

October 1996

SAPLA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1996

[Homepage editor's note: The format of the SAPLA Newsletter presented here is different than it was in its printed version. You can click on any of the highlighted index items if you want to go straight to that particular part of the newsletter.]

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PRE-LAW ADVISORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 1996

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

SAPLA ATTENDEES

Amy Abernethy University of Florida
 Nola Allen University of South Alabama
 Sibby Anderson -Thompkins Spelman College
 Nim Batchelor Elon University
 William Bennett Campbellsville College
 Craig Bledsoe David Lipscomb University
 MaryAnn Bowen University of Mississippi
 Olufunke Bowen Savannah State College
 John Burrows Talladega College
 Joe Chaney Murray State University
 Converse Clowse Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro
 Augustus Cochran Agnes Scott College
 Bernard Cotton Alcorn State University
 Martin Edwards University of North Florida
 Jane Elza Valdosta State University
 James Ford Stillman College
 Betty Gabehart University of Kentucky
 Barbara Giles Florida Southern College
 Howard Grier Erskine College
 Mark Griffith University of West Alabama
 John Grimes University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Rodney Grunes Centenary College
 Roger Handberg University of Central Florida
 Joyce Hicks Morris College
 Rickey Hill South Carolina State University
 Charles Holmes Tougaloo College
 Helen Horton Emory University
 E. Hughes University of Alabama-Huntsville
 Christopher Ide Savannah State College
 Helen Jacobstein St. Thomas University
 William Johnson Southern University
 Hoyt King Tennessee State University
 Eileen Korpita University of South Carolina
 Markham Lester Birmingham-Southern College
 Kristen Lettington University of Richmond
 David Mann College of Charleston
 Henry Mannle Tennessee Technological University
 Greg McCann Stetson University

**What's New!**

SAPLA Fall Meeting:

[October 5th - 7th St. Thomas Law School Miami, FL](#)

Advising Resources:

Financial Aid Toolkit

Paul Weber Memoriam

[A Memoriam to Paul Weber: Teacher, Scholar, Leader](#)

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Sam McKinstry East Tennessee State University
Stephen Meinhold Univ. of North Carolina, Wilmington
Richard Moore Florida A & M University
Theodore Mosch University of Tennessee, Martin
Marvin Newman Rollins College
Thomas Pearce University of Virginia
Marcus Pohlmann Rhodes College
Richard Poland Flagler College
Carol Pretlow Norfolk State University
Robert Prevost Wingate University
Amarjit Singh North Carolina State A & T University
Alex Stoesen Guilford College
Addis Taylor Florida A & M University
William Thomas Georgia State University
Arlene Ubaja North Carolina State University
Paul Weber University of Louisville
Robert Wigton Eckerd College
Gerald Wilson Duke University
John Wrinkle Birmingham-Southern College

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Interview with Gerald Lee Wilson

Duke University

by

Martin Edwards

The University of North Florida

The name most commonly associated with the creation, development, and success of SAPLA belongs to Gerald Lee Wilson. Anyone spending five minutes with him at a PLANC convention which he recently chaired, quickly comes to understand the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

"Gerald is simply the guru" states SAPLA President Joe Chaney of Murray State University. "He is an inspirational person to work with, always willing to give of his time and his extensive knowledge of how to get things accomplished is uncanny."

And yet, as Gerald himself has written, "No sixteen year old, when asked, 'What do you want to do when you grown up?' has ever answered, pre-law advisor." Certainly not Gerald himself who received an AB from Davidson College a BD from Duke Divinity School, a MA in Religion from Duke, and finally, his Phd in History from North Carolina. Gerald slyly acknowledges receiving his doctorate at Chapel Hill but is quick to point out that he immediately pursued a position at his alma mater at Durham, beginning as an assistant in the Dean of Men's Office. Gerald became Dean of Men in 1966 at Duke, and a year or so later became Academic Dean. In 1988 he rose to Senior Associate Dean of Trinity College for undergraduate liberal arts students at Duke.

"Shortly after I became Dean of Men, I was required to choose a particular activity to involve myself in," acknowledges Gerald. "Although I had chosen divinity school over law school, I have always maintained an interest in the history of law, and have taught constitutional history. This led me to select pre-law as an area to involve myself in."

