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Chicago-Kent: 125 Years and Counting

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I. The First 100 Years

A. The Early Years

At the end of the nineteenth century, the major method by which one became a lawyer was through self-study under the supervision of a practicing lawyer—an apprenticeship. Few law schools or even university law departments existed. In 1774, Judge Tapping Reeve of Connecticut established the first law school, Litchfield. Over the next 58 years, Reeve and his partner James Gould lectured on all areas of the law to over one thousand student-apprentices. Graduates included two Vice Presidents of the United States, 101 members of the United States House of Representatives, 28 United States senators, three justices of the United States Supreme Court, 14 state governors and 13 state Supreme Court chief justices. In 1779, Thomas Jefferson established a “chair in law” at William and Mary. George Wythe was appointed to the position, and gave lectures on various law subjects as part of the university’s multifarious curriculum. Harvard, Pennsylvania, Maryland and other schools later added actual law departments;
their graduates were awarded bachelor degrees. Most schools offered a curriculum similar to Litchfield’s: lectures on Domestic Relations, Executors and Administrators, Sheriffs and Gaolers, Contracts and Actions, Torts, Evidence, Pleading and Practice, The Law Merchant, Equity, Criminal Law, and Real Property. Apprenticeship remained the major means to becoming a lawyer.

As interest in law training increased, lawyer/mentors tended to overwork their apprentices with work growing out of their practices, leaving little time for the would-be lawyers to study on their own. Also, the significant increase in immigrants furnished a large audience eager to enter a profession in their new country. Thus, a number of evening law programs began, enabling those interested in keeping their jobs while preparing for careers in law. In Chicago, the first of these was Union College of Law, begun in 1859. It was founded and maintained through a loose association of Northwestern University and Chicago University. The Chicago University was not The University of Chicago, which was founded years later in 1890. Chicago University went defunct about 1871, at which time Northwestern completely took over the Union College of Law.

In 1887, four young clerks at the law firm of Burke, Hollett and Tinsman—Kickham Scanlon, Louis Henry, Rudolph Frankenstein, and Joseph Grannick—asked Mr. Burke for advice on how they could obtain mentoring after work as they studied for possible admission to the bar. Mr. Burke recommended they talk with Justice Thomas A. Moran of the Illinois Appellate Court. Moran was intrigued with the idea but at that time believed he was too busy. He in turn recommended they speak with Justice Joseph Meade Bailey, then of the Appellate Court and soon to be elevated to the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Bailey agreed to meet with the group from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. three nights a week in what they informally called “The Evening Law Class.” The group met in Justice Bailey’s chambers at the Court, located in the Grand Pacific Hotel, at LaSalle and Jackson. As word of the class spread, other apprentices throughout the city requested to be allowed to sit in on the class. In 1888, the class was formalized and Justice Bailey incorporated it as Chicago College of Law, with himself as dean and president. Bailey induced Justice Moran and Appellate Court Judge Shepard to join him as teachers, enabling them to split the evenings and have classes Monday through Saturday.

Classes were spread over two years, and labeled the Junior and Senior Classes. The Junior classes were held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and the Senior classes were held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tuition was set at $5 per month, pay-
able three months in advance. The judges’ lectures were supplemented for the Junior Class by readings from law books, including Blackstone’s Commentaries, Kent’s Commentaries, Bishop on Contracts, Walker’s American Law, and Morey’s Elements of Roman Law. The Senior Class was assigned readings from more advanced legal texts including, Bishop’s Principles of Equity, Gould on Pleading, Taylor on Corporations, and Langdell on Equity Pleadings. Completion of the two-year program enabled graduates to be eligible for admission to the bar, upon proper motion by an existing member of the bar.

