

SECTION 2  
UCLA LAW  
ORAL HISTORIES

*From the Oral History of*  
**WILLIAM H. ROSENTHAL**

As a member of the California State Assembly, William H. Rosenthal (1907–1991) initiated and carried to passage the bill to create the UCLA School of Law in 1947. He later served for many years as a judge of the Superior Court.<sup>1</sup>

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BERNARD GALM (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): Judge Rosenthal, we're really going to be speaking about the legislation that you introduced to establish the law school at UCLA, but I would like to begin by asking you to state how you arrived in the California Legislature in the first place. What was your background prior to becoming an assemblyman?



WILLIAM H. ROSENTHAL  
*Courtesy California State Library,  
 Sacramento, California*

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief's introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).

ROSENTHAL: I was working for the city attorney's office in Los Angeles under Ray Chesebro, the city attorney at that time. I was appointed to that job in 1937. Prior to that I had been working as a practicing lawyer for three or four years. I was appointed at that time to become a trial lawyer, and I was earning the munificent sum of \$105 a month, which was a lot of money at the time. I worked from 1937 in the city attorney's office until 1942, when I decided to run for the vacancy of the State Assembly in my district, referred to as the Fortieth Assembly District, a district in which my brother, Judge Ben Rosenthal, left to be appointed by Governor [Culbert] Olson to the Municipal Court. With that vacancy I kind of decided that I should run for the Assembly, since I was somewhat politically inclined. Politics runs in our family. Both my brothers were in politics. And so I decided to run for the vacancy, which I did. After a very difficult contest I finally won by approximately six hundred votes. I started serving in 1943 at Sacramento.

The first term while I was there I was just a novice and naturally had to learn how to get around. I introduced many pieces of legislation but nothing of any particular note. The second term around I had no opposition at the polls, and I had no opposition for the next five terms, so that I was reelected without opposition, which was very helpful.

In 1945 I introduced a bill on behalf of the UCLA law school because I felt the need for boys and girls who didn't have enough money to go to 'SC [University of Southern California] or some of the other colleges at the time, as Stanford or even up to Boalt Hall [University of California, Berkeley], couldn't drive that far. So I decided it was time to have a law school in Los Angeles County near the major part of the population. I introduced it in 1945, and again being a novice, I didn't know just how difficult it would be. I didn't realize that California was the place where the law schools were maintained. California at Berkeley had all the money and dispersed it in their own way. I didn't realize, of course, that I was bucking a large organization. The bill died in committee. And again, I didn't know why, but I was young and a novice.

GALM: Now, when would you have introduced that bill? In '45?

ROSENTHAL: In 1945. I would say in January, probably, yes.

GALM: And then to what committee would that have been submitted?

ROSENTHAL: To the education committee [Committee on Education].

GALM: I see. Let me ask just one other question: What comprised your district that you represented?

ROSENTHAL: It was the Eastside, commonly referred to as Boyle Heights area, East Los Angeles. A poor district, composed of primarily Jewish people, Mexican people, Negroes, and many, many Asiatics. It was a conglomerate of different ethnic groups.

GALM: And how long had your brother served as assemblyman from that district?

ROSENTHAL: My brother Ben had served there for three terms.

GALM: So, the Rosenthal name was pretty established there?

ROSENTHAL: It was pretty much established, I would think. Nonetheless, I had a very difficult battle the first time, because I ran against the incumbent newspaperman who had access to the newspaper every day, and of course I had nothing.

GALM: Is this a Boyle Heights newspaper?

ROSENTHAL: I think it was called *Eastside Sun* if I remember correctly.

GALM: Who was he?

ROSENTHAL: He was Al Waxman. And incidentally, his nephew is now a congressman from the Fairfax area.

GALM: Henry Waxman?

ROSENTHAL: Henry Waxman. A very interesting observation. But nonetheless, I did win. I then ran as a member of the city attorney's office where I had served for three years or four years. In those days we didn't spend much money like we do today. I think the most I probably spent was \$250, only because that's all I could get — some loaned to me by my brothers, some loaned to me by friends, and very little that you could raise. There wasn't that much interest in politics. I would estimate I spent probably about \$250 in the whole campaign.

Then, as I say, I introduced the bill, and when I lost it in 1945, I re-introduced it in 1947. I introduced it as Assembly Bill No. 1361, introduced [in] the California Legislature, Fifty-Seventh (General) Session. It was numbered 1361. It was introduced by myself as the main author. Assemblyman Vincent Thomas; Vernon Kilpatrick; Glenn Anderson, who is now the congressman from that area and former lieutenant governor and, of course,

*From the Oral History of*  
**J. A. C. GRANT**

**J.** A. C. “CLIFF” GRANT (1902–1995), professor of Political Science at UCLA from 1930 to 1969, chaired the committee to select the first law school dean and also created the law library. He served as chairman of the Department of Political Science, dean of the Division of Social Sciences, and head of the UCLA Academic Senate.<sup>1</sup>

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STEVEN J. NOVAK (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): The genesis of your [oral history] interviews, you might say, was the remark that you’d played a big role in the starting of the UCLA law school and the search for its first dean. So if you’re ready, let’s talk about that.



J. A. C. GRANT

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief’s introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).

GRANT: Okay.

NOVAK: I guess in 1947 you were made the chairman of a committee that was made up of Berkeley people and UCLA people, and you just sat down and started talking about what should a law school be. How did that come about? What did you decide?

GRANT: Well, as the University of California started, as the UCLA branch of it started growing, we said, "It's got to get out into some of the specialty colleges." And the administration decided, well, one of the most valuable to have and also one of the cheapest to have was the law school. Some specialty schools run into millions just to get some equipment for them, but a law school's a rather inexpensive enterprise. That's one of the misfortunes of it. That's why we have so many of these jerkwater private law schools around the country trying to make money on the deal, and it's messed up the whole legal profession and the whole educational scheme in law schools.

