
Dedication

Louis F. Del Duca

Edward N. Polisher Distinguished Faculty Scholar

On September 1, 1956, Louis F. Del Duca joined the faculty of the Dickinson School of Law. Morris Shaffer had just become Dean of the Law School; Dean Emeritus Walter Harrison Hitchler still occupied a suite of rooms in the Sadler Curtilage.¹ Earl Warren was then Chief Justice of the United States. The Court over which he presided included four Associate Justices whose appointments dated to the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, Richard Nixon was Vice-President, and a future President named Barack Obama had not yet been born.

Fifty-seven years, eight Law School Deans,² four Chief Justices,³ twenty-nine Associate Justices,⁴ and eleven Presidents⁵ later, Professor

1. William Trickett, who died in 1928, was the only dean of the Dickinson School of Law whom Professor Del Duca did not know personally.

2. Deans Morris L. Shafer, Burton R. Laub, Edgar I. King, William L. Wilks, Michael J. Navin, John A. Maher, Peter G. Glenn, and Philip J. McConaughay.

3. Chief Justices Earl Warren, Warren E. Burger, William H. Rehnquist, and John G. Roberts, Jr. *THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES, 1789-2012*, at 510 (Clare Cushman ed., 3d ed. 2013).

4. Associate Justices Hugo L. Black, Stanley F. Reed, Felix Frankfurter, William O. Douglas, Harold H. Burton, Tom C. Clark, Sherman Minton, John Marshall Harlan, William J. Brennan, Jr., Charles E. Whittaker, Potter Stewart, Byron R. White, Arthur J. Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun, Lewis F. Powell, Jr., William H. Rehnquist, John Paul Stevens, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg,

Del Duca is retiring. As the longest-serving faculty member in law school history, “the Duke” leaves behind several generations of students who studied under his tutelage.

Born in Abruzzi, Italy—his parents were at the time in Europe visiting family—Professor Del Duca was raised in Minersville, Pennsylvania. A top student, he studied flute from an early age, and was ultimately awarded joint scholarships to Temple University and the Curtis Institute of Music.⁶ He studied at both institutions before entering the United States Navy in 1945.⁷ Following his military service, he was forced to make the difficult choice between a career in music or in law. He ultimately chose the latter, drawn to the legal profession by an optimistic view “about international law and the good it might do.”⁸

Professor Del Duca attended law school at Harvard University. There he received his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship that allowed him to study comparative law in Italy. In 1954, he received a Doctor of Laws (Dott. Di Guir.) degree, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Rome.⁹ From 1955 to 1956, before coming to the Dickinson School of Law, Professor Del Duca practiced law in Philadelphia, while also teaching political science at Temple University.¹⁰

The vast majority of current Dickinson Law alumni learned Secured Transactions from Professor Del Duca. Others learned Sales, Comparative Commercial Law, European Union Law, or a variety of other subjects from him. Few of Professor Del Duca’s students will forget learning how various legal matters are handled by “our Civil Law friends.” Likewise, most of his students will forever remember being told, “People always want to know what to write down. Write this down.”

The 1990 April Fools’ Day issue of the student newspaper featured an article explaining that Susan Duke, Class of 1990, had sued Professor

Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. *Id.* at 510-11.

5. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald W. Reagan, George H. W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

6. John L. Geer, *The Men Up Front*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Jan. 5, 1961, at 4.

7. *Id.*

8. Ted Stellwag, *A Busy Life Driven by a Spirit of Creativity*, PA. LAW., Mar.-Apr. 2006, at 50 [hereinafter Stellwag, *A Busy Life*]. Given his musical background, it is no surprise that, for many years, Professor Del Duca directed choral performances of *Jingle Bells* at the Law School’s faculty/staff holiday luncheons.

9. *Prof. Louis F. Del Duca: Scholar and Musician*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Nov. 17, 1967, at 4.

10. Geer, *supra* note 6.

Del Duca. The supposed lawsuit was based on her claim that potential employers all thought that she was “the Duke”:

One law firm that did interview [Susan] Duke spoke to her only in Italian, while another firm handed her a sheet of paper listing fifty sections of the UCC and told Duke that she had three minutes to list what each section stood for.¹¹

Given Professor Del Duca’s wonderful sense of humor, he probably laughed harder at the spoof than anyone else.