Students could be admitted without having attended college or finishing high school. Students who lacked a high school diploma could be admitted by showing that they had a “good common school education” and could pass a test on the branches of learning commonly taught in high school. Many other schools in the country did not admit women or persons of color. In contrast, the Chicago College of Law catalogue emphasized that “no distinction will be made in the admission of students on account of sex or color.” Thus, among the students in the early classes were several women and students of color. Ms. Emma Bauman was in the very first class and was admitted to practice in 1890. Ms. Ida Platt, Class of 1894, was the first African-American woman admitted to practice in Illinois. Twenty of the first one hundred women admitted to practice in Illinois were graduates of the school.

Things moved quite quickly in the first few years. The rapid increase in enrollment led Justice Bailey to move the classes to the Appellate Court rooms at the Chicago Opera House Building, on Clark near Washington. In 1889, the Chicago College of Law merged with Lake Forest University, which was seeking to become a full-fledged university with affiliated medical, dental and seminary schools. In addition, because so many lawyers had already been admitted to practice, based only on their home-study, the Chicago College of Law established a post-graduate program to help them measure up to the demands of the profession. The graduate program consisted of one year of practice-oriented courses, two nights per week for eight months, with tuition of $40 per year. Further help was offered through a summer school, with classes on drafting pleadings and contracts, for a fee of $12. Completion of the full three-year program earned graduates a Bachelor of Laws degree and automatic admission to the bar.

The success of the College is shown by the fact that over the first six years of its existence, 766 students graduated from the two-year undergraduate program, and 290 lawyers from the graduate program. In 1892,
the ever increasing size of the classes caused the College to move once again, this time to the Atheneaum Building, located on Van Buren near Michigan.

Justice Bailey passed away in 1896. Judge Moran took over as dean and president. Judged by modern standards, the law school was literally an undergraduate college, with very young students. It was thus natural that the typical college organizations formed, including fraternities and sororities, clubs of all kinds, a school newspaper, and a combination catalog/yearbook/law review, *The Athenaeum Journal*.

Meanwhile, in 1891, Northwestern took full control of the Union College of Law, and renamed it Northwestern Law School. Marshall Ewell, one of Union College’s leading professors, was unhappy with the shift in teaching philosophy and pedagogy that was put into effect at Northwestern. He believed that by eliminating many practical courses from its curriculum, Northwestern had lost sight of the fact that the law school was supposed to be training students for the practice of law. In 1892, he and several other faculty members resigned and formed a new school, Kent School of Law. Within a year the name changed to Kent College of Law. Forty-two Northwestern students followed Ewell to Kent. The initial classes were held at the Briggs and Stratton Business School Building. Kent’s first catalog opined that it would be the first law school in the country emphasizing the “practical method,” requiring each student, after learning the basics of the law, to “engage in the practical work such as usually engages the attention of a regular practitioner.” Such training would enable graduates “at once to fill important and responsible positions . . . which, under the old method, they could not . . . fill without from six months to a year’s further training in an office.” The curriculum featured an upper class School of Practice, in which each student would have to draft all of the typical documents for cases that would arise in every area of practice.

Kent College was very successful, enrolling well over 500 students during the first three years of its existence. Within a year, the law school
moved to the sixth floor of the Ashland Block Building at Clark and Randolph. Two years later, it moved again, this time to the Association Building, next to the Chicago Bar Association’s quarters on LaSalle Street.

In 1902, Ewell’s advancing age apparently led him to negotiate a merger with Chicago College of Law of Lake Forest University. The law school name was changed to Chicago-Kent College of Law. Ewell and some Kent faculty made the move as well. Two years later, Lake Forest decided to leave the professional school business, rescinded the merger, and Chicago-Kent became a freestanding independent law school, which it remained for 65 years. In subsequent years, Chicago-Kent absorbed other law schools that had tried to establish themselves in the Chicago law school market, including colleges named YMCA, Webster, Western and Chicago Business Law. The Chicago-Kent curriculum was expanded to three years, and a bachelor of laws awarded to graduates, which made them eligible for admission to the bar. The law faculty adopted the Case Method of teaching, pioneered by Langdell of Harvard, but also retained the senior School of Practice inherited from Ewell and Kent College.