I know one of them in Los Angeles — I had given away most of my valuable law books. Because, see, when I went to UCLA, they didn't have a law library, and it was too far downtown, the L.A. County [Law] Library, to go all the time, so I gradually over the years built up quite a law library of my own. I had several hundred volumes. A few hundred of them I still have, as a matter of fact. But I gave the ones that were of most value to the new law schools that were developing, including UCLA, and some to the county law library. And then I ended up with a lot of stuff that they didn't need, but it was good basic material, and I offered it to one of the local private law schools. And you know the reply? "We can't afford a library." They were teaching law, and they were accredited to the extent that after four years of study instead of three, you could take the bar exam and if you passed it you could get to be a lawyer, but they couldn't even afford a law library. Well, that's sad.

So we said, "We're going to have a law school on this campus. It's just as important as having an engineering school." So having been chewing the fat on that for years, knowing it was inevitable, finally the Legislature passed a statute that made a grant of I think it was \$1 million — I got it later increased to \$1.5 million — for a building to start a law school. And a funny thing happened at that time. Hastings College of the Law, the so-called law department of the University of California in San Francisco — which

had been founded on the basis of a will by the first chief justice, [Serranus C.] Hastings, in which he gave \$100,000 to the state — said, “If you accept it, you’ve got to guarantee 6 percent interest per year on it forever, and that will be to support the Hastings College of the Law, which shall be the law department of the University of California.” And so for years, all Hastings got was \$6,000. It stayed over in San Francisco. Berkeley decided they wanted a law school. They said, “We can’t have one by that name because of the law department of the university over there across the bay, so we will start a school of jurisprudence.” So the Berkeley school was called the School of Jurisprudence, but everybody knew it was a straight law school, handled in the normal way. The other one [Hastings] worked with this \$6,000, and then it fell into the habit of hiring a lot of retiring professors from law schools, famous men who still wanted to teach, and so they brought them in at a fixed salary. They could give them a pretty good salary because they had no research funds, no travel funds, no pension system, none of the fringes that accompany normal university tenure positions that add up the price, just as the price of labor is not the hourly wage but its — you add on all the fringes, and they double that. So the Legislature, at the time they gave us money for a law building, gave Hastings money for a law building. Now, that’s the first time that Hastings started getting on the gravy train. Later, when I was on the University of California president’s staff and working with all the developing graduate programs and so forth, they came in and wanted some money for an assistant professor, and we gave them one. That’s the first time they started getting in on the gravy train of hiring university faculty and becoming really a part of the university. They had their own self-governing board of trustees. On occasion they preempt somebody off our regular university Board of Regents [laughter] and put them on the Hastings board, so that we started growing a little closer. And by the time we started giving them money, they were really regarded as a part of us. It was also becoming a very good law school.

Now, we established this committee. The committee had the task of planning. We had to plan for a building, we had to buy a library. My principal task was to buy the library. I had an idea that a library for this kind of a law school should be a research library, and they gave me \$60,000 to buy the basic books for it. We set up a committee, and it was — the consultant was the law librarian at Berkeley. I forget his name. Tom [Thomas S.]

Dabagh had resigned, was now with the Los Angeles County Law Library. I believe his name was [Eldred R.] Smith. Very nice chap. He was our adviser, but he never bothered giving any advice. He said, "Go ahead and run it, Cliff," so [laughter] I ran it. I had such good luck with that \$60,000. I couldn't do it now; you can see what's happened to law book prices. One book, Thayer's *Preliminary Treatise on Evidence [and the Common Law (1898)]*, which I think I bought for about a couple of dollars, now costs you sixty, seventy-five bucks. Very different world. But I had such good luck, having spent that \$60,000 — .

By the way, before I finished spending it all, we had picked the new dean and he was here, but he still didn't give me a damn instant's help in doing that work. I had to continue buying the law library. In fact, I took a leave of absence to get out from under it, but I stayed in town doing some writing, and I might just as well have not taken a leave, because the library kept calling me up all the time. One day the girl doing the actual ordering called up and said, "I want some help. I've got a lot of new offers here, and I want you to look them over and see if we should buy any of them." I said, "Well, look, we've got a dean. Have him do it. I'm out of this business." And the reply was, "The total help that Dean [L. Dale] Coffman has given to us in the library was to write us a note and say would we please buy him a Martindale-Hubbell. You may recall that I called you up and asked, 'What in heaven is a Martindale-Hubbell?' You told me it's a law directory. And so we bought him a Martindale-Hubbell." That's all the help we had gotten out of him. So she said, "Please come over and help me." So I did.

Well, I had such good luck with the \$60,000 that I went back to the administration and said, "I wish you would give me another \$50,000." Or was it \$40,000? "Because I have found so many good buys, and the market is just ripe for the pickings." And I added that I didn't want to fool anyone. "I've already got a better law library than they've got at most of" — what we call now the Pac-10. I forgot what we called it then, Pacific Coast Conference or something or other — "a better library than Oregon, Washington, and so forth. Right now we can open, no problem. But there are so many good books out there at such a good price that this is the year to buy them." I said, "If you'll give me \$50,000, I'll cut my request for next year by \$40,000." They gave me the \$50,000 and didn't cut my \$40,000. [laughter] I don't know why, whether it was a mistake or what. So we got going with a



*From the Oral History of*  
**EDGAR A. JONES, JR.**

**E**DGAR A. (“TED”) JONES, JR. (1921–2013), professor at the UCLA School of Law from 1951 until he retired in 1991, was one of the eight dissident faculty members who petitioned the UCLA administration for removal of the first dean. He later served as assistant dean of the law school and as president of the National Academy of Arbitrators.<sup>1</sup>

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EDGAR A. JONES, JR.

