

Oklahoma Law Review

Volume 34 | Number 1

1-1-1981

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Barbara B. Lewis, *Introduction*, 34 OKLA. L. REV. 1 (1981),
<https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/olr/vol34/iss1/26>

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OKLAHOMA LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 34

WINTER, 1981

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INTRODUCTION

BARBARA B. LEWIS*

The retirement of Eugene Kuntz, Professor of Law, Dean Emeritus, George Lynn Cross Research Professor, Alfred P. Murrah Professor Emeritus, at the end of this academic year is an occasion of sadness for all of the members of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Professor Kuntz is an outstanding member of that community. In fact, the existence of the Law Center and the present composition of our community reflects the influence of Professor Kuntz to a large extent. Professor Kuntz served the University of Oklahoma College of Law as Dean from 1965 through 1970. During that period, his leadership was instrumental in improving our relations with the Oklahoma Bar Association and with the alumni of the College of Law. Further, during his administration the concept of the Law Center, as opposed to a College of Law, came into being. Dean Kuntz served on the Commission that prepared the charter for the Law Center. Perhaps the most important accomplishment during his service as Dean was the attainment of the separate funding for the College of Law from the State Regents for Higher Education.

While the impact of Professor Kuntz's leadership during the period that he served as Dean of the College of Law cannot be over-emphasized, in my estimation his greatest contributions to the College of Law and to the legal profession in the state of Oklahoma are his contributions as a member of the faculty, as a great teacher, as a prolific scholar, and as a truly exemplary person. Professor Kuntz's teaching is admired and respected by all who have participated in his class as students. Professor Kuntz brings to the classroom his extraordinary expertise in the subject matter, an ability to convey information

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to students, and most important, an ability to challenge students to think and develop intellectually. At the same time, his presence is a living demonstration of the dignity and professionalism to which all members of the legal profession, both students and graduates, aspire.

Professor Kuntz's scholarship is recognized and respected throughout the United States. *Kuntz, Law of Oil and Gas*, a multi-volume treatise, is the definitive treatment of Oil and Gas Law. In addition, he has authored numerous other publications and has served as an editor of the *Oil and Gas Reporter* since 1954.

While the scholarly accomplishments of Professor Kuntz are impressive, his greatest gift to the College of Law and to his colleagues is his leadership and his presence as a member of the Law Center community. Gene Kuntz represents a "gentleman and scholar" in the highest and truest sense of the phrase. While his accomplishments indicate how incredibly busy he is, he always has time to consult with and advise other members of the faculty. When I joined this faculty, I found that he was always available for advice with respect to legal matters, with respect to questions concerning teaching, or for any other purpose. Not only is he available, but he manages to convey to his colleagues a feeling that he has unlimited time to deal with their problems and that those problems are as important to him as the most pressing legal issue of the day.

Eugene Kuntz represents the ideal member of the legal community. He is an excellent lawyer and is respected and revered by the members of the practicing bar. He, of course, is respected by the academicians for his superior scholarship and for his excellent teaching, but most important, he is respected as a person for his wisdom, his dedication to legal education and to the legal profession, and his integrity. He combines an awesome expertise and great wisdom with a gentle wit, unfailing courtesy, and a genuine concern for others. While most of us do not anticipate equalling his accomplishments, he certainly stands as an inspiration and as a person embodying those qualities we would most care to emulate. If I were asked to name the people I most admire and respect, his name would top the list.