In 1904, Judge Thomas Moran passed away. He was succeeded by Justice Edmund W. Burke, also of the Appellate Court. The law school now employed, part-time, about 20 lawyers and judges to teach the solid array of courses in its three-year curriculum. They were paid $5 per class hour for their teaching. Courses were divided by the number of weeks they would meet. Thus, during their first
year, students took Contracts for five hours a week for 14 weeks, Torts for two and one-half hours per week for 18 weeks, Personal Property for two and one-half hours for 11 weeks, etc.

The law school moved again in 1913. It occupied three floors in the new 116 N. Michigan Avenue Building, which also housed the Chicago Municipal Courts. This arrangement made it easier to draw on the judges and lawyers who served as faculty, and reach out to the employers of many of the students. Among the faculty was one distinguished alumnus of the school, Hon. Henry Horner, Judge of the Probate Court. Horner continued to teach until 1924, during which time he wrote the leading treatise on Illinois Probate Law. In 1933, he was elected Governor of Illinois, serving till his death in 1940.

The make-up of the student body was incredibly diverse. A survey of one class showed that the students held jobs as disparate as accountants, court reporters, dentists, engineers, law clerks, letter carriers, merchants, secretaries, teachers, etc. They were primarily young people on the rise. Thus, the school had a debating society, which placed teams in competitions against teams from other colleges. These debates were carried on radio, and the listeners sent in their ballots to choose the winners. The school also had a swimming team, a wrestling team, and a highly successful basketball team, all competing against teams sponsored by other local colleges, churches, or clubs. One of the six fraternities, Phi Alpha Delta, was established at Chicago-Kent, and in fact had its own fraternity house on south Michigan Avenue. The first legal sorority, Kappa Beta Pi, likewise began at Chicago-Kent and soon had chapters throughout the country. A band, the Kent Syncopators, was hired out for weddings and bar mitzvahs. When World War I broke out, many students enlisted or were drafted. Some, unfortunately, did not return from the war.

B. World Wars I and II

In 1918, upon the death of Dean Edmund W. Burke, his son, Webster Burke, became dean and president of the Board of Trustees. He continued to run the school for over 30 years, at a salary of $400 per year. He waived all salary during and after World War II. Tuition in 1918, which had been $60 per year in 1888, had slowly risen to $90 per year. The early period of Webster Burke's tenure as dean saw the law school grow to one of the largest in the country. Thus, from 1909 to 1912, Chicago-Kent had the sixth largest student population; from 1913 to 1916, it had climbed to second largest.

Webster Burke was a frugal administrator and somehow raised enough money so that by 1923 the law school was able to finally buy its own building, a small four-story structure at 10 N. Franklin Street.
That year coincided with the inauguration of the *Chicago-Kent Law Review.*

Over the next 15 years, the law school increased its requirements for admission. The first change was to require applicants to have completed at least 30 hours of college credit. Within a few years, the requirement grew to 60 hours. The school also gradually moved towards adding a day division. A major step was taken in 1937 when the law school received ABA accreditation, enabling graduates to be eligible to seek admission to practice in any other state. In addition, part-time teachers were no longer the entire law school faculty. By 1940, six full-time teachers made up the nucleus of the faculty: Donald Campbell, James Hemmingway, Charles Pickett, Roger Severns, Ernest Tupes and William F. Zacharias. Tuition now was charged by the credit hour—$7 per hour, with 75 hours required to graduate.

World War II had a serious impact on the law school. Unlike many other law schools, it remained open, though with very small classes. The student-body was roughly a third of its normal size. Warren Heindl, born with cerebral palsy and thus ineligible for the draft, took one class in which he was the only student. The professor held every class and required Warren to “recite” on every assigned case.

In 1949, Dean Burke resigned so that the school could apply for AALS accreditation. The rules required a full-time dean and he still was working and drawing a salary at his old law firm. Donald Campbell was promoted from the full-time faculty to take on the job. AALS accreditation was received in 1951, making Chicago-Kent one of only three non-university affiliated schools to be accredited by the AALS. The year 1951 also saw over 500 alumni attend the 65th annual homecoming luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Sherman Hotel. At that event, a Chicago-Kent student team was honored for reaching the finals of the National Moot Court Competition, a first for the law school.