Pre-law advising was in its infancy back in the '70's, and soon Gerald found himself networking with the handful of existing pre-law advisors at Southern institutions. Slowly the concept of a formal association of pre-law advisors emerged; in the early 80's several yearly meetings led to the conceptual framework of SAPLA.

"SAPLA evolved gradually," Gerald explains. "Our first formal meeting was held at Emory with a handful of members and we began networking with other institutions. Emory was very gracious in hosting our early meetings." Gerald became the first elected President of SAPLA, serving in that capacity during the 1984-85 academic

year. "I am moderately pleased with the way SAPLA has grown," Gerald says. "We are an increasingly strong regional organization but there is always room for future growth. For example, we need to bring in more active members, recruit and attract more minority schools, and yet still maintain our dedicated spirit of unselfishness to the organization."

Gerald's spirit and willingness to give of his time is evident at every SAPLA conference, and at the national level, he is one of the founders and guiding spirits of PLANC, the umbrella organization of the six regional APLAs. He served as the first Chairperson of PLANC, serving five terms from 1984-89, was Program Chair for the 1992 PLANC conference in New Orleans, and was unanimously elected Chairperson of the 1996 PLANC conference in Orlando. He also serves as the designated SAPLA member to the PLANC Board of Directors.

"This is a unique organization," Gerald explains. "It is a friendly group of people with a cooperative and sharing spirit." This is evident to anyone attending the PLANC conference during early June, when hugs and warm handshakes were exchanged by old friends from around the country.

"I attribute SAPLA's meaningful spirit to the Puritan ethic which has been instilled in people of the South," Gerald observes. "It has certainly permeated SAPLA's leadership in particular. Our member pre-law advisors all seem to love what they do, and it shows. In humanistic terms we are people who enjoy helping other people and networking with like people." Gerald has contributed much towards the development of SAPLA as a meaningful regional organization which benefits advisors and students alike. He has edited the SAPLA handbook, and, during the past three years, compiled supplements which he gives freely to SAPLA members. These handbooks are a major source of information for pre-law advisors and students seeking admission into law school.

"We have aided in the professionalization of pre-law advising," Gerald points out, "by providing real service to our students, and along the way we have gained the respect of law school admission officers." This was obvious at the PLANC conference, where admissions personnel and pre-law advisors from around the country jointly moderated panels, led discussion groups, dined together, and enjoyed the companionship which comes from mutual sharing of goals and information.

"Students at non-participating schools are at a real disadvantage for a couple of reasons," Gerald explains. "First of all, knowledgeable pre-law advisors can aid students in the selection of law schools to apply to on the basis of realistic possibilities of admission, and know which schools are appropriate for the students' career goals." Gerald glanced around the poolside tables, where admissions officers and advisors had finished dinner and were reminiscing about past conferences. He proudly pointed out the scene around him, "Networking obviously is a major occurrence at these meetings and affords pre-law advisors an opportunity to build fruitful relationships with law school admissions officers and in a marginal case this can make a difference."

Gerald is right. The advisor-admission officer relationship can make a difference. And, more importantly, people like Dr. Gerald Lee Wilson, through years of hard work and dedicated service, can make a big difference. His colleagues are award of Gerald's contributions. So are many law school admissions personnel. On behalf of his peers and the individual students who have benefitted from his involvement, we salute the personal commitment and vision which define Dr. Wilson's unique contributions to the field of pre-law advising.

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SAPLA PRESIDENTS 1982-1996

Jerry Pubantz Salem College 1982-83
 Gerald Wilson Duke University 1983-84
 Eugene Rasor Emory & Henry 1984-85
 Rodney Grunes Centenary College 1985-86
 Sam McKinstry E. Tenn. State Univ 1986-87
 Helen S. Ridley Kennesaw College 1987-88
 Paul J. Weber Univ. of Louisville 1988-89
 Jane Elza Valdosta State U. 1990-91
 Milton Ready UNC-Asheville 1991-92
 Alex Stoesen Guilford College 1992-93
 Theodore Mosch U. of Tenn, Martin 1993-94

David G. Mann Coll. of Charleston 1994-95
Joe Chaney Murray State 1995-96
Erwin Erhardt Thomas More College 1996-97
Nim Batchelor Elon University 1997-98

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THE HISTORY OF SAPLA; PART I

BY MARTIN EDWARDS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

Pre-law associations had their origins in the Northeast and Midwest during the 1960's and spread to other parts of the nation. Due to the variety of Southern institutions housing pre-law advising, distances involved, and lack of coordination, Southern institutions were delayed in their attempts to form into any kind of organization. The rapid population growth of the South, and proliferation of Southern institutions provided Southern pre-law advisors little opportunity to work together and seek the benefits of an organization dedicated to professional development in an increasingly complex and diverse field. The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) hosted a relatively informal workshop in Atlanta for pre-law advisors in 1979. This meeting provided a handful of pre-law advisors the opportunity to share concerns, discuss collegial efforts to organize, and discuss future plans. Soon thereafter, a preliminary organizing committee began forming, with Jerry Pubantz of Salem College providing the impetus.

