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On the occasion of his retirement as Dean of Boalt Hall, the editors respectfully dedicate this issue to Sanford H. Kadish.

Sanford Kadish: A Dean Retires and A Colleague Returns

Edward C. Halbach, Jr.†

Seven years after leaving the dean’s office here at Boalt Hall, I find myself once more with the seemingly inescapable responsibility of writing in support of a promotion for Sanford Kadish. This time, instead of an elevation to a higher rung on a salary ladder, the elevation is to a higher station in academic life. As on other occasions, the proposed promotion is a foregone conclusion based on his individual accomplishments and merit. Apparently, however, something in writing is always required for the record.

Sandy came to Berkeley from the University of Michigan Law School eighteen years ago as a visiting professor for one semester. The intentions of the Boalt faculty were honorable, for we had more than a short fling in mind from the very outset. Our determination to keep him here increased as we quickly realized what a talented, stimulating, and enthusiastic colleague he would be. It was also immediately evident that his values and his devotion to a shared enterprise—a treasured mixture of scholarly dedication and team spirit—could mean a great deal to the school in a period of change that followed rapid growth in numbers of both faculty and students. These intellectual and personal qualities led almost immediately to Sandy’s becoming influential not only within the law school but also in Berkeley campus affairs. Sometimes, however, I think that his greatest importance in those early

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days was his influence upon the development of those of us who were then youngsters, in our formative professorial years.

From my perspective at least, the next period began a couple of years later and was of equal importance. Fortunate is the dean who can count on faculty colleagues for constructive criticism, moral support, and a sharing of institutional burdens, as well, of course, as for individual contributions in the classroom, in research, and in public service. During my nine years as dean, Sandy provided more than his share of all of these, while adding important ingredients of warmth and fun to life within the Boalt Hall community. During a time of unrest here and elsewhere in academia, he did much to make this a happy place to work. I suppose it was fitting punishment for all this—and for helping (as clumsily as the others) in an attempt to roast me at the party "honoring" my retirement from office—that he should thereafter become dean and have the privilege of cleaning up after me.

It required no great insight on my part to report to our alumni, in a special issue of The Transcript announcing Sandy’s appointment to the deanship: “He is a thoughtful, creative, principled and fair-minded person with a capacity to be both a strong leader within the School and a respected representative of it on the outside.” After all, he had an impressive record of scholarly achievement, had by then played an influential role for over a decade within the school, had served as national President of the American Association of University Professors, and had chaired the Berkeley Campus’ powerful Policy Committee of the Academic Senate. He had also chaired the search committee that had brought to Berkeley the very Chancellor (Albert Bowker) who would later, on the law faculty’s recommendation, propose Sandy's deanship appointment to the President and Regents of the University.

The continued validity of my prediction of his effectiveness and respect on the outside has recently been evidenced by his election as President of the Association of American Law Schools. A prominent illustration of his effectiveness within has been the rather remarkable smoothness with which the new Jurisprudence and Social Policy program has been integrated into the law school. At the time Sandy became dean, the School was looking toward the establishment, in some form within Boalt, of a thoroughly innovative nonprofessional program staffed by eminent scholars from other disciplines but unified by little more than a common interest in law. This undertaking promised significant intellectual enrichment for teaching and research both in the law school and on the campus, but it also carried the prospect of troublesome problems of structure and assimilation. It is a tribute to the quality of his leadership that the affirmative side of this extraordinary venture has materialized and the negative has not.
As dean, Sandy has shown patience, courage, wisdom, and leadership. Yet, he also remained a productive scholar and a valuable colleague. The high standards he set for himself served as an example for others, and his understanding of both the nature and the price of scholarly excellence led him to encourage and support the scholarly work of colleagues. This has been especially important for the young teachers he helped attract to the school over the years.

It would be inexcusable if I did not allude at least briefly to a very special quality of foresight that Sandy possesses, together with an ability to bring that foresight to bear upon the creation of precedents, which lawyers (even academic lawyers) respect so much. It could only have been a grand premonition that led him, at my retirement roast, to declare: "Dean-baiting is a vicious practice—and a bad precedent. But I can distinguish the man from the office." I was later touched by the sentiment and concern he expressed in seeking to assure that I, as an ex-dean, would be treated with kindness and dignity and would be accorded a few special favors. I have always appreciated that and hope (as well as suspect) that there is truth in the old maxim about kindness becoming its own reward.

It is easy for me to be happy for Sandy as he returns to the immense satisfactions of a full-time professorial role, where a considerably larger degree of choice in one's own work makes it possible to work later into the evening without exhaustion and to get up in the morning with more enthusiasm. Although he and I both know that the dean's job here is at least as rewarding as it is demanding, I certainly have no trouble understanding that he came into this business not to administer but to study and to write and to teach, hoping to make the law a little clearer and maybe even a little better. These, too, are matters for which he has great gifts.

Although I gave up some seven years ago whatever right I had to speak for the Boalt Hall faculty, I take little risk in presuming to do so now by extending to Sandy Kadish our deep thanks for a job well done and by welcoming him back full time as a faculty colleague.