Between the Wars

By the 1920s, both the American Association of Law Schools and the American Bar Association were pressuring law schools to employ full-time faculty. Law schools were seeking to become more accepted parts of the academic community, and the bar was seeking to increase the prestige of legal education. Eventually this pressure led to changes at the University of Denver. As detailed in this chapter, there was considerable tension as to whether these changes were advisable. Thompson Marsh, one of the first full-time faculty appointed at DU, commented: “The Denver lawyers would send their sons to Yale and then they would come back to DU to study law because they knew the faculty was composed of the best lawyers in Denver...I never heard of a full-time prof until I became one.” Professor Marsh went on to become the “paradigm” of a full-time professor and personally defined much of DU’s character for the next sixty years. He demanded that students read carefully, listen critically and recite with precision. No student got through without learning to color code the elements of the cases they read in his classes. Through the keen intellect of Professor Marsh, his colleagues on the full-time faculty, and the most outstanding practitioners in Denver, DU continued its tradition of offering an exceptional preparation for the practice of law.

The post-World War I student population boomed to 136 in 1921-22, 160 in 1922-23 and to 172, a new record, in 1923-24. During this period, the DU law school continued to have discussions with University officials regarding new facilities. A heartening University commitment to the law school was expressed by Acting Chancellor Engle, who had assumed the duties after Chancellor Buchtal suffered a collapse in September 1920, in his report to the trustees in June 1922, stating:

The law school has recovered from the depression of the war period. It has a gratifying increase in student body and in maintaining the very high standard of work which has always been characteristic of it. It is imperative that new quarters be provided immediately for this school.

During a meeting with the executive committee in October 1922, Manly received approval to move the school to the Club Building at 1731 Arapahoe Street, quarters he and a law faculty committee had located. He also secured a loan of $2,500 to pay moving expenses. The move was made to the third and fourth floors of the building.
I wanted to be a lawyer from grade school. I had an uncle who was a lawyer, which was an influence on my decision to go to law school. When I was applying to law school I lived in Kansas and I knew about two law schools, the University of Kansas and the University of Denver. I chose the University of Denver. Before law school I went to one year in Denver at the University art department. So that was four years all together, one in the art school and three in the law school.

I clearly remember Dean Manly. He told the freshman class, when I was a freshman in 1920, that there were just two rules. He said, "You are men, you are not boys, and you know that you are here to learn and you know that it is not just the grades you get here, but you will have to pass the bar examination if you want to be lawyers. So we don't check on you much and there are just two rules. One is don't burn down the building and the other is don't throw any of the professors out of the window." He also told the class that there would be a place for any of us to practice law if we would, as he put it, keep away from the bright lights. And that's just what I did. After I graduated, I didn't stay in Denver, but went to the small town of Julesburg.

At that time all the professors were practicing lawyers and were only paid a very little. For the professors' convenience the classes were often right around, maybe, noon to two o'clock.

They moved the law school while I was there during my second year. I was moved from the old building over to the Club Building. I was paid to put up the books on the shelves. The movers just set them on the floor.

Professor Manly gave me the most help, but I don't think he was the best teacher necessarily. Professor Rogers, you might say, was one of the best teachers. I remember Rogers predicting that the trend would be either to government ownership or government regulation of corporations. He taught corporations and he thought the trend would be more towards regulation, which, of course, is the way it turned out.

At one point there were seventy-two students in my class. But there was a big dropout, I think largely because of those ex-soldiers that were getting compensation. They were the ones that dropped out. Only forty-nine people graduated. Forty-seven men and two women.

In 1921-22, due to the efforts of distinguished individuals such as Elihu Root and William Howard Taft, the ABA's section on legal education passed a resolution requiring two years of college and three years of full-time law study in a law school with an adequate library and a sufficient number of full-time faculty. This may have been a reaction to the growing number of foreign born lawyers or those with immigrant parents in the urban northeast, and may have been intended to decrease opportunities for entry into the profession. The ABA and the AALS had no power to close schools, but they hoped to discredit those schools which failed to gain their approval.