In 1956, Dean Campbell retired and William F. Zacharias was chosen to succeed him. Zacharias at first declined the offer because of what he asserted was the deplorable physical condition of the law school. The 10 N. Franklin building had no library. Students had to use the library of the Cook County Bar Association at the Civic Center. It had only three classrooms and not enough offices for the full-time faculty. In fact, Zacharias’ first faculty “office” was located in the boiler room!

Zacharias agreed to accept the job after President Douglas Schwantes of the Board of Trustees announced a fund-raising campaign, seeking to acquire for the law school the adjoining wine warehouse at 12 N. Franklin, and to blend the two buildings into one. A $500,000 campaign was
successfully launched, the building was acquired, and classes continued to be held at 10 N. Franklin while the blending construction took place at 12 N. Franklin. When it was complete, the law school now contained space for a library reading room, a reserve library stack area for 25,000 books, a 200-seat auditorium, six classrooms, a student lounge, a small faculty library, seven faculty offices, a separate faculty washroom, a large entry area, offices for the dean, registrar, and two assistants, as well as space for a switchboard operator.

Dean Zacharias prided himself on “running a tight ship.” However, he often ran it too tightly. He was dean, policeman, security guard, registrar, admissions officer, and secretary all-in-one. He made all admissions decisions, some of them controversial. He cut off the locks from student lockers at the end of the year. He physically removed students from classes if they were behind in paying tuition. He also personally threw out the occasional Skid Row bum who wandered into the building. At the time of registration for a new semester, he wrote out the class schedule for each student, including selecting their “electives” for them. When grades were turned in, he computed each student’s grade point average by pencil, and then personally typed the warning letters to those who were to be put on probation and the dismissal letters to those who would be dismissed.
Faculty who taught for most of the Zacharias years included the brilliant Fred Herzog, a judge in Austria who fled the Nazi invasion to come to America, James K. Marshall, Theodore Bayer, John Drac, Marty Hauselman, Warren Heindl, Shelvin Singer, Jerry Bepko, Dean Sodaro, and a very young Ralph Brill. Faculty salaries were very low, and teaching loads were very high.

In 1968, both Dean Zacharias and President Doug Schwantes announced that they would be retiring within a year. While the school was maintaining steady enrollment and income, it had a very small endowment to fall back on should leaner times appear. The Trustees continued to insist on quality education at an affordable tuition—$18 per credit hour with 75 hours required for graduation. Some felt that the reputation and the future of the law school were jeopardized by the fact that it was not connected with a university. Thus an agreement was reached to merge the school with the Illinois Institute of Technology, effective in 1969. A controversial provision in the agreement indicated that the law school would be moved to the IIT campus in the future, away from the downtown law firms and not convenient for evening students. The agreement also specified that the Chicago-Kent name would not be changed.

For the first time in its history, the law school performed a nationwide search for Zacharias’ successor; however in the end, the faculty and administration chose Fred Herzog to be its new leader. Simultaneously with his taking office in September 1970, an unexpected rise in applications for admission occurred. The number of women taking the LSAT rose dramatically. Within the three years of his deanship, the total enrollment of the school rose from 450 to 750, with most of the increase being traceable to the high percentage of women entering law school. The boom necessitated a dramatic increase in full-time faculty, and pushed the limits of the existing physical plant to a nearly unmanageable level.

Dean Herzog made history by the faculty he recruited and hired. Among the many new faculty hired during Dean Herzog’s short term were Mary Lee Leahy, the first woman professor at Chicago-Kent, and Emerson Blue, the first African-American professor. Dr. Walter Jaeger, a nationally famous professor at Georgetown and the author of the revised edition of the famous treatise, Williston on Contracts, was induced to join the Chicago-Kent faculty. He also hired Lew Collens, who later would become dean of the law school and then president of the university. Two wonderful colleagues, Howard Chapman and Phil Hablutzel, were also hired at that time and are still active and productive professors at the law school.
When Professor Leahy left for a government appointment, Dean Herzog hired another well-known female lawyer, Jill McNulty, who later would be elected as Justice of the Appellate Court.