BERNARD GALM (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): Professor Jones, you were talking about the meeting of the Association of American Law Schools that you attended in Chicago [in December 1950], and this is where the position at UCLA was —

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief’s introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).

JONES: Came in view. The meeting was from something like Wednesday through Saturday morning. By Saturday morning I had gone up to the suite of the dean of the University of North Dakota at 2:00 A.M. in the morning. There I met Richard C. Maxwell, who had spent his first year in law teaching at the University of North Dakota. That was [when] I first met Dick Maxwell. The dean — I can't spell it for you, but his name was [Olaf H.] Thormodsgard. I take that to be Norwegian, not Swedish. But in any event, it became very obvious that the people looking for employment were the top law review types, and they were swarming around Dean Thormodsgard, too, to Dick Maxwell's great amusement, because he had spent one year there and he had a very warm affectionate feeling for the dean, but he didn't have warm affectionate recollections of weather at North Dakota.

GALM: Was he just present in the room? Was he part of — ?

JONES: No, he came up there just to say, "Hello, this is my mentor," and so on. That was how I met him. We chatted, as a matter of fact, at some length even, but that was that.

Periodically I would see [University of Chicago School of Law Dean Albert J.] Harno in the hall or something, and he'd say, puff, puff, puff — I was looking pretty dim right now — "Wait and see. Wait and see." So Saturday morning the thing was over by noon. About nine o'clock in the morning I was standing up — they had a main ballroom. Leading down to it were some stairs and an intermediate landing area, and [UCLA School of Law Dean L. Dale] Coffman was standing there by himself watching the thing. And over on the side as I came into the area were Dean Harno and Dean [Alfred] Gausewitz [of New Mexico]. So I went over there and they greeted me, "How's it going?" — very paternal about it. Harno says, "We've got to get a job for this young man and that marvelous family." I said nothing. He said, "Have you talked to Coffman yet?" — pointed at him with his pipe. I said, "No, I haven't had a chance to get near him." Harno looked at me with this sort of quizzical little grin. He says, "There he is."

So I went over to Coffman and I said, "Dean Coffman — ." And he turned around, sort of down his nose at me, as well he might. He had been pestered by dozens and dozens of these young guys. He said, "Yes?" I didn't tell you this: After the communists took over in China, Roscoe Pound left China, of course, and came to UCLA. Coffman offered him a job here.

He was about eighty-three, eighty-two or eighty-three years old, but he joined the faculty here. I knew this. I was aware of this. So I said to Coffman, “How is Dean Pound?” Now he turned around more and he said, “Do you know Dean Pound?” The ball came right across the plate! I [replied], “I don’t know him personally except I have corresponded with him from China and I have a handwritten manuscript that he sent me at my request.” Lock-in — lock-in conversation. [laughter]

Now, this is just at the end of the whole meeting there. We talked no more than fifteen or twenty minutes more. He went back out here. They were in a temporary structure over behind Royce Hall, an area where the parking structure is now I think. It was a wooden building, the type that the Army was building out in California during the war. It had an aisle going down the middle and offices off on each side. He went down to Pound’s office. As was recounted to me later, he said, “Do you know a young man named Edgar Jones?” “Oh, sound fellow, sound fellow.” [laughter]. That was the dialogue!

I got an offer to come out here. They were looking for somebody. Basically it was L. Dale Coffman who did these things. He was looking for a young law professor that would come out and sort of start things here. He wanted a moot court and he wanted things done. So this newspaper venture sounded more interesting to him than if I had been the editor of a law review. Plus Harno. I had referred to Harno, and I think even there — although I left the area there around ten o’clock that morning, I think that Harno and he talked after I had gotten off the scene. But in any event, there came a telephone call back to Virginia to Charlie Gregory from Coffman, who wanted to know about me, and Charlie told him about me.

GALM: Had you given Gregory as a reference?

JONES: Oh, yeah. He was —

GALM: Rather than the dean? Or did he talk with the dean, too?

JONES: I stayed an extra year. This was during that extra year. I had graduated. I neglected to say that. I had graduated, but I stayed an extra year to work with Gregory in labor law. I went around with him to arbitration hearings that he conducted. I drove him, as a matter of fact. He didn’t like driving, so I made a deal with him. I’d drive if he’d take me. He was the one that got me interested in law teaching. So he gave me a very high

recommendation, and then I ended up getting the offer to come out here. This was how it happened.

GALM: What was your initial impression of Coffman at that meeting?

JONES: Very favorable, very favorable. He was a very genial, friendly person. He was stilted. He had this way of talking with a sort of an exaggerated voice. But he was a genuinely very charming man. I liked him. I never ceased to like him, actually. I came to understand that he had some very serious problems which really meant that he couldn't function as the dean of this law school. But I never ceased to think he was a very charming person. I have to say, when I say that, he was charming to those whom he liked. He was not charming, you know, to those whom he didn't like, whom he thought for any reason were people that were any of the catalog of negative adjectives. And he was very much a product of that era of intense fear of communism. The fact that I was a practicing Catholic was a number one asset on the pro side. There were many, many university contexts in which that would have been a negative that I would have had to have overcome. I don't know how many, outside of those universities that were Catholic in their structure, in which I have never had any interest in being present —

GALM: So as a Catholic, he saw you as a staunch anti-communist?

JONES: Yeah, without question. That was to him an important thing. He had already become embroiled here with Brainerd Currie. I've got to find the correspondence on that. I know I rooted around and found it. I told you about it. I did dig it out when I was talking with Ken [Kenneth] Graham's class. But Brainerd Currie had — this is probably what we should do next time just as a preface, as it were, an epilogue preface. He had really thought through the business of the oath within the university. And he wrote a superb set of memoranda, just totally persuasive and right on target. He was certainly not in any way a communist dupe or anything along that line. He was a constitutional law scholar. That wasn't his specialty. I say he was a constitutional law scholar who profoundly understood what was at issue. And Dale Coffman didn't. He just didn't. He had the most simplistic ideas about communism and the threat of communism to the United States and to the university, to the faculty of the law school. It was really a form of paranoia which a lot of people had at that time, though. He was not alone. He had the chairman of the Board of Regents, Mr. Dickson — What was his name?