After a year of correspondence, several of the advisors met again in Atlanta, after the regular meeting of the Southern Historical Society conference. They agreed to coordinate efforts to form a southern association. After an initial planning year, referred to as the Salem College Project. The founders gave it this name because they intended to use NAPLA as a model and meet during the forthcoming summer at Salem College. However, only a handful of advisors applied and the next meeting was scheduled for the following year at the Atlanta airport in which goals and methodology were to be formulated. In the meantime, a formal Organizing Committee was created. Under the continued leadership of Pubantz, veteran pre-law advisors signed on. They included George Fouke (St. Andrews), Gerald Wilson (Duke), Sam McKinstry (East Tennessee State), Eugene Rasor (Emory and Henry), and Dorothy Harrell (Lambuth).

This original group was soon augmented by Helen Ridley (Kennesaw State), Rodney Grunes (Rhodes), Jane Elza (Valdosta State) and Alex Stoesen (Guilford). Early on, a crucial decision was made by the founders to include LSAC and law school representatives as full-time members. "This was distinctively different from all other APLAs" Pubantz acknowledges. "We sought cooperation, not confrontation. In those early years the organization was known as 'SAPLA' the Southeastern Association of Pre-Law Advisors. Only much later did it become the Southern Association."

Another Atlanta workshop under the guidance of LSAC was scheduled for the Fall. It was at the Fall conference, held on November 12-13, 1982 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Atlanta that the group decided to create a formal organization of Southern pre-law advisors, a constitution was drawn up, and Pubantz was elected President for the 1982-83 year. Wilson was elected President-Elect, McKinstry as Secretary-Treasurer, Grunes and Rasor received spots on the executive committee. The workshop featured several LSAC presentations, and concluded with a Saturday evening banquet. Dean Frank T. Read of the College of Law, University of Florida was the banquet speaker.

"Jerry Pubantz has been instrumental in achieving this stage of 'take-off' for the organization" Rasor wrote in Volume 3 of the newsletter. He went on to report that the first meeting during the Fall of 1982 was a large success and organization details were in place.

This was the last time the organization would meet at a place other than on a Law School campus. During the second day of this workshop, a decision was reached to accept the invitation of Southern regional law schools to convene future workshops at their facilities. "Numerous law schools expressed early interest in hosting future workshops" Pubantz recalls. "The cooperative spirit was evident early on in this process of inclusion." This of course, was another distinctive factor of the Southern Association. Eleven states ranging from West Virginia to Florida, and as far west as Louisiana comprised the geographical region. The geographical breadth and diversity

of the region stimulated the exchange of varying perspectives and viewpoints, which helped energize the organization.

Gerald Wilson was elected as President for the 1983-84 year. The organization returned to Atlanta, and conferred at the Georgia State University College of Law. The group was welcomed by then-mayor of Atlanta, Andrew Young, who addressed the group and remained for a frank question and answer period covering a wide range of topics.

Centered around the theme "Pre-Law Advising in a Buyer's Market," the workshop evolved into a three-day weekend conference and more than one hundred and ten (110) registrants participated in the full conference, and an additional dozen were present for some of the special workshops.

Grunes was the Program Chair and remembers working closely with Barbara Smith and George Stansbury of Georgia State Law School. "We developed numerous new panel discussions and an active law school fair" Grunes recalls. "Most of these events were lively and well-attended. The cooperative and adventurous spirit was contagious."

Razor was elected the new President and several "firsts" took place at the conference. One was a session on LSAT Prep Course-"Where's the Beef?" which was presented by several representatives from commercial testing services. A pre-law advisor moderated that panel discussion. A second "first" was a panel discussion featuring law students from Emory and Georgia State which dealt with the question, "Who Falters, Who Survives, Who Thrives-in Law School." Razor, who helped organize that particular panel discussion recalls, "The participation by law students added a valuable dimension to our conference." It was obvious to the founders after this conference, that the organization was well on its way and would continue to evolve and develop into unchartered territory.

