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ROY STEINHEIMER

WILLIAM F. FORD*

When I think of Roy Steinheimer retiring as Dean, my mind runs immediately to the impact that he has had on the Washington and Lee School of Law. During a time when the University necessarily has been preoccupied with a broader agenda, the Dean established his own set of goals for the School of Law. By any objective standard, he has achieved them. He has done so by sheer force of will.

He has expanded the faculty dramatically while improving faculty salaries. He has increased the depth and breadth of the curriculum offered while significantly reducing the student/faculty ratio. He has equipped the School for the electronic age while upgrading and expanding its library. He has expanded the student body threefold while raising admission standards and thus the caliber of that student body. He has enhanced student governance while producing a law school student body which seems more cohesive than ever. He has encouraged and prodded the Law School Association to expand its responsibilities, thereby increasing its contributions to the Law School.

Constant growth. Constant expansion. NEVER sacrificing quality; ALWAYS improving it. These are Dean Steinheimer's legacies to Washington and Lee. He quite literally has taken the Washington and Lee School of Law out of the nineteenth century as he has prepared it well for the challenges of the twenty-first. Through it all, he has never hesitated to take the heat that inevitably went with moving, pushing, and sometimes dragging, the School of Law, and the University, into making needed changes, most of which we today take for granted. When first undertaken, their success was by no means certain.

Neither can one reflect upon Roy Steinheimer's years at Washington and Lee without thinking of him and his grand and gracious lady, Jane, flying endless hours carrying the story of the new Washington and Lee School of Law to the Bar at large, academia, the judiciary, other law schools and the general public. While the Dean well understands what the Washington and Lee School of Law has become, he appreciates that others too must know of this for the School to reap the full measure of its accomplishments. He selflessly has undertaken that task, too, demonstrating through it all that he is indeed the quintessential "Washington and Lee gentleman", in the *best* sense of that phrase. As an alumnus of the hallowed Tucker Hall, it is interesting to me that as I reflect on the Dean's upcoming retirement, I realize that whenever my legal alma mater comes to mind, I think first of Roy Steinheimer.

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