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Dean Ralph C. Barnhart

DEDICATION

The editors have dedicated this issue of the *University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Journal* to Ralph C. Barnhart, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. The inaugural issue of the *Journal* presents a fitting opportunity for Ralph Barnhart's professional colleagues and students, past and present, to pay tribute to "the Dean" and his work.

An Ohio native, Ralph Barnhart came to Arkansas at mid-life and has since devoted most of his professional endeavors to the advancement of legal education in his adopted state. He first served the University as Assistant Professor at the School of Law in Fayetteville, rising there in due course to Professor of Law before he became Dean of the School in 1958. During his fourteen-year tenure as Dean, the School of Law experienced a significant growth in the size and quality of its programs.

Ralph Barnhart made perhaps his most significant decision as Dean in 1965 when he responded to the need for a new, University-sponsored program of professional law instruction in central Arkansas by overseeing the establishment of a division of the Law School at Little Rock. The founding of the Little Rock Division foreshadowed the sweeping reorganization and redirection that later made the University of Arkansas into a state-wide, multi-campus system. Dean Barnhart was among the first Arkansans to anticipate and plan for those changes. By the time he retired from the deanship in 1972, the University had incorporated campuses in Little Rock, Monticello, and Pine Bluff, and was shortly to convert its medical center in Little Rock to a medical science campus.

When, in 1975, the General Assembly transferred the Little Rock Division of the Fayetteville School of Law to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and authorized the "new" UALR School of Law to add a full-time program, Ralph Barnhart, having only briefly enjoyed his retirement and emeritus status, accepted an invitation—in truth an urgent call—to teach again and to lend his counsel in building the UALR School of Law. He remains an active senior advisor and member of the faculty.

Few legal educators have had the opportunity to make major contributions to the development of two law schools, and none of them has done more with such opportunity than has Ralph Barnhart. His steady and faithful professionalism has earned for him the respect of his students and colleagues. Beyond that, his personal qualities—warmth, gentle good humor, and loyalty—call forth the genuine affection of those around him.

Members of the McClellan Senate of Delta Theta Phi law fraternity presented Dean Barnhart with a plaque in 1975 commemorating his years of service to the School. The inscription on it reads in part:

Given [in] grateful appreciation to Ralph C. Barnhart—Dean,
Teacher, Scholar, Friend, [and] Founder of the School of Law at
Little Rock

Ralph Barnhart continues to answer this description.

David R. Hendrick, Jr.