One of its first decisions was the publication of a newsletter; the first issue appeared in January, 1981. Pubantz served as the first Editor, and published a two-page newsletter, listing himself as Coordinator, Fouke as Acting Secretary/Treasurer, Wilson as Program Chairman, and McKinstry, Razor and Harrell as organizing committee members.

"This is the culmination of everybody's hard work" Pubantz stated in the original newsletter. "For several years those involved in pre-law advising in the undergraduate institutions of our region have recognized the usefulness of cooperative efforts, the exchange of information, and special services available to our colleagues in other parts of the country." Pubantz went on to point out that this organization was making a fledgling effort and the newsletter was a part of that effort.

Razor, who has been the pre-law advisor at Emory & Henry College since 1974 remembers receiving a letter from Pubantz which sparked his interest. Soon, he too became a driving force, by editing the third newsletter. "Pre-law advising has become much more sophisticated" Razor says. "The relationships we have formed with the law school admission people has been amazing. They have been very cooperative in helping out with the newsletter, and the development and enhancement he helped create. Paul Weber, who has been the pre-law advisor at the University of Louisville since 1976 edited subsequent editions. Eventually, Carolyn W. White of the University of Alabama in Huntsville took over the newsletter and edited it in 1985 and subsequent years.

As SAPLA began to grow, its innovative approaches helped attract new memberships and enhanced programming efforts. For example, it was the first pre-law association to welcome membership by LSAC representatives, to meet on law school campuses, and to encourage active participation by its law school members. Soon, pre-law advisors and law school personnel began working on committees and boards to discuss programming, meeting preparations, the editing of the newsletter, and the stimulation of ongoing professional activities. The organization was also among the first to welcome and encourage active participation by LSAT preparation representatives such as Kaplan and Princeton Review, and other organizations with a professional interest in pre-law advising.

"The Puritan ethic spirit has been instilled in people in the South and SAPLA leadership in particular" Wilson observes. "We have developed a cooperative and sharing spirit among a friendly group of people." Alex Stoesen, pre-law advisor at Guilford since 1966 and an early SAPLA member agrees "By getting involved in SAPLA I was helping people whose job it was to help other people. This thing has a different spirit to it. The only reward is seeing others succeed in life. There is no greed in this organization."

In 1983-84 Razor became the third elected President, the newsletter was expanded,

and SAPLA played a key role in the founding of PLANC. According to Pubantz, Wilson played a key role in working out the development of PLANC, its structure and mission would not exist as it does today without Wilson's input according to Pubantz and other founders. Also, the initial version of the SAPLA Handbook, edited by Gerald Wilson, in cooperation with NAPLA was published. It has been revised every year since, and is still utilized as the basic tool for all pre-law advisors country-wide. Each year Wilson assists in editing a handbook supplement which contains the latest information about law schools and the admission process.

Rodney Grunes (Centenary College) one of the Founding Fathers of SAPLA points out, "The organization has a defining spirit of cooperativeness. It is maintained by dedicated individuals. Institutions come and go, it is the involvement of dedicated individuals which has maintained the growth and continued development of SAPLA."

In the January edition of this newsletter, the continued development of SAPLA into the present time will be detailed, with a focus on those individuals who have maintained the guiding spirit of the founders.

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SAPLA CONFERENCE HOSTS

Emory Univ. School of Law 1983
 Georgia State Univ. College of Law 1984
 Vanderbilt Univ. School of Law 1985
 Duke Univ. School of Law 1986
 Emory Univ. School of Law 1987
 Wake Forest Univ. School of Law 1988
 New Orleans with SWAPLA 1989
 University of Florida 1990
 College of William and Mary 1991
 PLANC-New Orleans 1992
 Univ. of Louisville School of Law 1993
 Wake Forest Univ. School of Law 1994
 Vanderbilt Univ. School of Law 1995
 PLANC-Orlando 1996
 Cumberland School of Law 1997

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STATE FOCUS: FLORIDA

"MINORITY LAW STUDENT ENROLLMENT GETS BOOST"

by

Alexis Boles Stetson University College of Law

In an unprecedented scholarship program, Florida is assuring that the number of minority law students enrolled at the state's six law schools will increase. The state has been working toward this end since 1994 when the Florida Legislature gave a nod to the Minority Participation in Legal Education (MPLE) Scholarship Program. The program is the first initiative of its kind that is state-funded. Under the umbrella of the Florida Education Fund, which also allots fellowships to Ph.D. candidates, the MPLE program is producing dramatic results in terms of the increased number of minority candidates for law degrees. Approximately \$8 million is being invested to fund 200 minority (African American, Hispanic and Native American) law students at Florida schools over three years.