In the 1960s, Dean Burton Laub appointed Professor Del Duca to establish a program for the training of foreign lawyers at the Dickinson School of Law.¹² In 1969, the school began offering a Master of Comparative Laws (M.C.L.) degree; Prabodhehendra M. Joshi, from India, and Timotheus R. Pohl, from Germany, were the first students in the program.¹³ The comparative law program, which now awards a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree, has grown over the years; twenty-eight LL.M. degrees were awarded at the 2012 Commencement.¹⁴

It was Professor Del Duca who developed and headed the law school’s summer session abroad programs. First offered in 1981, the program was based in Florence, the center of the Italian Renaissance.¹⁵ A second summer program, based in Vienna, Austria, and Strasbourg, France, was added in 1985.¹⁶ When recalling his experiences in the summer program, Paul Toner, Class of 2004, remembered, “Dean Del Duca seems to know everyone of importance in Europe.”¹⁷

“It’s a wonderful, unique combination of a quality legal education coupled with a very unique cultural experience,”¹⁸ said Professor Del Duca in describing the summer seminars. “It goes beyond the mere reading of books and articles and statutes and cases in that it’s a firsthand opportunity in which common law trained minds can be put into direct contact with civil law trained minds.”¹⁹

11. Michael Corleone, *Dean Del Duca Sued!!!*, JUD. NONSENSE, Apr. 1, 1990, at 1.

12. *American Legal Education: Global Expansion*, DICK. LAW., Spring 2004, at 25.

13. BURTON R. LAUB, THE DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW: PROUD AND INDEPENDENT 101 (1983).

14. THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW, 2012 COMMENCEMENT 3 (May 12, 2012). The M.C.L. degree was last awarded in 1992.

15. *1981 Summer Session Abroad Revealed*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Fall 1980, at 3.

16. *Summer Program Planned for Vienna and Strasbourg in Addition to the Annual Session in Florence, Italy*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Fall 1984, at 3.

17. Paul Toner, *Capitals, Courts, and the Chief Justice*, JUD. NOTICE, Oct. 2002, at 8.

18. Michelle Stokes, *The Dickinson School of Law Summer Seminars*, JUD. NOTICE, Oct. 1993, at 2.

19. *Id.*

Professor Del Duca later recalled that “[w]hen we started our study abroad programs, there were only eight or nine law schools that hosted similar programs. Now there are more than one hundred.”²⁰ Among those who have taught as Distinguished Guest Jurists in the Law School’s summer programs are the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist; Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.; and Associate Justices Samuel Alito, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sandra Day O’Connor.²¹ Associate Justice Antonin Scalia will be the Distinguished Guest Jurist in the program this summer.²²

In addition to his long-time service as Professor of Law,²³ Professor Del Duca has served the Law School as Director of Admissions,²⁴ Associate Dean of Advanced Legal Education, Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs, and Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law. He is a recipient of the W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership in international education at Penn State.²⁵

Professor Del Duca served as a faculty advisor to the *Dickinson Law Review*, predecessor to the *Penn State Law Review*, from 1956 to 1962, from 1980 to 1981, and from 1986 to 1990.²⁶ In addition, he served as faculty advisor to the *Dickinson International Law Annual* in 1983, a position he continued to hold when that publication became the *Dickinson Journal of International Law* in 1984.²⁷ He again served as faculty advisor to the *Journal* from 1989 to 1990, and from 2000 to 2001.²⁸ He was faculty advisor to the *Journal*’s successor, the *Penn State International Law Review*, from 2003 to 2005, and from 2006 to 2009.²⁹

In addition to advising student editors, Professor Del Duca is the editor of the *Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly*, a post that he has

20. *American Legal Education: Global Expansion*, *supra* note 12.

21. *Florence • Rome • Siena*, PENN STATE LAW, <http://bit.ly/XqKwa3> (last visited Apr. 3, 2013).