*From the Oral History of*  
**L. DALE COFFMAN**

**L** DALE COFFMAN (1905–1977) served as the first dean of the UCLA School of Law from 1949 to 1956, having served previously as dean of the Vanderbilt University Law School for three years. He continued as professor of law at UCLA until his retirement in 1973.<sup>1</sup>

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WINSTON WUTKEE (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): When did you first meet [Board of Regents Chair Edward] Dickson or hear of him?

COFFMAN: I met Mr. Dickson before I came out here. It was before Christmas of 1948, when I was invited out here. As a matter of fact, I got a call from — who was the provost at that time?



L. DALE COFFMAN

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief's introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).

WUTKEE: [Clarence] Dykstra.

COFFMAN: Dykstra — a telegram from him asking me to come out. I had just started a school there at Vanderbilt. It had been for all practical purposes closed during the last two years of the war, and so I really had to build it almost from the ground floor up. I knew they were building a new school here, and I thought that Dykstra wanted to talk to me about some of the problems of building a new school. I didn't have any idea really that I was being considered as dean.

Dykstra had a cocktail party for me and Mrs. Coffman, and during the afternoon I met Dickson there. Dickson was the first one who said anything about my coming here. He wanted me to come. He said, "I want to be sure that you come." Dykstra hadn't said anything to me about coming yet, and Dickson had remarked that the campus had had a bad reputation for too many — well, Dickson said — "Reds" on the campus, and he said he didn't want anybody like that.

I said, "Well, a lot of things can be said against me, but that's not one of them." Then Dykstra that evening did make an offer, and I went back to Nashville, Tennessee, and wrote him and turned it down. I didn't think it was enough to make a change.

So then I went on to the Association of American Law Schools' meeting. I think it was in Cincinnati that year. While there I got a telegram from Dykstra increasing the offer, asking me to come and asked me to call him. So I talked it over with Mrs. Coffman, and I called him and told him I would come. (So I turned it down once.)

WUTKEE: Did Mr. Dickson phone you after you turned it down or contact you at all by letter or any other communication?

COFFMAN: No, he was working through Dykstra. I know it was Dickson then who got the increase and, as a matter of fact, increased all the salaries up and down the Pacific Coast.

WUTKEE: The first meeting that you met Mr. Dickson, how did you size him up?

COFFMAN: Oh, I liked him from the start very much. He was my friend on this campus. He called me regularly about university business and asked me to call him. I told him one time that I understood there were

rules about any member of the faculty calling a member of the regents. He says, “With you, pay no attention to that. If you have something on your mind, I want to hear it.” So he called me regularly and insisted that I call him on any problem that I had.

After I was here a short time, I found out about this Academic Senate control of the university. I didn’t have any such business as that with Vanderbilt, and I’d had associations with three other universities: the University of Iowa, the University of Nebraska, and Harvard (Iowa and Harvard as a student, Nebraska as a member of the faculty). There was no such control in any of those schools. And as a matter of fact, I told Ed Dickson that if this was continued with reference to the law school, he’d better think about getting himself another boy.

WUTKEE: Then what did he say immediately on that?

COFFMAN: Immediately on that, he, working through other regents, eliminated that control of the law school. [UC President Robert Gordon] Sproul didn’t like it, I know, but after all, the regents did do it, and so I was not subject to Academic Senate control.

WUTKEE: Had you known of Mr. Dickson’s prior career in California at all? Had anyone briefed you prior to your meeting him?

COFFMAN: Not in any detail, no. I knew he had been in the newspaper business and he was the owner–publisher of the newspaper, which he later sold to Hearst. And incidentally, John Francis Neylan was personal counsel to William Randolph Hearst. John Francis Neylan was the best man when Ed Dickson and Wilhelmina got married. So their friendship goes way back. I got to know Ed Dickson and Neylan both very well during the so-called oath controversy here on the campus. I stated publicly that I’m not a Communist, I never have been, I never expect to be, and I don’t see wherein it interferes with my academic freedom to say so.

WUTKEE: Did you and Mr. Dickson have talks over that issue?

COFFMAN: Oh, indeed so.

WUTKEE: Can you relate Mr. Dickson’s feelings on this?

COFFMAN: Oh, Mr. Dickson, of course; was — let’s not — have you got that thing going?

*From the Oral History of*  
**HAROLD E. VERRALL**

**H**arold E. Verrall (1902–1995) was brought to the UCLA School of Law from Vanderbilt University Law School by Dean L. Dale Coffman in 1949. As assistant dean, he was one of the two faculty members who supported Dean Coffman against dissident faculty members. He remained at UCLA as professor of law until his retirement in 1970 and continued as professor at UC Hastings College of the Law until 1979.<sup>1</sup>



HAROLD E. VERRALL

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BERNARD GALM (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): [Before Dean Coffman came to UCLA in 1949], what were his major accomplishments [as dean of the law school at Vanderbilt]? Expansion of the library, expansion of the faculty — ?

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief's introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).



VERRALL: And he had to supervise the construction of classrooms, which were far different from those of the university because the classes would be larger. So we had to have the classrooms with built-up benches and seating so that all the students could see the instructor at the podium.

GALM: Later on, when we talk about the building at UCLA and so forth, I'll ask you, or you can volunteer, for comparisons between Vanderbilt, ideas which he may have already begun at Vanderbilt, or introduced at Vanderbilt, that he later reintroduced at UCLA.

VERRALL: Well, I would say that probably his policies were very much the same, except on a magnified scale. In other words, the building we got built here was probably three times the capacity of the Vanderbilt building that we had left. Oh, maybe even more than three times, four times. But they figured the school here would be a school of 1,000 to 1,500 students, so we'd need that space.

