
TRIBUTE

TRIBUTE TO OUTGOING DEAN JIM HUFFMAN

INTRODUCTION, by John E. Grant, III.....	725
JIM HUFFMAN: A SCHOLAR EXCEEDING WISE, FAIR-SPOKEN, AND PERSUADING, by Brian A. Blum	727
A TRIBUTE TO JIM HUFFMAN, TEACHER, by Edward Brunet.....	729
TRIBUTE TO JIM HUFFMAN, by John R. Kroger.....	731

INTRODUCTION

by
*John E. Grant, III**

Dean James Huffman announced earlier this year that he would step down from his post and, after a brief sabbatical, return to the classroom. While he will remain a vital member of the Lewis & Clark Law School community, Dean Huffman's role change signals the end of an era of significant achievement for the law school so we at *Lewis & Clark Law Review* wanted to honor his transition with the following tributes.

Dean Huffman probably doesn't know that he is directly responsible for my decision to attend Lewis & Clark Law School. I had the good fortune to be accepted to several schools, and Lewis & Clark was the last I visited. One school had offered me a substantial scholarship, while another (in California) sought to impress by opening doors on either side of its classroom to let the Pacific breeze blow through. So when I visited Lewis & Clark on a Saturday in March, the bar in my mind was set pretty high.

Portland did its part, offering up a sunny day after a week or so of rain and bathing the forested campus in the yellow-green glow of early spring. It was an organized admissions event so about a hundred other prospects joined my scrutiny as we went through campus tours and faculty presentations. I was impressed, but the smell of the ocean still lingered in my memory.

Then, towards the end of our lunch hour, Dean Huffman worked his way to the front of the room to deliver some remarks, a smile in his eyes as they gazed out over his bearded face and bowtie. He gave the obligatory rundown of

* Editor in Chief, *Lewis & Clark Law Review*.

the accomplishments of the Law School: the recent completion of a gorgeous new classroom building, the successes of several recent graduates, and the top-ranked environmental law program, among others. But what hooked me is what he showed next: ambition. "It's true we've had some success," he said (I paraphrase), "but we are going to accomplish so much more. We are going to continue to expand our business law program, we will capitalize on our proximity to technology companies like Intel and creative companies like Nike to further improve our intellectual property offerings, and we will continue to recruit top students from around the country to infuse our student body with a wide variety of perspectives and experiences." He went on, describing in detail his vision for improving programs, facilities, and people in order to make the school even more competitive in the national picture. And it's not just what he said but how he said it, with the enthusiasm and vigor of someone who knows he's striving for a challenging goal but confident that, with enough work and the right people around him, he'll attain it.

Heading home that evening I knew I'd made my choice. Looking back it didn't sound like much of a sales pitch, but this invitation to be part of building something bigger and better turned out to be far more effective at luring me to this law school than a conventional plea. The first school said, "Come here, and we'll give you some money." The second said "Come here, and you'll get a nice tan." Dean Huffman said, "Come to Lewis & Clark, and we'll accomplish great things together."

He has since kept that promise, both encouraging me personally and leading the school towards ever-higher achievement. His imprint on this institution is indelible—the success of the academic programs, the diversity and achievements of the student body, the recruitment and retention of top-notch professors, and, of course, the establishment of this publication as the *Journal of Small and Emerging Business Law* and our subsequent transition to a general law review—all are due in large part to Dean Huffman's leadership. While I regret that I won't get to take a class from Professor Huffman before I graduate, I know that Dean Huffman's legacy will continue to drive the accomplishments of Lewis & Clark Law School and to benefit the lives and careers of all who attend it.

JIM HUFFMAN: A SCHOLAR EXCEEDING WISE, FAIR-SPOKEN,
AND PERSUADING

by
*Brian A. Blum**

*From his cradle he was a scholar,
And a ripe and good one,
Exceeding wise, fair-spoken, and persuading;
-William Shakespeare¹*

Maybe it is redundant to offer a written tribute to Jim Huffman. The fact that he has remained in office as Dean of Lewis & Clark Law School for twelve years is an unspoken tribute in itself. Nevertheless, I take much pleasure in recording my appreciation to Jim (particularly in this journal, which he helped to establish) for his outstanding service as Dean of our law school.

