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## Dedication: Dean Robert K. Walsh

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DEDICATION

DEAN ROBERT K. WALSH

Nearly every morning for five years Bob arrived at his office in the Old Federal Building at 8:00 A.M., ready to do business for the next nine or ten hours. Predictably he would be wearing black or brown wingtip shoes, conservative suit, striped tie, and blue oxford cloth shirt. (During the last year or so, an occasional white shirt was seen, the product of some good-natured kidding by his secretaries.) His first item of business, without fail, was to pour the first of several cups of coffee from an electric percolator into a styrofoam cup. One thing he would not tolerate was drip coffee. I've heard that he never used the same cup twice and would leave them scattered about the office until one day his secretaries, worried that the styrofoam bill would deplete the coffee fund, presented him with one of those "World's Greatest Boss" mugs. It was not just flattery; they really meant it.

After a few minutes of good-natured repartee with anyone who happened to be in the office, it was down to the day's work of letters, meetings, reports, and telephone calls—all interrupted sporadically by the succession of students and faculty who were welcome to stop by without appointment for advice or consultation. No matter how busy he was, that person knocking on his door became top priority, and any person to whom he was talking became, for that moment, the most important person in his life. Bob Walsh was an exceptional Dean.

The first time I met Bob was during the Dean search process of 1975-76. The full-time faculty then numbered ten, and we could all

sit comfortably in the faculty lounge at the same time. The minute he entered the room I immediately sensed we had found a Dean. (A number of my colleagues have since confessed to the same intuitive feeling.) He carried himself well, was poised and affable, and, though relatively young, seemed to radiate confidence and leadership ability. He had also done his homework. Not only had Bob learned our names, he also knew where we had gone to school and what subjects we taught.

The faculty immediately took a liking to Bob, and likewise he to them. He accepted the offer to become the first Dean of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and began an intense development program. The renovation of the Old Federal Building was accomplished under his planning and direction. He worked hard to increase faculty salaries. Bob also encouraged faculty research by providing release time and student research assistance. His most powerful prod, however, was his arm. From time to time Bob would simply put it around your shoulder and tell you how much he was looking forward to reading that article you were working on.

When Bob Walsh first arrived at UALR he was interviewed by a full-time faculty of ten. His successor will be interviewed by twenty-two faculty members. Increasing the size of the faculty with highly qualified persons, enriching the curriculum, and reducing the student-faculty ratio (both as Dean and a member of the faculty recruitment committee) are achievements of which Bob can justly be proud.

The UALR Law Library advanced in many different ways during the Walsh years. The collection grew from 72,586 volumes in 1976 to its current 127,050 volumes. But volumes alone are only the raw ingredients from which a serviceable library, capable of meeting the necessary demands of a growing student, faculty and lawyer population, is constructed. Bob Walsh recognized that a library collection must be carefully selected, arranged in an organized fashion, and cared for by a well-trained and dedicated staff. During his five years at UALR, the library staff doubled; two new professional librarians were added. The library was completely reorganized and classified according to the Library of Congress system. A library annex and a government document collection were created in the Old Federal Building. Westlaw and Lexis terminals were acquired for use by students as well as lawyers. Bob Walsh appreciated a good law library; ours is a tribute to his hard work and dedication.

Bob Walsh was an advocate of quality clinical education. When Bob arrived, the UALR clinical program consisted of a fledgling effort in which students were "farmed-out" to outside agencies where they represented clients with virtually no law school supervision. During Bob's tenure as Dean, the clinical program became a nationally-recognized model for an "in-house" clinical program in which students are directly supervised by law school faculty. During each of the last four years, the UALR program has received substantial funding from the United States Department of Education in recognition of the exemplary nature of the program.

One could go on and never really capture the essence of Bob Walsh as Dean. He worked on so many projects at once, was responsible for so much growth and development, and yet at the same time kept paint on the walls and the water running. He was an exceptional Dean. By the way—this is not an obituary. Bob Walsh retired as Dean on July 1, 1981, to return to the practice of law. We miss you, Bob, and sincerely appreciate your five years of service to UALR.

*Glenn E. Pasvogel, Jr.*  
*Professor of Law*