GALM: Did you teach, more or less, the same courses that you taught before the war — Property courses?

VERRALL: That was the dean's policy. He wanted somebody who had had years of experience in teaching in the Property field, years of teaching in the Criminal Law field, years of teaching in the Procedural Law field, years of teaching in the Torts field, not quite as much, but that was the field he was going to take over himself.

GALM: I know that in the early years at UCLA he had weekly luncheon meetings with the faculty. Was that also a feature at Vanderbilt?

VERRALL: At Vanderbilt we had, oh, I would say, more daily luncheon meetings, with a faculty meeting about every two or three or four weeks. At luncheon we'd have our faculty meetings. At UCLA we also had the daily luncheons for years and years. For the first ten years of the school a group of the faculty, and indeed practically all of the faculty, would go out to lunch. No, it was about the same.

GALM: Was there any interaction with other departments or schools at Vanderbilt?

VERRALL: Really, the answer should be no. We knew many of the other department heads and the faculty, and we maintained social contacts. But

from the point of view of university functioning, no, Vanderbilt was run in a little different way, I would say each department almost separate from the other.

GALM: Did Dean Coffman have an assistant dean at Vanderbilt?

VERRALL: Well, a member of the faculty would assist on admissions. I was the goat most of the time. The school wasn't big enough to require a full-time assistant dean.

GALM: Do you recall what your first impressions were of Dean Coffman?

VERRALL: Well, I noticed the first thing he did was to fill up his pipe, and light it without saying very much, and then smoke. So I assumed he was doing that for the purpose of attracting attention to himself. He was a person who wanted to be front and center all the time, ever since I knew him.

GALM: Had you known him before he came to Vanderbilt?

VERRALL: No, I only knew him over the telephone before he came to Vanderbilt. And that was during the six months before I returned, before I left the government service and came back into teaching.

GALM: Did you socialize much with him at Vanderbilt? I mean, separate from the entire law faculty.

VERRALL: Yes. [Rollin M.] Perkins and Coffman and myself, we got together, oh, probably once a week.

GALM: Dean Coffman then was appointed here at UCLA in 1949.

VERRALL: Yes.

GALM: Before he left had he discussed with you the possibility of your coming?

VERRALL: Oh yes.

GALM: Had he discussed it at all before he accepted the deanship?

VERRALL: Yes. He had talked to both Rollin Perkins and myself. Well, I don't know just when it was, at one of our social meetings. We always talked a little bit of business as we socialized.

GALM: When did you say yes?

VERRALL: I told him that I'd like to come to California the very first time he broached the subject. So he knew it was yes all the way from my point of view. The only question would be what the university would say. They have certain procedures and they have certain likes and dislikes, like all people do. So I didn't say yes to UCLA until I got a formal invitation.

GALM: Had you ever been to the West Coast by that time?

VERRALL: Oh yes. In the middle thirties, during the Depression, I had driven out to Washington and then down from Washington to Los Angeles, all down the coast. So I'd been familiar with the California weather, California people.

GALM: Was that a family trip that you made?

VERRALL: No, just myself and my wife. We wanted to see what the West was like. We both liked it.

GALM: What did you see as being the advantages for you in the move? You were a full professor at Vanderbilt.

VERRALL: Well, the advantages would be great because the University of California never did things in a little way. So we figured from the very beginning they were going to build a good-sized law school that would have a national reputation. And, you see, Boalt Hall [University of California, Berkeley] was known throughout the whole of the United States as one of the leading law schools of the nation. And we figured that UCLA would be the same, become one of the leaders. No, we were very happy, both Perkins and myself.

GALM: When you arrived, what was the state of affairs as far as the law school was concerned?

VERRALL: They had an old military barracks that they had put some partitions in for [counts] one, two, three, four about six rooms in it. Perkins took one; I took the one next to it. Dean [Roscoe] Pound across the hall from Perkins, and Brainerd Currie across the hall from where I was. The other two little rooms were the dean's office, the office of the dean, and the secretarial office.

We were in that barracks, and then they had another barracks they were building into a law school library. The librarian, Tom [Thomas S.]

*Introduction to the Oral History of*  
**RICHARD C. MAXWELL**

MURRAY L. SCHWARTZ\*

It is of course impossible to recapitulate or summarize in a few pages what Richard C. Maxwell accomplished in his eleven years as dean of the UCLA School of Law. His was a truly prodigious performance. The limitations of the printed page being what they are, I shall try to convey some feeling for what he wrought by comparing briefly the state of the law school when he became its dean with its condition when he left office, and by trying in a few words to describe the personal attributes that in my view made it possible for him to effect the changes.

I regret that my account is inadequate. The story should some day be writ large and *in extenso*.

When Richard C. Maxwell became its acting dean in 1958, the UCLA Law School was nine years old. Those early years had been marked by difficulties that transcended the normal growing pains of a new institution. By 1958 the school had not only stopped growing but had been in a state of administrative receivership for several years. There were but nine regular faculty members the preceding year; the arrival of three new members (of which I was one) in fall

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\* Excerpted from a “Dedication” in 28 UCLA L. REV. 2 (December 1980) for the original typescript of Maxwell’s oral history, 1983.

1958 increased the roster by one-third. Of the 432 students in the law school, 182 were in the first-year class, which met in one section.

The educational policy of the school was revealed in the architecture of the building, which had been completed in 1952. The educational facilities consisted of three classrooms of decreasing size, for the first-, second-, and third-year classes (in that order), and a handsome courtroom, used primarily for a Practice Court course taught by a federal judge or practitioner on Saturday mornings.