By all measures, Jim's Deanship has been a great success. He has led the school through a period of sustained achievement and advancement. A list of some of the law school's accomplishments during his tenure demonstrates the many ways in which we prospered during his term of office: the school has maintained a strong and well-qualified student body, even in the face of changing demographics; the faculty has increased in size and has made dramatic strides in its production of scholarship; the variety and extent of our curricular offerings have expanded to include new areas of focus, new academic programs, and new clinics; the intellectual life of the school is busy and vital, with increased opportunities for the exchange of ideas through conferences, colloquia, lectures, and publications; the administration of the school is smooth and efficient; physical facilities have been enhanced by the renovation and modernization of existing buildings and by the splendid realization of the first stage of an ambitious plan for new buildings; fundraising activity has burgeoned; and the school's outreach to the practicing and academic community has expanded, with a corresponding growth in its reputation. Of course, Jim was not solely responsible for all this. He enjoyed the collaboration of an engaged and collegial faculty and the able assistance of dedicated administrators. His success in affecting the course of the school's sustained development derived from his understanding of what it takes to propel an institution founded on collaborative decision-making, in which progress is not commanded, but is achieved by the more subtle arts of guiding, inspiring and facilitating.

* Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School

¹ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, KING HENRY THE EIGHTH act 4, sc. 2.

As the quotation from *Henry VIII* at the beginning of this tribute suggests, Jim is a true scholar, and his Deanship has constantly reflected his love of academia and his commitment to its goals of teaching, research, and discourse. When Jim became Dean he was one of the intellectual leaders of our faculty—erudite, inquisitive, and enthusiastic about scholarly exchange. He never allowed his day-to-day duties as Dean to overwhelm his focus on the academic mission of the school. His ongoing engagement with the faculty as a colleague has contributed significantly to the intellectual bustle on campus as he leaves office.

Possibly this is praise enough, but those of us who have worked with Jim over the last 12 years recognize that there is something about him that goes beyond these encomia and will be remembered as the defining quality of his Deanship: the unfailing grace with which he tackled his many duties and responsibilities. In all his actions and decisions, he steadfastly remained a valued friend, always welcomed fresh ideas, greatly respected the work of others, approached questions with an open and receptive mind, and enthusiastically supported new programs and initiatives. Jim always favored the positive over the negative, encouragement over discouragement, collaboration over confrontation. His demeanor—unruffled, cheerful, kind, friendly, supportive, and approachable—is what most stands out in Jim. This is surely the hallmark of his tenure as Dean.

At the end of his 12 years as Dean, Jim has left an indelible mark on this institution, not only in a tangible sense, but also in an intellectual and spiritual sense. A dean who leaves office with the respect of all constituencies of the law school—faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the institution—is entitled to be proud of a job well done. A dean who leaves not only with their respect, but also with their great affection, can be nothing less than exceeding wise.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM HUFFMAN, TEACHER

by
*Edward Brunet**

The task of writing a tribute to honor a colleague who was an excellent dean is easy. There are many positives about Jim Huffman's Deanship and that means it is hard to go wrong in honoring him, regardless of the direction taken by the writer.

Others may emphasize Jim's fundraising abilities and the stewardship that brought the Wood Hall building and the Wood Chair to Lewis & Clark Law School. These stand as major achievements and were accomplished under Jim's command and vision. Others might also stress Jim's establishment of a scholarship incentive system that seems to work to enhance scholarly productivity, no mean feat. Another direction of a tribute honoring Jim Huffman would chronicle his willingness to delegate administrative power and probe his theory that faculty should write and teach and not administer.

I leave these potential tributes to others. Instead, I wish to emphasize Jim's role in nurturing faculty who teach and his role as a prized classroom teacher.

Jim joined our faculty in the Dark Ages (as did I), the Fall Semester of 1973, and was immediately assigned a typical three-course-per-semester load. While these huge loads vanished late in the 1970's, Jim learned to teach quickly and soon became an experienced teacher. He regularly taught Constitutional Law and soon picked up Legal History, Natural Resources Law, Jurisprudence, Natural Resources Workshop, Water Law and Torts.