In December 1973, Dean Herzog was recruited by the Illinois Attorney General to become First Assistant Attorney General of Illinois. Professor Ralph Brill, then the associate dean, was elevated to interim dean, and served for two years.

Much was accomplished in those two years. The law school space was doubled by annexing space at 33 W. Madison. Five new professors were hired, including David Rudstein and Richard Conviser. A new clinical program was started in which third year law students earned credit by working on Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation cases, under the supervision of three clinical professors hired by the law school. Warren Wolfson, a well-known Chicago lawyer and judge, was hired to start the Trial Practice program.

C. The Lew Collens Era

In 1974, the IIT administration selected Professor Lew Collens to become the dean of the law school. Lew went on to serve as dean for 17 years, at which time he was selected to be the president of the university. During Lew's long reign as dean, the law school made tremendous progress as an innovative and exciting law school.

One of the first steps taken by Dean Collens and IIT's new president, Tom Martin, was to resolve the physical plant issues that had mushroomed as the school had grown. The 10–12 N. Franklin building was much too small for the many stu-
dent and faculty now at the school, and the 33 W. Madison annex was only a temporary solution. While the merger agreement with IIT had specified that the law school would relocate to a building on campus at 31st and Federal, the law school faculty, Chicago-Kent Board of Overseers, and the alumni agreed that this would be a significant mistake. President Martin agreed, and instead raised funds to acquire a six-story building at 77 S. Wacker Drive. The more than 120,000 square feet was at least five times the total space of the old building and annex. The space was refurbished with modern furniture and fixtures, several floors of classrooms, two floors of open library stacks and reading rooms, over 50 faculty, administrative and student organization offices, a cafeteria, one separate floor for the clinic, and a multi-use auditorium. The library grew to house 450,000 volumes. The school moved into the new space in mid-1976.

Dean Collens was a very pragmatic dean, willing to take chances with new ideas and back them fully. Thus, in 1977, he approved the creation and implementation of the first three-year Legal Writing program in the country, headed by Professor Brill. As it developed, students were required to take 11 credit hours of the total of 90 now required for graduation, in five separate courses, spread over three years of law school. The program received superlative reviews and the positive publicity was used successfully as a recruiting tool by the admissions office. Full-time Legal Writing teachers taught the first-year classes and expert practitioners taught spe-
cialized advanced courses. In later years, a Visiting Assistant Professor component was added to help cover the first-year component. The VAP program, basically an apprenticeship for new teachers, still receives wide acclaim today. Over 50 former VAPs have gone on to careers as law professors at law schools throughout the country.

The successful Legal Writing program also led to another remarkable program. At the behest of students Ron Petri and Tom Krebs, the faculty approved the creation of the Moot Court Society. Students who had excelled in the first-year second-semester Legal Writing oral advocacy competition were invited into the Society, and received credit for participation in an advanced intra-mural competition. From this competition, students were chosen to staff Chicago-Kent teams in an increasing number of inter-mural national moot court competitions. Almost immediately, student teams began winning local rounds of national competitions and then advancing to the final rounds of competitions such as the very prestigious National Moot Court Competition and the ABA National Advocacy Competition.

Professor Ron Staudt was responsible for the next innovation the law school could justly claim—the establishment in 1983 of the Center for Law and Computers. Professor Staudt received a grant from IBM to install desktop computers into a student computer laboratory, and to teach students how to create their study materials, do legal research and experiment with the creation and drafting of legal documents using this then novel tool. Doctrinal faculty, who at first were against the use of the new gadgets, were taught word processing and research, and soon became supportive advocates for the program.