Only third-year students had any choices in the courses they took, and those choices were few and far between. Nor was student life greatly enriched by extracurricular activities. A handful, at most, of prospective employers interviewed the top ten percent of the senior class (on law review, as well) for the few jobs available upon graduation. The school had no formal relationship with the academic life of the rest of the university, and there were few contacts with the external professional world. In the view of the national law school community, UCLA had not met the expectations raised when it was created as the first major new law school of the post-World War II era. It was widely regarded as a school in deep trouble.

The appointment of Richard C. Maxwell as dean did not come easily. Those internal difficulties that had resulted in the creation of the administrative receivership of the law school also produced a great reluctance on the part of important members of the University of California Board of Regents — a body in which echoes of the loyalty-oath fight between regents and faculty still reverberated — to approve an “insider” as dean. Indeed, in his first year as chief administrator, the title was *acting dean*; it was not until the next year that the regents were willing to confirm him as dean.

Richard Maxwell’s deanship lasted from 1958 through 1969, eleven years of change and expansion. Although the passage of another fourteen years or so since 1969 scarcely affords a sufficient retrospective to appreciate all the accomplishments of his leadership — and statistics alone cannot possibly convey them — it may be instructive to describe the law school when he left office in 1969, for comparison with the institution in 1958 when he took office.

By 1969 the student body numbered 727; the faculty some 37. The administrative staff had increased, although for its size the school had one of the smallest administrative staffs in the country. In 1969 the school became the first in the country to undertake a substantial minority-student admissions

program (in 1958 it was almost entirely white with a small number of women students). The school was one of the few to have a woman on its faculty, and in 1969 one of the few to have appointed several minority law professors.

The instructional program had loosened and expanded. Only the first-year courses were required, and all were divided into sections; all courses in the second and third years became optional, with several sections for the larger courses. The optional part of the curriculum took on meaning as some ninety courses and sixteen seminars were offered in 1968–69.

The increase in the number of students (mandated by the Board of Regents in light of the growing pressure for law school admission) was made possible by an addition to the building in 1966. The building of that addition in turn made possible the reconstruction of the existing classrooms to provide smaller ones, seminar rooms and facilities for special programs. The law school's architecture no longer assumed — or required — a high rate of student attrition.

The law school moved into the university. When it became part of the Academic Senate, its faculty served with the faculty from other departments on that body's many committees. Law school faculty held such positions as director of the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations, director of the African Studies Center, chairman of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for International and Comparative Studies, associate director of the Latin American Center, and associate director of the Institute for Government and Public Affairs.

As the reputation of the school grew, so did the opportunities available to its graduates. UCLA became one of the regular stops for the increasing number of firms and institutions that regularly recruited at law schools.

This account of Richard Maxwell's administration does not adequately communicate the magnitude of his accomplishment. The story is not just one of the incremental development of an educational institution, with the usual problems of assimilation of today's policies, programs, and personnel, even as tomorrow's are being proposed and implemented. (Consider the problems associated with expanding a faculty from twelve to forty in a decade.) The UCLA story of 1958–69 is truly one of a metamorphosis. To put it in general terms: in 1958 Richard Maxwell became dean of a law school whose academic and professional training models were the traditional law schools of the 1930s and 1940s, a law school that fell far short of being first-rate when measured

against them. When he left the deanship in 1969, the school had not only achieved distinction according to traditional criteria but had also become one of the most innovative schools in the country.

How did this unassuming Midwesterner bring this about? Intelligence and a capacity for hard work — which he possesses in the fullest measure — are necessary but hardly sufficient conditions. In my view — from the vantage point of close observation over the entire course of his deanship — the other attributes were near-boundless enthusiasm coupled with infinite patience, willingness to engage the administration or anyone in fierce battle on behalf of the law school, insistence upon emphasizing the strengths of those he led, ignoring their weaknesses, and an unusually high receptivity to innovation.

Although I shall not embarrass him by elaboration (this is a eulogy not an elegy), I will state, by way of illustration, that when I reviewed the years I have known and worked closely with him, it was hard to recall a single occasion on which, in public or private, he spoke negatively about another human being (and this includes more than one who in my view had given him ample reason to call the wrath of heaven down upon their heads).

While my assignment has been to recount his accomplishments as dean, I think it fitting to point out that he is also the holder of the one law school chair at UCLA, the Connell Professorship of Law, and a distinguished scholar.

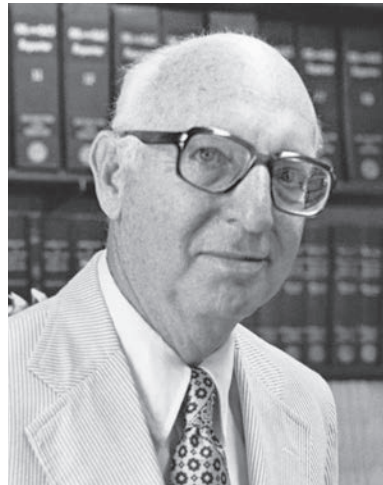
He has been the winner of one of the coveted UCLA Distinguished Teaching Awards and has been chosen Professor of the Year by the senior class. He has continued to be one of those faculty members to whom students and colleagues alike turn for advice and support. Shortly after he retired from the deanship, he was elected president of the Association of American Law Schools, a recognition that comes to one law professor in the entire country per year. It was an accolade that recognized not only his accomplishments at UCLA (and derivatively the law school itself) but also his qualities as a human being.

There is an apocryphal report that Alexander the Great wept after he conquered Persia because he then had no more worlds to conquer. Unlike Alexander, Richard C. Maxwell has decided that there are other worlds to conquer; the time has not yet come for him to weep for want of a new challenge. But for us to compliment his character or praise his achievements is not necessarily to accept with equanimity his decision to leave UCLA. For his departure causes us to weep.