Before selection for the scholarships, MPLE candidates choose from among two state schools (University of Florida, Florida State) and four private schools (University of Miami, Nova, St. Thomas, Stetson). Selection criteria focuses on minority status, historical disadvantage, grades, LSAT scores, financial need and other background information. Scholars receive up to \$15,000 per year at the public law schools and up to \$19,000 per year at private schools.

Some 59 MPLE scholars started at Florida law schools in the 1994-95 academic year;

69 began in 1995-96; and 70 began in 1996-97. In the 1993-94 academic year, prior to the MPLE initiative, law school enrollment of minority students for the State of Florida was 1143 (24%). The implementation of the MPLE program beginning in 1994-95 helped to boost minority enrollment to 1268 students (26%). Subsequent years have seen greater results with the help of the scholarships.

Now that the scholarship program is in full swing and has the backing of the state, the Florida Bar and Florida's law schools, the program is meeting its state goal. MPLE has provided necessary financial support and a channel for greater numbers of minorities to participate in legal education.

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"ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PLANNING STAGES FOR SEPTEMBER 1997"

by

Erwin F. Erhardt, III, Planning Chair

It's time again to start thinking about next Falls's SAPLA conference being hosted by the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. Although a year away, I'd like to start putting panels together for the conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Ethics and Prelaw Advising." In addition to this, we will have the traditional panels such as "Financial Aid," "New and Seasoned Pre-Law Advisor,"; etc. If you would like to serve on a panel and have a topic in mind, please feel free to contact me as soon as possible so that the optimum level of planning and scheduling can be achieved.

All requests to participate on a panel must be received no later than March 15 (The Ides of March). Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Please correspond with me in one of the following ways:

c/o Thomas More College Phone: (606) 344-3398 & 333 Thomas More Parkway Fax:
(606) 344-3345

Crestview Hills, KY 41017

Email: erhardtte@thomasmore.edu

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ANNUAL SAPLA CONFERENCE FALL 1997

by

Gigi Gauthier

The tentative schedule for the annual conference for the Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisors is planned for September 25, 26, and 27 1997 in Birmingham, Alabama, home of the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University. Registration will take place Thursday, September 25, at the Sheraton Civic Center Hotel, which is located in the heart of downtown next to the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Thursday evening following program registration, a local law firm just minutes from the hotel, will sponsor a reception and dinner banquet. Lee Cooper, president-elect of the American Bar Association and prominent Birmingham attorney, will be asked to deliver the keynote address at the banquet.

The SAPLA meetings will run September 26-27 and will cover the following topics:

- Minority recruitment
- Ethical responsibility of pre-law advisors and admissions
- Pre-law advising: a panel of current Cumberland law students will share their

- personal experiences with Pre-Law advisors to provide constructive insight and help target areas to improve the effectiveness of counseling
- Emerging technological advances associated with the Admissions process

Following a continental breakfast each morning, workshops will be held in the Medical Forum Building of the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. This facility is equipped with some of the most advanced telecommunications technology available in the country. The audience can actively participate in the educational process. Say goodbye to routine meetings as you prepare for one of the most exciting and interactive educational experiences SAPLA 1997 will offer!

Audience members seated in the Medical Forum Auditorium will be able to use wireless response pads to provide immediate feedback. Groups of fifty, seated in a tiered classroom, will be introduced to the electronic admissions process of the future. Law services will be asked to demonstrate how advanced computer technology can be applied in the admissions process and used to enhance the effectiveness of pre-law advising.

Special activities assured to highlight the Conference will include a reception Friday evening at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Guests can find assorted memorabilia from Alabama's Sports legends such as Bear Bryant, Jesse Owens, Willie Mays, and Bart Starr. Conference participants will have a chance to salute their favorite teams, show their pride, and join in the spirit of tailgating by wearing their own collegiate logo wear.