The Legal Clinic, begun as a supplier of legal services for the poor, was turned into a full fee-generating law firm under the direction of Professor Gary Laser. The Chicago-Kent Law Offices was and is still the only law school clinic of its kind in American law schools. Clinic lawyers and students worked on famous cases, such as representing John Wayne Gacy. One clinician, assisted by students, won acquittal on attempted murder charges for Vietnam veteran Jerald Wood based on a Vietnam stress syndrome defense. The Law Offices also initiated an externship program, placing students as law clerks for credit with judges.

In the 1980s, the Trial Advocacy program began sending teams to a number of national competitions. In 1988, a Chicago-Kent team, consisting of Lauretta Higgins, Peter Roskam and Joel Daly, and coached by Professor Warren Wolfson, won the 13th Annual National Trial Advocacy competition, the start of a marvelous string of victories in national competitions.
Dean Collens also devoted much attention to hiring and financially supporting the best possible scholars to teach at Chicago-Kent. Thus, within a few years of his decanal appointment the following nationally recognized scholars joined the faculty: Dan Tarlock, Mike Spak, Sheldon Nahmod, Stuart Deutsch, Howard Eglit, David Gerber, Marty Malin, Jeffrey Sherman, Joan Steinman, Margaret Stewart, Richard Wright, Steve Heyman, and Jacob Corre. The law school also benefited from semester or year-long visits by distinguished professors from elite law schools, including John Hart Ely of Harvard, and Gerald Gunther of Stanford. Special lectures were delivered by celebrated dignitaries including Justice Arthur Goldberg, Judge Abner Mikva, Governor Adlai Stevenson III, Mayor Harold Washington, and Mayor Richard J. Daley. Financial support for Chicago-Kent faculty scholarship was augmented by a grant from Paul Freehling in honor of his father, a Chicago-Kent alumnus.

Wise decisions also were made in judging young talent. Teachers who were given their start at Chicago-Kent, developed into leading experts in their fields, and then moved on to other schools included: Fred Abbott, Randy Barnett, Dale Nance, Anita Bernstein, Linda Hirshman, J. Gordon Hylton, and Carol Silver.

Another major change for the law school was the establishment of a number of specialized J.D. programs and several graduate programs. The graduate programs during this period were in Tax Law, currently run by Professor Gerry Brown, Financial Services, currently run by Hank Perritt, and an LL.M. for foreign students, currently run as part of our international programs under the direction of Ed Harris. J.D. specialization certificate programs were available to students in Environmental Law and Labor Law, later joined by Litigation and Dispute Resolution and Intellectual Property.

The successes of the school’s innovative skills programs led Chief Justice Burger in 1986 to single out Chicago-Kent for special praise. The high quality of scholarship produced by the faculty played a key role in having Chicago-Kent inducted into the prestigious Order of the Coif, the 70th school to receive that honor. And, in 1990, U.S. News and World Report listed Chicago-Kent as the top “Up and Coming Law School in the Country.”

In 1987, the law school celebrated its 100th anniversary. The all-day celebratory program featured visits by alumni and guests to the law school, a convocation at McCormick Place, the bestowal of honorary Doctor of Laws degrees on Hon. Harry Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court and Professor Gerald Gunther of Stanford. Speeches were given by representatives of the students, faculty, alumni, legal education organi-
Ralph L. Brill

organizations, and IIT. Dean Collens listed the agenda the school faced for the next 100 years. The list included: establishing faculty chairs to attract and retain great faculty; establishing interdisciplinary research centers in such subjects as environmental law, energy, computers and the law, legal theory, and problems of the elderly; creating exchange programs abroad to enhance the teaching of international and comparative law; expanding scholarship programs to attract great students and ease their financial burdens; and to expand the physical plant to accommodate expected growth in students and faculty. All of these and more would be accomplished in the next 25 years.

D. The Last 25 Years

The year 1990–91 was one of the most important in the school's history. First, when IIT's President Meyer Feldberg suddenly resigned, Lew Collens was elected by the IIT Board of Trustees to fill that position. He served as President until 2007. Professor Joan Steinman served as interim dean for one year. Rick Matasar, the associate dean at Iowa, was then selected to become Chicago-Kent's next dean, the first Chicago-Kent dean to be chosen from outside the ranks of the existing faculty.

