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Congratulatory Note

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CONGRATULATORY NOTE

With this volume, the *Washington and Lee Law Review* celebrates its fiftieth year of publication. It is a special honor for me to have the opportunity to congratulate the *Law Review* for its fifty years of contribution to legal scholarship and service to the University.

I graduated from Washington and Lee in 1931, receiving my undergraduate and law degrees after six years of study in Lexington. It is not easy to believe how small—and perhaps even provincial—the law school was during those years. The faculty consisted of only five professors, one of whom, Professor Moreland, served also as Dean. The entire student body of the law school was less than 100 students.

One of my favorite stories about my years in Lexington concerns the professor who taught the senior course in bankruptcy. The professor's name was Raymond Johnson, but he was known affectionately as "Red-eye Johnson." He was a bachelor and had quite a taste for alcohol even though those were the days of prohibition and bootleg whiskey. As I recall, Professor Johnson gave us the final examination in bankruptcy on a Saturday. He overextended his capacity that evening, and the next morning I received a call from Red-eye asking if I would grade the examination papers in the course. I did as I was asked, except I did not grade my own paper. When I returned the papers to Professor Johnson, he inquired what was the highest grade I had given any of my classmates. He then said that my final examination grade would be one point higher. Of course, I did not repeat this story for many years.

I appreciate the opportunity to be published in a law review, in part because I cannot claim to have been a member of my alma mater's *Law Review*. In this way I distinguish myself from many of my colleagues on the Court, and indeed, from all of the law clerks I have hired over the years. I may be the only Justice in the history of the Supreme Court who was not on a law review, and who also had little success in his first attempt at a bar examination.

It is some comfort to me that my graduation from the School of Law at W&L predated the first issue of the *Law Review*. My performance on the bar examination is not explained as easily, although I did take the exam before I completed law school. In any event, those who would admit defeat from a single failure should consider my own experience.

I recognize the significance of sustaining, as have the many who have worked on the *Law Review* over the years, a successful endeavor for half of a century. When one reaches my age, it may not be inappropriate to look back on years of activity with some satisfaction. None ranks higher than celebrating the Golden Anniversary of my marriage to Jo.

I wish for the *Law Review* and the School of Law continued success as the year 2000 draws ever closer.

Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