*From the Oral History of*  
**RICHARD C. MAXWELL**

**R**ICHARD C. MAXWELL (1919–2016) served as the second dean of the UCLA School of Law from 1958 to 1969 and is credited with bringing the school to national prominence. He served as professor of law at UCLA from 1953 until his retirement as Michael J. Connell Distinguished Professor of Law in 1981 and thereafter at Duke University as Harry R. Chadwick, Sr. Professor of Law.<sup>1</sup>

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RICHARD C. MAXWELL

THOMAS BERTONNEAU (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER): Dean Maxwell, it is the usual style to begin these oral histories by finding out a little of the interviewee's biography. I would like to ask you to describe the circumstances of your childhood. Tell me a little bit about your family and how you got started out in life.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief's introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).



MAXWELL: Let's see, I was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919. My father was at the time a Presbyterian minister; I believe that at the time of my birth he was overseas with the United States armed forces as a chaplain. I grew up in Minneapolis, and it happened that my mother and father were divorced when I was at a fairly early age. So I was raised during most of my life in the home of my grandfather, where my mother also resided. It was, in those days, a kind of extended family that probably doesn't exist anymore — a constant going and coming of uncles and aunts and cousins. It was a big old house in South Minneapolis, about a half a block from Minnehaha Creek. It was about as pleasant a place to grow up as you can imagine.

BERTONNEAU: Sounds a little bit like a Mark Twain story, or maybe a small-town America —

MAXWELL: Well, Minneapolis is not a small town, but actually that part of Minneapolis in those days was lovely.

BERTONNEAU: Let's find out the names of your father and your mother and this grandfather that seems to be important.

MAXWELL: My grandfather was Sherman Wesley Callender; that's on my mother's side. My father was born in Russia and emigrated when he was quite young. His name was Bertram Wayburn Maxwell. My mother's name was Blossom Callender. This is the spelling that we use, although you can find the name spelled in a variety of ways. The Callenders have been in this country for a very long time.

BERTONNEAU: Was your grandfather an educated man?

MAXWELL: Well, I think for his time he was an educated man. His father was — you mentioned Mark Twain — his father, John Callender, was actually a Mississippi riverboat captain. That, of course, goes well back into the nineteenth century; my grandfather must have been born about 1866. They came from somewhere in Massachusetts and settled in Minnesota. My grandfather was educated in the sense that he went to business school, and he was an independent, quite well-to-do businessman in Minneapolis during most of my childhood. However, during the Depression, he was much less well-to-do, and my later growing-up years, although still quite comfortable, were far from affluent.

BERTONNEAU: What kind of a milieu was it to live in? What are your early memories of that life?

MAXWELL: Early, early memories are really of wonderful winter snowfalls, of Minnehaha Creek at freshet level, with fish coming in from the lakes; early memories are of going north to the fishing lakes in Minnesota, hot summers in Minneapolis, really very good school experiences — absolutely no complaint. I worked in the sense that I had a very large and quite rigorous paper route, which I think is the source of the back problems I encountered later in life.

BERTONNEAU: I was curious when you said that your father was a Presbyterian minister: it seems to be a fairly typical part of the biographies of the first generation of administrators here at UCLA. Many of them came from clerical families.

MAXWELL: Is that right?

BERTONNEAU: Do you think that has anything to do with someone going into education or administration?

MAXWELL: I doubt it very much, although I was very close to my father, particularly in later years. He actually left the clergy and took a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in history and political science, and was for some years a professor during the Depression at Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas, where I did not live. Then he became an editor for Macmillan and lived in New York City for — oh goodness, he must have gone there when he was fifty, and he died there at about eighty-two. So he spent a large part of his career in a metropolis.

So I can hardly claim that I had a clerical influence, although I must say that my grandfather was a typical Scottish Presbyterian — a member of the session, which is the governing board of the church — and until I was at least sixteen, I was thoroughly schooled in Presbyterian doctrine and was a regular attendant at Sunday school.

BERTONNEAU: What, in your character, would we recognize as a vestige of that time?

MAXWELL: I am really not sure how much. Well, I think you would — it is true that I probably am to some extent a victim of the American work ethic. I think that as much as anything. And also, there are certainly

vestiges of the very rigorous moral atmosphere, in at least surface terms, of that environment.

BERTONNEAU: Could you be a little bit more elaborate on that point?

MAXWELL: Well, I can recall that when, at a mature age, I began to go to movies on Sunday, I would feel a twinge of guilt. In other words, I came from an environment where in my early years the Sabbath was observed. One walked through the snow in the winter to church; one went to Sunday school and then later to church; one came back and had roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, and carrots.

You could then go out and engage in skiing down the sides of the gully in which Minnehaha Creek flowed, or you could read; but you did not go to the movies. You did not engage in that kind of frivolous activity. Drinking, by my immediate family, was not condoned during my earlier years, although in his later years my grandfather, though he certainly did not become a moral libertine or anything of the sort, would occasionally have a drink with my uncles on holidays.

BERTONNEAU: The society of Presbyterians has to be a rather ordered society. It's a typical Puritan kind of society in that sense, is it not?

MAXWELL: Well, yes.

BERTONNEAU: Are you an ordered sort of person?

MAXWELL: I think that I am, yes; I think that's correct. I am meticulous about a great many things — that certainly is true — and that probably is an aid to administration. I'm not sure that it's a particular aid to teaching and scholarship, although in some ways it is. I miss a class only under the most extraordinary circumstances — put it that way. [laughter] Undoubtedly that goes back to subliminal influences.

My grandfather, although his business went down the American drain with nearly everybody else's in the early thirties, . . . had become a great expert in handling railroad traffic and the shipment of produce. So he was able to work and earn a living until he was almost ninety, as a specialist in this area. So that's the kind of atmosphere in which I was raised.

BERTONNEAU: You described yourself, I suppose somewhat ironically, as a *victim* of the work ethic. What do you mean by that?