Manly was opposed to any plan that required the creation of a full-time faculty. He labeled this requirement undemocratic, a condemnation he also leveled at the expected move to admit only law school graduates to the bar. He won support for his position from other faculty who shared his pride in the achievements of the school. James Grafton Rogers, a member of the faculty and one who would later serve a short time as dean, thought the full-time faculty requirement "extremely unsound and the result of "the natural prejudice of the professional teacher against the amateur." He argued that "systematic science or philosophy" had little influence on the common law, which was more practical. He concluded that the practicing lawyer was "a teaching force more consistent with the common law than the professional teacher." Rogers added that "our school is 50 percent better on the average than the teaching personnel of any but three or four schools in America."

During the 1922 Colorado Bar Association convention, the CBA's Committee on Legal Education suggested that it did not believe that "the methods proposed for the accomplishment of these ends in the congested centers of population in the eastern states are necessarily appropriate to the situation in Colorado." The CBA committee endorsed two years of college education and three years of day-time ed-
cation at a law school. The latter emphasis met with great opposition among Westminster officials. Charles H. Haines, a Westminster faculty member, stated that he felt it immaterial whether a student attended school in the morning or in the afternoon. He posed the central issue as “whether the man is qualified and knows enough about the law.” Ultimately, the CBA required three years of study in which most of a student’s time was devoted to law school, and a longer period if the student’s study was not the student’s primary occupation.

In 1921, the ABA and AALS adopted Standards of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. Four primary criteria were established to obtain “Class A” rating from the ABA and to apply for AALS membership: school policies and salaries must not be tuition-dependent, students must have completed two years of college for admission, a library must be supported with at least $1,500 annually, and there must be at least three full-time faculty members. Law school officials were well aware of the national trend and its ramifications. Realizing it would be unable to meet the financial commitments of the criteria, particularly the requirement of full-time faculty members, the law school resigned from the AALS in April 1921. As an aftermath of the accreditation discussion, applicants to DU were required, effective June 1, 1923, to have completed at least two years of work at a college or university of approved standing. The minimum age for admission was changed from eighteen to nineteen effective in 1924-25.

An event that remains one of the school’s most notable historic moments came with its move in 1926 to the second floor of 211 15th Street, above Mapelli Brothers’ Grocery and Meat Market, which was later owned by the University. The school remained there until 1941 when it moved to the University Park campus, but returned to the downtown location for a brief time after World War II.

People were nervous about the bar exam. I think that they were less nervous about the written one, and more nervous about the oral exam. The judges would ask you what was the significance of the date 1609. It had to do with the constitution in Colorado which was based on that of Illinois and Illinois was based on Virginia and when Virginia adopted the common law. I finished law school in June of 1924, and I was old enough to take the bar exam, but I wasn’t old enough to be sworn in. So I wasn’t sworn in until October.

When I got to practice I had to learn everything pretty much from scratch. It was really too bad that I didn’t start in with somebody that could have taught me a lot of things. I just learned on my own.
THOMPSON G. MARSH  
Class of 1927

When I graduated from college my father said, "If you don’t know what you want to do, why don’t you go to law school?" So I was highly motivated.

The student body was composed of a strange lot of people. Some of them were veterans and were going to law school because they were disabled. I don’t know what the requirements were for admission for them. It was probably special. And in order to make sure they were going to law school, somebody from the government would show up once a month to pay them. Some of them showed once a month on payday.

The dean was not full-time. The only full-time man, I understand, was a man named Andrews. He was one of the dean’s friends from Michigan, an old man. I forget what his first name was. We might have called him Fuzzy. The students annoyed him all the time. We used to push the chairs back in the big room and take some wood off the chairs and play hockey back and forth. We knew Andrews would come in to stop it, so we took the bolts out of the hinges on the door, and when he opened the door he would just fall in. I guess I saw that happen maybe three or four times.

There was also a cap factory in the same building. And they were standing around the offices and they would call the law school number and ask for the cap factory. And that would enrage him and we heard him get the promise on the telephone that it wouldn’t happen anymore. And so Ted Gilliam got out and immediately called up the law school and asked for the cap factory.

Andrews always monitored the examinations. The poor guy had a terrible job. When anybody wanted to go to the men’s room, he would go with them to make sure they wouldn’t cheat. And while they were gone, there was a general discussion of the question. Two men objected to that and they were ostracized. I think they were a year ahead of me.

