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A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR WARREN HEINDL UPON HIS RETIREMENT

RALPH BRILL*

The first time I saw Warren Heindl was in the summer of 1960. I was taking the Thomas Hardy Bar Review Course (the predecessor to Bar/Bri). This course was a one man operation—Hardy did all the outlines and lectures himself. To try to keep our attention, he told pretty outrageous dirty jokes, and sexist jokes, and alluded to his drinking problems. But one day, in came a different teacher, Warren Heindl, and started lecturing about Administrative Law. It was hard not to notice his mild palsy, but, as everyone I've ever talked to about Warren's classes has told me, that was forgotten within minutes. He provided a wonderful breath of fresh air. Warren was wonderfully well-organized, and provided very good examples. He made fun of himself. He used dry humor to keep our attention. We were all very impressed.

Generations, literally, of Chicago-Kent students have been similarly impressed by Warren's teaching. Over the last 46 years, Warren has taught, in the same well-organized, thorough, and entertaining way, Family Law (by his own count, 75 times), Conflict of Laws, Administrative Law, Admiralty, Civil Procedure, Negotiable Instruments, and Legal Research, to thousands of our alums.

Warren graduated from Morton High School in Cicero in 1941. After two years at Morton Junior College, he entered Chicago-Kent. Back then, neither a college degree nor the LSAT was required for admission to law school. Chicago-Kent had thrived since its inception through the 1930s, but it was the middle of World War II, and classes were small; Warren's entering class, Day Division, consisted of six students. In fact, in one of his second-year classes, Warren was the only student in the class, and had to recite on every case. He served as Editor-In-Chief of the Kent Law Review and was a member of the Illinois Moot Court championship team in 1947, the year he graduated, first in his class. At the dean's urging, he stayed on an extra year, teaching a class, writing a thesis and earning an LLM degree

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(yes, the school had a graduate program going all the way back to its beginnings in 1888).

Warren had only had two years of college, and felt he lacked something in his education, so he returned to college. He graduated from Northwestern, earning a bachelor's degree in Commerce, with distinction, in 1949. During that time, he taught Legal Research part-time at the law school. Dean Burke asked him to teach full-time in 1949, but, in 1951, Warren felt the need to practice law, which he found exciting and stimulating. He set up his own practice at 139 N. Clark in downtown Chicago, and continued to teach, part-time, at the law school for the next 14 years. He met and married one of his students, Margaret, in 1959. (Margaret at a later time became a co-director of the earlier version of the Legal Writing program.) In 1965, Warren rejoined the faculty as a full-time professor.

Warren retired at the end of the 1993-94 academic year, but reluctantly. In his family, at age 70, he is barely middle-aged. His mother, who, when he was a student, typed his class notes and exams at his dictation, passed away a few years ago at, I believe, 95 years of age, suffering a heart attack while shoveling snow. His father, who passed away in July of this year at age 98, only grudgingly gave up his driver's license several years ago, but still rode a three-wheeled bike around the neighborhood. And as any student in his classes will tell you, Warren is as good a teacher today as he was at any time during the last 46 years.

And Warren has been an outstanding teacher. He has won the students' best teacher award several times. When I talk to alums, they invariably ask about Warren, whom they describe as the best teacher they had at Kent. He always has presented the material in a palatable fashion, adding his dry humor.

While treating all students gently and decently, Warren, nevertheless, is demanding on students as well, especially on examinations. He is notorious amongst students for writing difficult exam questions, with buried legal issues, which he feels provide a sound basis for testing the analytical powers of the students. And each year, he writes entirely new questions, in spite of teaching the same courses for many years.

I, for one, am extremely grateful for the help Warren has given me over the years. On behalf of his former students and his colleagues, I salute him now, thank him for his wonderful teaching over the years, and wish him a long, healthy life.