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A TRIBUTE TO ROY STEINHEIMER

ROBERT E. R. HUNTLEY*

When I was selected to become President of Washington and Lee in January of 1968, my first and most pressing task was to locate a dean of the law school who could provide vigorous leadership and initiative for our venerable School of Law. During the ensuing months, with the assistance of a search committee from the law faculty, I talked with many possible candidates, none of whom seemed to me to be quite good enough. And then a distinguished law teacher of another university said to me, "If you want to find the best person you could possibly get as your new dean, talk to Roy Steinheimer at the University of Michigan." I did, and in due course Dean Steinheimer agreed to join us at Washington and Lee.

In countless ways, the years since that day have demonstrated the wisdom of our choice—and, I hope, have demonstrated also for him the wisdom of his decision. Under his leadership, a new law building has been designed and constructed—and nearly everyone agrees that it is a model of how a law school building should be put together. Under his leadership, our faculty, our curriculum, and our student body have been strengthened in every dimension. The reputation of our law school, always strong since its inception in the 19th century, has grown measurably and significantly with each year since he came here. And I might add that his students tell me that he is one of the finest teachers whom they have ever been exposed to at any level of education.

In addition to his obvious talents as a teacher and administrator and legal thinker, he is one of those rare persons who is able to combine toughness of mind with compassion of spirit. He has pursued the goals of our University and our law school with dogged determination, and he has succeeded. His retirement is well earned. All of us hope that the wisdom of his decision to come here fourteen years ago will now be followed by another wise decision to remain at our law school as a faculty colleague.

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