The Denver lawyers would send their sons to Yale, and then they’d come back to DU to study law because they knew the faculty was composed of the best lawyers in Denver. Classes were mostly in the morning. You may also notice they were scheduled on Saturdays. But the
With Manly's resignation, a new era in the history of the law school was soon to begin. The faculty moved swiftly to establish procedures to advance the school and to name a successor dean. The charge was given to a faculty committee chaired by George E. Tralles, who had joined the school as a professor in 1912. Tralles served as acting dean during the 1926-27 academic year. A native of the District of Columbia, he earned a law degree from Georgetown University and practiced in Washington until 1907. He moved to Denver in 1910 where he joined the firm of Vaile, McAllister & Vaile, and served as general counsel for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. In addition to his membership on the DU faculty, he also taught at the Washington College of Law and the University of Arizona.

During Tralles’ tenure, the principal faculty emphasis was on preparing the school to meet the ABA/AALS accreditation requirements. On April 14, 1927, the faculty sent to the Chancellor a very positive, forthright resolution that requested the University to secure ABA/AALS “Class A” classification for the law school; hire three full-time instructors, one serving as assistant dean, and a full-time registrar; provide a budget of $3,000 additional annual income beyond that from tuition to meet the costs of faculty salaries and library needs; make the income from the Jacob Haish Building Fund ($45,000) available to the law school for current expenses, starting in 1927-28; and encourage the trustees’ assistance in supplying the necessary funds.

During a special session on April 16, the trustees’ finance committee approved the resolution almost in its entirety. This was the go-ahead support that was needed, and matters progressed swiftly. On July 7, at a joint meeting of the trustees and the faculty selection committee, James Grafton Rogers ’08, was named the new dean. Rogers, forty-four, had served on the faculty since 1910, and was the first graduate of the law school and the first native of the state to

courses were not really measured by the calendar. They were measured by the number of hours, so that if a prof couldn’t come to class, they were all part-timers, why you couldn’t tell just when the course was going to end. I remember Washington’s birthday was to be a holiday, and every prof scheduled classes on the holiday. So we had more classes on Washington’s birthday than we did any other time of the year.

I had no idea what the classes would be. We just studied cases and then they had some outside reading that was required, which was better than anything that is done now. There had been some European books on what I suppose you would call legal philosophy, four or five of them were just published, and we had to read each of those.

The man who sat next to me spent the time carving his initials though the arm on his desk. He turned out to be one of Denver’s district judges. There’s another man whose name I can’t remember who transferred to Westminster and became the secretary of the Interior.

I studied a lot. I was studying at night one time in the library at the law school and Fuzzy Andrews came in and turned off the light. And I was so disgusted I dropped out of law school for about three days, but fortunately I didn’t tell anybody. After that I walked up to the Supreme Court library. I don’t know why he did it. Saving electricity maybe.

The law school and the dental school used to play a football game every year and the dental school didn’t have any requirements so they were all on the varsity. The law school had some pretty good has-beens. But they were has-beens, and they weren’t in any shape at all. I had bad knees. Dean Yegge’s father was the coach. I told him my knee was gone and he’d have to get someone else and he said “No, we’ve made our last substitution and we’re only allowed so many.” And so the next play they came right over to me, and he tells it that I got a broken leg, but it wasn’t a broken leg. It was just my knee - it must have been out of joint or something.

The week before I graduated the dean called me down and I wondered what was up. He said that they had decided to appoint the first full-timers. He thought a couple of years of maturity would be enough to take me through for a couple of years. My friends told me I’d never know enough to quit, and I’m glad that they were right. I’d never heard of a full-time prof until I became one.

I got the idea of using different colors in reading cases years ago. I used to try to do it by sarcasm. Students would recite cases by just
It is necessary to the decision and linked to the facts so it's not dictum. A lot of people have a lot of trouble distinguishing and holding. So the is what you would cite in your brief and the green would tell you what it is you have to prove. And you don't really have to prove anything that isn't required by the law. And that of course is really very unsophisticated. The idea of the colors came all at once. It was an inspiration.

For a while I asked one half the class to read one half the cases. And then the student who had read the case would state the case, and the student who hadn't read the case would state the case as he'd heard it. That was pretty good but it seemed to take, I suppose I thought, too much time. But analytical reading is one thing and critical listening is another. And they are both extremely important. People mostly are very poor listeners.
of jurisprudence at the school, was born January 13, 1883 in Denver, the son of a Canadian doctor who had moved his practice to Colorado. The young Rogers attended St. Paul's School in New Hampshire and earned his bachelor's degree from Yale in 1906. For a short time he held a reporting job with the old New York Sun but soon returned to Denver. Following his DU law school education, Rogers was admitted to law practice in Colorado in 1908, scoring first place on the bar examination. He soon became active in the legal and civic affairs of the area, serving as president of the CBA in 1925-26, and in other ABA activities and many community affairs in Denver and Georgetown. However, just as the law school positioned itself to ensure its future, Rogers resigned the deanship after only six months. On January 1, 1928, he became dean of the CU law school, a post he held until 1935. While at CU he took a two-year leave of absence to accept an appointment by President Herbert Hoover to serve as assistant secretary of state under Harry L. Stimson. He was presented an honorary doctor of laws degree by DU in 1930.

