Introduction

Malcolm Wilson

State of New York
GOVERNOR’S MESSAGE

Buffalo Law School has trained generations of outstanding members of the Bar. Perhaps the most famous was John Lord O’Brien, whom I was privileged to know personally during his later years.

He was a man who distinguished the legal profession and the law school through outstanding public service for over three-quarters of a century. This native son of Buffalo served the people in the New York State Assembly from 1907 to 1909, as United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, and as a member of the Board of Regents for a number of years. John Lord O’Brien was also widely recognized as the dean of Supreme Court law.

But most of all, I suggest, he was an unswerving defender of justice who put public obligation and moral leadership before personal gain. He was a man regarded by all who knew him as one who epitomized the highest standards of the legal profession.

Happily, the late John Lord O’Brien knew that the principles which he upheld would continue to be taught to new generations of men and women lawyers in a building which very appropriately bears his name—John Lord O’Brien Hall, of the State University of New York at Buffalo. I am sure that he was very gratified at the realization that there, future lawyers would be taught to advocate just causes.

John Lord O’Brien Hall will provide training facilities for many new members of the legal profession who will help make the law a constructive and dynamic force for the betterment of our society. They will learn, as Samuel Johnson said:

“The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public.”

Malcolm Wilson
Governor, State of New York

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