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Dr. Carlos C. Alden

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DR. CARLOS C. ALDEN

A great figure in the life of the University of Buffalo School of Law and in the legal world of Western New York, passed from the scene on August 4, 1955, with the death of Carlos Coolidge Alden. In his fifty years of teaching at the Law School, thirty-two of them as Dean, Dr. Alden was mentor to an estimated 70% of the attorneys and half of the judges in this area. Long years of devotion to teaching are not uncommon. What is uncommon is the ability in the course of teaching over so long a period to win and retain an affection and respect which never flag with the passing of the years.

Dr Alden was called to the deanship of the University of Buffalo School of Law in 1904. At that time he was completing ten years of teaching at New York University Law School and carrying on an extensive and successful trial practice in New York City. His close association with Dean Austin Abbott of that School lead to a series of scholarly works in the field of New York Practice and Procedure, which made Dr. Alden one of the State's outstanding authorities. The only interruption in his service to the Law School was his year as counsel to Governor Charles Evans Hughes in 1909.

The focus of his interest in the law is indicated by the fact that one of his outstanding contributions to the profession, outside of the Law School, and one of which he was justly proud, was the organization of the Buffalo Legal Aid Bureau, which he founded in 1912 and was its president from 1918 to 1950.

Dr. Alden's career was marked by a series of memorable public tributes. The latest took place on November 1, 1954 when the University of Buffalo Law School Alumni Association tendered the Doctor a luncheon to signalize his retirement from teaching.

The principal speaker at the luncheon, Frank G. Raichle, Jr. in addition to reciting the distinguished roster of professional and community leaders who had studied under Dr. Alden, thus epitomized Dr. Alden as a lawyer:

"For many years Dr. Alden made his offices with us and was Counsel to our firm.

"It was during those years and from my day to day association with Dr. Alden that I learned he was not only a great educator but a great lawyer as well. He was versatile. He was able. He was thorough. He could wisely counsel and well advise clients. He could draw all manner of legal documents, contracts, wills, etc. He could draw them well. He was an excellent advocate. He would suggest—indeed he could conduct—a good cross-examination, argue and present a case. He could write a brief with the best of them. Let not the impression prevail that the Dean was only a dry parchment lawyer or theorist living in a legal vacuum. I know it is one thing to discuss rights and liberties in the cloistered presence of the classroom and quite another to contend for them in an arena where you may get hurt. After all, they are only paper rights and imagined liberties until some advocate steps to the bar of justice to champion and defend them and some equally courageous Judge upholds them. The Dean was always ready, willing and able to so champion and so defend in Court what he taught in School."

June 10, 1956

Jacob D. Hyman



CARLOS C. ALDEN