Second, the IIT Board of Trustees seized an opportunity to sell the existing law school building at 77 S. Wacker Drive and to raise additional funds with which to construct a new, state-of-the art building at 565 W. Adams St., near Union Station. Among the many innovations in the new building were the Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Courtroom, a 500-seat auditorium, full computer technology in all offices and classrooms, a large fresh food cafeteria, and multiple student function areas. The building was finished and occupied in 1992.

During the 1990–96 era the law school faculty and dean focused on trying to improve the school's reputation among peer groups—i.e., scholarly faculty at other law schools. Dean Matasar therefore created a number of Distinguished Professorships, rewarding some of the faculty's most productive scholars. Many fine scholars were added to the faculty, including: Cheryl Harris, Lori Andrews, Katherine Baker, Fred Bosselman, Evelyn Brody, Bartram Brown, James Lindgren, Richard McAdams, Richard Warner, Harold Krent, Steve Sowle, Richard Hasen, Rafael Gely and Sarah Harding. The annual law school catalog listed 12 pages of law review articles and books for this period.

Dean Matasar resigned in 1996 to become dean at the University of Florida School of Law, and Professor Stuart Deutsch filled in as interim dean for a year. Professor Steve Sowle took over as assistant dean from long-time Associate Dean Howard Chapman, who continues to teach major courses in the curriculum.
Professor Henry Perritt of Villanova was selected as dean of the law school in 1997 and served until 2002. Perritt was a pioneer in the use of computers in legal education, wrote a multi-volume treatise on labor law, and consulted on issues related to the war and recovery in Kosovo. As dean he established the extensive multi-disciplinary Global Law and Policy Initiative through which faculty, students, and alumni worked together on issues related to international criminal law, assisting the media to deal with political censorship in Bosnia, computerizing infrastructures for courts and business in Poland, and providing advice to refugees from the war in Kosovo.

Among the faculty hired during Dean Perritt’s term were: Graeme Dinwoodie, Steven Harris, Mark Rosen, Claire Hill, Tim Holbrook, Christopher Leslie, Nancy Marder, and Peggie Smith.

By the end of Dean Perritt’s term in 2002, Chicago-Kent was ranked in the top third of all law schools by U.S. News and World Report. It was one of only a few schools with an evening division to be ranked that high. It ranked behind Chicago, Northwestern and Illinois among law schools in the state.

In 2003, Hal Krent was selected to succeed Perritt as Chicago-Kent’s dean. He still holds that position. It is fair to say that since his appointment the law school has succeeded in every major respect, from faculty recruiting, to scholarly production, to superior skills training, to having a major role in legislative and societal planning. The quality of the students has increased dramatically. Members of the faculty are leaders in their fields, invited to appear on nationwide programs as well as deliver talks to individual law school audiences. They are regularly recruited by more elite schools, but luckily most have remained at Chicago-Kent. The Moot Court and the Trial Advocacy programs are consistently ranked among the top 10 in the country. The three-year Legal Writing program remains unique and emulated. The physical plant has been continuously upgraded and is still a state-of-the-art facility. The school has added many international and LL.M. programs, attracting over 100 students annually from all corners of the globe.

The beginning years of the twenty-first century continued the wonderful successes of the Moot Court program. Under the direction of Professor Sanford Greenberg and, for the last nine years, Professor Kent Streseman, the Chicago-Kent Moot Court program has achieved remarkable successes in national competitions. Our teams have won 36 national and regional moot court competitions, along with over 80 individual awards for brief-writing and oral advocacy. It has the distinction of being the only school nation-wide to win back-to-back national titles in
the National Moot Court Competition, the oldest and most prestigious tournament in the country.