*From the Oral History of*

## FRANCES MCGANN MCQUADE

**F**rances McGann McQuade (1916–2007) commenced work at the new UCLA School of Law in 1949 as secretary to the dean and retired in 1982 as assistant dean for administration.<sup>1</sup>

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**BERNARD GALM (UCLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWER):** Mrs. McQuade, before we start getting into the history of the law school, I'd like to ask you something about your personal background. Where were you born?

**MCQUADE:** I was born in Chicago, but I grew up mainly in New York City, and I graduated from Manhattanville College in New York and from the Katharine Gibbs School, which is really a school for people who have



FRANCES MCGANN MCQUADE

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, see the Editor-in-Chief's introduction on page 1 of this volume: 11 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 1 (2016).

graduated from college to learn how to be executive secretaries. I married [John J. McQuade], and my husband's business brought him to California.

Shortly after we got to California, I decided I needed to look for a job, came to the university — we were living on the Westside — so I came to the university and came to work for Robert Vosper, who at that time was the associate librarian. And while I was in the library building [later Powell Library], part of that space was allocated to the new dean of the law school for temporary offices. And when he came, who was L. Dale Coffman, he was looking for a secretary, and because I was in the building, I heard about the job and applied for it and was accepted by Dean Coffman. The law school at that time consisted of one large room and one smaller room, and we began interviewing applicants for the law school and trying to set up a law school. He had anticipated that he was going to bring with him from Vanderbilt the woman who had been his administrative assistant, I guess. So he really hadn't too much information about how to set up records, and so on, and I had absolutely none; so it took us a while to get the law school organized, I must say.

GALM: Before we get into that aspect of it, let me just ask you a few questions about things that you may not know firsthand, but perhaps that you know secondhand, or thirdhand. And that has to do with the establishment of the law school itself at UCLA. What is your sense of how it [the allocation bill] got through the [California State] Legislature?

MCQUADE: Well, I know very little about that; not having lived in California, of course, I had no knowledge of the legislative procedures. I believe that present Judge [William] Rosenthal was the one who was instrumental in getting the funds allocated by the Legislature. I really have no idea about the determination of the need for a law school on this campus, or anything of that sort. Clearly by the time that Dean Coffman had come, information had been put out about the opening of the school because candidates were coming to apply, and the [law] library had already started. When the building, a small building, was given to the library, they already had a sizable collection to move in there. And I really have no idea how that all began.

GALM: You had mentioned the library. Do you know whether Dean Coffman appointed the librarian, or was that appointment made before he came?

MCQUADE: There was someone in charge of gathering the collection before he came, but when he came he appointed Thomas Dabagh as the director of the law library. He stayed on for about a year or so, and then he went on to Berkeley to become assistant to the president, I think. Then a man by the name of Louis Piacenza, who Mr. Dabagh had brought in as an assistant, was made law librarian. But Dean Coffman made those appointments.

GALM: Did the law librarian also act as an assistant to Dean Coffman? Was that part of his title or job description?

MCQUADE: I have the feeling that that was the intent when Mr. Dabagh was appointed, but I don't think it actually worked out that way. I think that they were not compatible for that purpose.

GALM: Was there an actual focus of incompatibility?

MCQUADE: Well, I think they just — it was a mutual decision that they just simply weren't getting along.

GALM: Let's get back to the actual physical setting of the [temporary law school quarters] — could you describe just what you had and where it was at?

MCQUADE: It was in what is now Powell Library, and I think it was in the area at that time called Special Collections. It was one room, oh, I don't know, I suppose fifteen by fifteen [feet], let me just say, and then another smaller room adjacent to it, which I used as a kind of a secretarial/reception and general room, and the other room was Dean Coffman's office. I think I went to work for him about in February of 1949, and we were there until June, when a building that was a Quonset hut kind — no, they weren't, they were barracks buildings, they weren't Quonset huts. We were given one of those for a classroom, one of them for the library, and then a half of one that was for the office space. We had faculty offices there, the dean's office, and then a general office, which I occupied. The other half of it was allocated to the personnel office of the campus. And those were all, in very general terms, in the back of Royce Hall, kind of where the humanities building [Rolfe Hall] is now. Subsequently, about two or three years after that, when the faculty got larger, we got another building, some distance away, probably two or three buildings on, for additional faculty offices, until we moved into the permanent building in 1951, I think it was.

GALM: I know you had a bit of trouble with your neighbors there. Can you sort of describe just what that problem was?

MCQUADE: It turned out that the building that was adjacent to the classroom building was the building in which the UCLA Band practiced; and as you may or may not know, law classes consist in large part of discussion between the faculty member teaching the course and the students, and the students with each other, and it's essential that they hear. Well, the band had very little regard for the law school activity, and we had a constant argument with the band people trying to get them to arrange their schedule to suit our time when we weren't having classes. We had many faculty members who would simply walk out of the class and say, "I can't teach." And blow into the dean's office, who would then blow into the — at that time it was a provost and not a chancellor, to his office. So I suppose that blowup took place once a week, and everyone was glad when the football season was over.

GALM: Theater arts was your neighbor, too.

MCQUADE: Yes, they were, and we often saw them out building their sets and wearing their costumes, or lack there of, and that was of great interest to the law students and, I guess, the faculty, too. They were never bored, with one thing or another.

GALM: So actually then, how many classes of students did you have in the barracks?

MCQUADE: Well, in '49 we accepted a first-year class, and their classes were — I think there were about fifty students, and so they all met in one section. It was scheduled so they would have an hour of class, and then an hour off, and then an hour of class. They carried approximately fifteen hours of class; so they met, say, three hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon and five days a week, in general terms.

Then in the second year we accepted another class, so that in 1950 we had a first year and a second year. They met in the alternate hours, so that we were able to manage with one classroom for those two classes. Then when we had a third class, we were in the main building and, of course, then able to have a better schedule.

GALM: How many applicants, do you recall, did you get for the first year?