

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LAWRENCE RAFUL

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Sometimes you get lucky. We deans talk and not every relationship between predecessor and successor dean is a happy one. I'm lucky; mine is a happy one.

I had the great fortune of succeeding Larry Raful as Dean of the Creighton Law School in 1999. Larry served eleven fruitful years and much of the modern institution of Creighton Law School owes a great deal to him. Singling out his most important accomplishments is difficult, but the two that occur to me are the creation of the Milton Abrahams Legal Clinic and the massive renovation of the Klutznick Law Library.

The creation of the Clinic was a vital and important step for the School, both educationally and in fulfillment of its Jesuit service mission. Of course, just about anyone can pay lip service to the creation of a law clinic and be supportive of it in some abstract sense, but Larry was truly committed. In fact, he succeeded in raising endowment money for the Clinic so that it operates as a self-sufficient institution.

The \$3.6 million dollar renovation of the Library was an equally vital step in the transformation of the School. The Library went from being a modestly functional entity to being the crown jewel of the School. Its resources serve the students, the University as a whole and the community.

For all his tangible accomplishments, the thing I'll miss most about Larry is having his friendly presence around the School. Larry, I was delighted to learn when I took the job, is a passionate San Francisco Giants fan, a passion that I share. Giants fans are hard to find in these parts and I'll miss our frequent conversations on that and a myriad of other subjects, related and unrelated to the School.

I am grateful for this chance to say, both in a personal and professional sense, "thank you" to my colleague Larry Raful.

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