Similar successes have come in the Trial Advocacy program. Under the direction of former Judge Dave Erickson, and with coaching assistance of many Chicago trial lawyers and judges, the Chicago-Kent trial teams and members have excelled in national and regional competitions. Since 2000, Chicago-Kent teams have been National Champions four times. In various regional competitions Judge Erickson’s teams have been declared Champions nine times.

Under the direction of Mary Rose Strubbe and Susan Adams, Chicago-Kent’s three-year Legal Writing program continues to be a model emulated by many other schools and consistently ranks among the top writing programs in the country. The program has a group of very experienced and dedicated teachers: Elizabeth De Armond, Suzanne Ehrenberg, Doug Godfrey, Sanford Greenberg, and Kari Johnson. Chelsea Keller was hired recently to work with teaching foreign students in the LL.M. programs. Outstanding Visiting Assistant Professors fill out the program before going on to tenure-track teaching jobs at other
law schools.

The Law Offices of Chicago-Kent greatly expanded during the last 25 years. It now offers a wide range of long-standing programs in live-client clinical legal education that accommodate more than 150 students in the fall and spring semesters and more than 50 students in the summer semester. The programs are diverse, covering the practice of criminal defense law, health and disability law, immigration law, employment discrimination law, tax law, family law, business law, and mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Current full-time teacher/practitioners in the clinic are Gary Laser, Richard Kling, Daniel Coyne, Richard Gonzalez, Laurie Leader, Heather Harper, Rhonda de Freitas, Edward Kraus, Ana Mencini, Jonathan Decatorsmith, and Pam Krenta. Natalie Potts runs a program in Open Government. Vivien Gross supervises the Judicial Externship and Legal Externship programs in which students are placed as law clerks for credit with a judge or legal practice.

The last 10 years have seen the greatest growth in the breadth and credentials of the faculty. Dean Krent raised one and a half million dollars from 450 alumni to create Chicago-Kent’s first endowed chair, The Ralph L. Brill Chair in Law. Professor Adrian Walters, a world-renowned expert on bankruptcy law from the United Kingdom, was appointed as the first chair-holder. The school’s excellent reputation aided the dean and faculty in recruiting outstanding teachers including, Sungjoon Cho, Carolyn Shapiro, Michael Scodro, Daniel Hamilton, Felice Batlan, Bernadette Atuahene, William Birdthistle, Kimberly Bailey, César Rosado Marzán, Christopher Buccafusco, Edward Lee, David Schwartz, Stephanie Stern and Christopher Schmidt.

Chicago-Kent’s reputation for constant innovation has continued in the early twenty-first century. The energy of the new faculty and of the dean has led Chicago-Kent to become home to several institutes and centers, with missions that range from conducting scholarly and practical research on legal and social issues to providing topical programming for the legal community to developing public interest initiatives. Students who become involved in these activities, many of which involve cross-disciplinary projects, learn to appreciate and adapt to major social and global influences changing the nature of legal practice.

II. The Future

I hope that one reading this history is impressed with the tremendous growth of this great law school, from the Evening Law Class meeting in the chambers of Justice Bailey in 1887 to a vibrant, innovative, state-of-the-art educational institution. Among the thousands of its gradu-
Ralph L. Brill has been a member of the IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law faculty since 1961. He served as Associate Dean from 1970 to 1973, and Acting Dean from 1973 to 1974. For 14 years, Professor Brill was director of Chicago-Kent’s unique three-year legal research and writing program, for which he is widely known. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to the field of Legal Writing, including the Burton Foundation Legends Award, The AALS Section on Legal Writing, the Reasoning and Research Annual Award, the Legal Writing Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, the ALWD Leadership Award, and the special LWI/ALWD Ralph L. Brill Award for Long-Time service. Chicago-Kent’s first endowed chair is named after him, and is held by Ralph L. Brill Professor Adrian Walters. Professor Brill is co-author (with S. Brody, C. Kunz, R. Newmann and M. Walter) of the American Bar Association publication, A Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs, has written numerous practical articles on Tort law, and has prepared appellate briefs in many important Tort cases.