He was known for inculcating legal theory and law and economics in almost everything he taught—no surprise for a graduate of the University of Chicago and one who believes in the power of markets. More important, Jim was a very popular teacher, known for simultaneously entertaining and challenging students. His classes filled up readily and he won two of the coveted Leo Levinson Awards, which honor the year's best professor as selected by the graduating class, in 1990 and again in 1991.

I have reviewed student comments on Jim's past course evaluations and conducted an informal poll of some of Jim's former students to gather information on his teaching. Several themes reoccur and merit quoting. "Professor Huffman's relaxed style stimulates thoughts and learning." "Great depth of knowledge on his subject." "Huffman really made me think." "That dude was up there in the clouds, I mean good clouds of legal theory." "I really liked his hang loose attitude in class—he never lost it like others on the

* Henry J. Casey Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School.

faculty.”²

My top three personal favorite class evaluation comments:

- Number 3: “I still don’t understand eco-feminism.”
- Number 2: “Strengths—nice ties but weakness—from Montana.”
- Number 1: “Actually, there were less Donahue sessions than I expected from Huffman.”

One theme that reemerges is Jim’s balanced, apolitical discussions of cases. Today we associate Jim with conservative views and know that he is not afraid to espouse these views despite their sometimes lack of acceptance in the Halls of Ivy. Jim’s former students credit him for not proselytizing his political beliefs in class, no mean feat. Jim analyzed the material with apparent neutrality, at least from the perspective of his former students with whom I consulted. One evaluation stressed that “I know Huffman has some strong opinions—I wish he would express them a bit more.”

When it came to grading and exams, Jim displayed creativity and nerve. At some point in the 1970s, Jim began using midterm exams spaced throughout the semester. This permitted the students an opportunity to be tested on material recently covered and avoided the semester end exam covering an entire course of material. This was very popular with students who also liked not putting all their grading eggs into one single exam-basket. A few of our faculty admired this experiment but most steered clear of trying it out for fear of spreading exam fever into the mid-semester. Jim, always intrepid, plunged in without such fears.

Jim Huffman is a man of many talents and should be thought of as a great teacher. Given that he is rejoining our ranks as a member of the teaching faculty, it is only fitting that we ponder his teaching talents.

² See Brunet classes, *passim*.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HUFFMAN

by
*John R. Kroger**

On June 30, 2006, Jim Huffman stepped down as Dean of Lewis & Clark Law School. Since his appointment to the Deanship in 1994, Jim has been an incredibly effective leader for the entire law school community. During his tenure, and under his direction, the law school has blossomed, becoming one of the top private law schools in the American West.

When you walk around the law school today, you immediately see Jim's imprint: new buildings, high tech classrooms, a growing endowment, and a larger, more diverse faculty. But to my mind, the most important contribution Jim has made is to deepen our school's commitment to scholarship. A firm believer in the value of faculty research to both our students and the greater community, Jim has worked ceaselessly to promote legal scholarship at the law school. This commitment has taken many forms: a massive increase in faculty research grants; lighter teaching loads for junior faculty so they have more time to read and write; a beautiful renovation and expansion of Boley Law Library that almost doubled its size; and new funds to encourage students to work closely with faculty as research assistants on cutting-edge issues. Above all, Jim helped create the very journal you are reading at this moment: the *Lewis & Clark Law Review*.

Harder to measure, but no less important, are the intangible qualities Jim brought to the job of dean. In the legal academy, we sometimes lose our sense of perspective. Trivial differences are elevated into clashes of principle, sides in minor disputes harden into cliques. At Lewis & Clark, Jim's gracious manners, sense of perspective, and irrepressible humor have helped keep our faculty remarkably collegial, a precious gift not to be taken for granted.

Jim is going on sabbatical this year, but he will return to the classroom in the fall of 2007. We thank him for his service to the school and look forward to his presence on our faculty for years to come.

* Associate Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School. B.A., M.A., Yale University. J.D., Harvard Law School.