Robert Stevens was appointed Dean of the Law School in 1937 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1954. As Dean, he administered the Law School with judgment, vision and untiring devotion to the interests of the School and the University. He was accessible to the students upon a friendly and informal basis for the solution of problems, whether large or small, and earned the respect and admiration of all with whom he came in contact.

Worthy of special mention are his guidance of the Law School during the difficult war and post war years, and his most important and conscientious work in the selection of new Faculty personnel to maintain the standing and continue the development of the Law School to which his life had been devoted.

During his long service to the Law School, Dean Stevens found time for works of scholarship and many important public assignments: for

many years New York State Commissioner to the Conference on Uniform State Laws, draftsman of Uniform Corporation Act; member, American Law Institute; faculty representative on the Board of Trustees of Cornell University; government positions in Washington, 1942-45; author of *Stevens on Corporations* (now in its third edition); editor, with Professor Arthur Larson, of *Cases and Materials on the Law of Business Corporations*; and, author, numerous articles in legal periodicals.

Dean Stevens has made an outstanding contribution to the Law School as teacher and Dean during the important development of the school in the past thirty-five years. His cordial relations and cooperation with students and Faculty, his inspiring leadership and his warm friendship and devotion will be long remembered by Faculty and Alumni alike.¹

We join in wishing him many more happy years of work and enjoyment of life.

*Horace E. Whiteside**

¹ See the November, 1954 issue of the Cornell Law Forum for a detailed biography of Dean and Mrs. Stevens.

* J. DuPratt White Professor of Law, Cornell Law School.