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The James McCormick Mitchell Lecture

Legal Education for a Changing Legal Profession*

Speakers—Bayless Manning
Marc Galanter
Joan Heifetz Hollinger
George L. Priest

Anniversaries are times not only for celebration, but also for taking stock. Accordingly, while the celebration of the Buffalo Law School’s 100th Anniversary was highlighted by two wondrous, joyful celebrations—a cocktail party in the Ellicott Square Building, and a dinner dance at the Buffalo Armory—it also featured an academic convocation devoted to a thoughtful assessment of that part of the process of legal education that is called law school.

The idea was not a novel one. Twenty-five years ago, in connection with the celebration of the Law School’s seventy-fifth birthday, a varied group of speakers addressed the proper role of the law school. The principal speaker was a former law school dean who had spent several years in both government service and private practice. That distinguished and experienced individual maintained that the skills and understanding needed

* This article is an edited transcript of the symposium held on September 12, 1987 at the Law School of the State University of New York at Buffalo as part of the James McCormick Mitchell Lecture series. The symposium was part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Law School. In May of 1989, the Law School celebrated the commencement of its 100th graduating class.