22. *Id.*

23. Professor Del Duca was named the first A. Robert Noll Professor at the Law School in 2000. *Del Duca Named First A. Robert Noll Professor*, DICK. LAW., Fall 2000, at 13. He has since been named the Edward N. Polisher Distinguished Faculty Scholar.

24. Professor Del Duca was the first Law School faculty member the author met when he made his initial visit to the Dickinson School of Law in 1983.

25. *The Duke Celebrates Golden Anniversary*, DICK. LAW., Winter 2007, at 13.

26. Mark W. Podvia, *The Dickinson Law Review: A Brief History*, 108 PENN ST. L. REV. 765 app. at 794-98, 819, 828-33 (2004).

27. Mark W. Podvia, *Twenty-Five Years of Excellence: Dickinson International Law Annual; Dickinson Journal of International Law; Penn State International Law Review*, 25 PENN ST. INT’L L. REV. 589 app. at 590-91 (2006).

28. *Id.* at 595, 607.

29. *Id.* at 610-11, 614.

held since 1968.³⁰ He is one of only four individuals to edit the *Quarterly* since it began publication in 1929.³¹ Since 1972, he has also served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Uniform Commercial Code Law Journal*.³²

A prolific author, Professor Del Duca reported that he “long ago lost count of the books and scholarly articles he has written.”³³ His recent works fill a shelf in Trickett Hall’s faculty display case and would undoubtedly fill the entire case were all his works put on display.³⁴

Professor Del Duca’s activities outside of the Law School are many. He has addressed meetings and conferences not only throughout the United States but also throughout the world. He has headed or held leadership positions in numerous local, state, national, and international organizations. Few issues of the Law School’s various alumni publications have failed to include some reference to his activities, ranging from addressing the American Bar Association,³⁵ to working on the Uniform Commercial Code³⁶ and the Model Procurement Code,³⁷ to presenting at the University of Toulouse School of Law in France³⁸ and at the International Conference on Contracts.³⁹

Professor Del Duca’s wife of more than 50 years, Frances, is a 1966 graduate of the Law School.⁴⁰ They have three children and three grandchildren.

In 1963, the Senior Class dedicated its yearbook, *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, to Professor Del Duca. In the dedication, the editors and staff specifically recognized “his enthusiasm for the law, his sense of professional responsibility and the efforts which he has made to instill

30. Ted Stellwag, *The Pennsylvania Bar Association: A Brief History*, PA. LAW., Jan.-Feb. 2010, at 18.

31. It was later reported that Professor Del Duca took the job “after the then-PBA president came to his house armed with a huge Hershey bar for his son. The kid loved the chocolate and Lou was hooked for life.” *Id.* at 20.

32. *Introducing the Staff*, 4 UCC L.J. 193 (1972).

33. Stellwag, *A Busy Life*, *supra* note 8, at 51.

34. A partial bibliography of Professor Del Duca’s works can be found in Joel Fishman, *Celebrating a Diamond Anniversary: Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly Volumes 1-74 (1929-2003): A History*, 75 PA. B. ASS’N Q. 67, 69-70 (2004).

35. *Del Duca Addresses Miami ABA Meeting*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Nov. 1, 1965, at 1.

36. *Del Duca Heads Research Activities in Code Study*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Apr. 27, 1967, at 1.

37. *Model Procurement Code Takes Shape Under Del Duca’s Guidance*, BILL OF PARTICULARS, Mar. 1978, at 4.

38. *Another Dean Wanders*, TRICKETT HALL NOTES, Winter 1992, at 9.

39. *Faculty Focus*, DICK. LAW., Summer 2008, at 11.

40. Mrs. Del Duca practiced law in Carlisle; she is a past President of the Cumberland County Bar Association. The two met at the Jersey Shore when they were in college.

these qualities in us.”⁴¹ The editors and staff of the 2012-2013 *Penn State Law Review*—recognizing those same qualities—respectfully dedicate this issue of the Law Review to him, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mark W. Podvia*



Louis F. Del Duca, c. 1963

41. *Dedication*, RES IPSA LOQUITUR 4 (1963).

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