Saturday, a speaker from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute will give a private tour and take everyone on a special journey charting the course of the civil rights movement through the human rights struggles of today.

Lastly, the Conference would not be complete without a visit to the breathtaking campus of the Cumberland School of Law. There, among the rolling hills and Georgian-Colonial architecture, current law students will give personal tours of the school and the new \$8.4 million library to orient visitors to the state-of-the-art facilities available for exceptional legal study at Cumberland.

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What to Say to Students and Parents about Commercial Scholarship Services?

Claims of billions in unused financial aid are based on "unused" employer-provided education benefits. The funds are only available to eligible employees and dependents enrolled in postsecondary education.

Only about 4% of postsecondary students receive private sector aid that is not employer-controlled, and not college-controlled.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) plans a major effort to educate high school and college students about financial aid scams. The campaign should be announced September 4, 1996, in a Labor Day/Back to School message. Check the FTC Internet home page at <http://www.ftc.gov> for more details. Also, if you have suggestions or personal experiences to relate, contact Dana Lesemann, a staff attorney with the FTC, at dlesemann@ftc.gov or call her at (202) 326-3146

Alternatives to Fee-Based Scholarship Services

- FastWEB, a database listing over 180,000 private sector scholarships, fellowships, grant, and loans. FastWEB and an overview of national scholarship databases are both accessible through the Financial Aid Information Page on the World Wide Web, <http://www.finaid.org/>. The overview is helpful if you are looking for a database for your students.
- Books and computer databases at the local library, high school, counselors' offices, and college financial aid offices.

Reprinted from Student Aid TRANSCRIPT, The Magazine of NASFAA

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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISORS MEMBERSHIP FORM:

October, 1996 to September, 1997

Name:
 Postion:
 Institution:
 Address:
 Phone number:
 Dues: \$15 prelaw advisors
 \$35 law schools and
 associate members
 Make checks payable to: SAPLA

Mail to: Melanie E. Nutt, Treasurer Wake Forest Law School Box 7206, Reynolda Station Winston-Salem, NC 27109

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Catherine Drinker Bowen. The Lion and the Throne Boston, Mass. & Toronto, Ont.: Little, Brown & Company, 1956.

Have you ever wondered why the American Bar Association, law schools and numerous pre-law advisors continually include an old chestnut like Catherine Drinker Bowen's The Lion and the Throne on their lists of suggested readings for pre-law students? Sir Edward Coke, Bowen's "lion" historically ranks among the legal greats in late Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Century England. Coke, whose public service included Speaker of Parliament in 1593. Attorney General under Queen Elizabeth I, and Chief Justice under King James I, and author of the Institutes of the Lawes of England and Reports lived in a time when daring was dangerous.

For this was the era of monarch vs. Parliament-- "rule by the grace of God" vs. "rule by consent of the governed", "monarch over law" vs. "law over monarch". Coke, who directly challenged the authority of King James to dissolve Parliament when the latter refused to kowtow to the royal will and suffered seven months' imprisonment in the Tower of London; who found himself banished from Parliament in 1626 by Charles I having appointed him High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire (the office required the holder to remain within his bailiwick for a year); who was the primary author of the Petition of Right; and who responded to The Five Knights Case (Darnel's Case) by referencing Magna Carta and his own work, Book of Entries (1614) related to habeas corpus. In effect, Coke the lawyer spent the greater part of his life challenging the issue of royal absolutism.

For pre-law students the lessons of Sir Edward Coke are numerous. But the most significant is that lawyers have historically been involved in social, governmental and political reform. This role has not been diminished by time. Lawyer of late Twentieth Century America should still expect to challenge the status quo, when that entity threatens the very essence of liberty, of the relationship between the governor and the governed. Any one who enters the law thinking that reform is an activity for others but certainly not for them, should rethink their career choice. Sir Edward Coke's life example remains burnished upon the shield of the legal profession.

Bowen presents the story of the life of Sir Edward Coke as a running historical outline. Her coverage of what Coke did in light of what was happening makes for most enjoyable reading. While the length of the work--536pp.--appears formidable, the writing style makes for rapid reading. Even those persons who have little zest for historical writing will find this work to be filled with intrigue, contest, and human frailty. In all, tremendous reading about one of the most famous jurists of all time.

If you have not read this classic, read it. If you have not placed it on your list of suggested readings for students desiring to attend law school, do it.

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