Wolcott had shared almost "equal billing in the public announcement of Rogers' appointment. Named dean in January 1928, Wolcott was the second graduate of the school to serve as its dean. Wolcott was born in San Antonio, Texas, on January 12, 1885, the son of pioneers who had come from New England to establish a sheep ranch. He was the nephew of former United States Senator Edward Oliver Wolcott, who represented Colorado from 1889 until 1901, and Henry R. Wolcott, an influential Denver capitalist. After graduation from Norwich Academy in Connecticut in 1901, Dean Wolcott enrolled at Yale "because my father and my grandfather had gone there, and family tradition played an important part in my youth." He earned the A.B. degree there in 1905. Some years later, Wolcott earned a bachelor's degree in commercial science from DU by attending night classes. Wolcott had been drawn to Denver by

For many years I had them write something every day for every course. I was teaching property courses and I must have asked a question one day and had them write the answer for the next. I forget how it was. It was never more than a paragraph. I think a paragraph is all there is to writing. If you could write a topic sentence and stay within the topic and finish the topic, I think that's all you need to know about writing.

I gave an exam every week. And then Dean Wallace said the other profs were complaining because their students weren't prepared in their subjects because of my examinations, so I should do something else. But I retaliated by giving an examination every day. My examinations were always very easy. I always told them that the examination was on the course and not on the subject.

I used cards to call on students. They called it 'Black Tom and his Russian roulette.' Just so they always knew that they might be called on. I once called on a girl and a great shout went up. I seems they had a pool. She won forty dollar. That made me laugh. I thought it was an honest game. If they failed to respond adequately three times, I decided that they didn't want to play the game. And I didn't call on them. I they didn't want to, that was their choice.

Some students worked hard, and some didn't. It just varied from one person to another. The hardest working student I ever had was Allan Phipps. He had taken, I think, two or three years of law at Oxford. Then he came back to Denver and took one year of law. In my class I was teaching sales. The book we had was full of English cases. And I said "I suppose you've seen all of these English cases?" "No," he said, "we studied Roman law." But there he was, the hardest working man in the class who never needed a resume. And I've always remembered that because he was the only one who didn't need to do well in law school.

I never had a good rapport with students. Well, some of them come back five years later you see, and they say they did. But they were in a trance at the time.

The faculty were pretty much all Republicans and the students who amounted to anything at all turned out to be Democrats. I have no idea why that happened. I don't think we probably had any effect. I don't think you can teach politics. I don't think you can teach ethics. You can teach professional ethics. But that's different from ethics.
SAM F. DAVIS
Westminster Class of 1929

I had just finished high school, I was seventeen years old, and I envisioned having a home. It was important for me to get out into the economic world. I matriculated through high school in three years by going to summer school. Then I got myself a job as a truck driver. It was hard to get jobs when I was a kid, and the family was very poor in those days. I was doing some chauffering work for one of the Jewish merchants and the boss told me he had a very good friend at the telephone company. I asked him if he could introduce me and see if I could get a job there. I got the job at the telephone company and went to work there.

In September of that year, Westminster was advertising about law school. As soon as the advertisements came out for Westminster, my mother started harping on me to go to law school. After hearing this for months, about the middle of December of '25, I said to Mom, "Mom, you meet me tomorrow and we'll go to the registrar and we'll see if I can matriculate this." So I met with the registrar and told him I was considering matriculating. He asked me what courses I had taken in high school, so I told him. Then he said, "I'll tell you what, in about two or three weeks we're going to have a midterm exam on pre-law." He said, "You want to matriculate and take the exam and I'll give you credit for the full year." So I decided that I would do that and I matriculated then and there.

After that I became serious about school. I passed the midterm exam and continued on and got credit for the first year of law, in pre-law. I started law school in June of '26, and in those days, it was 5:30 to 8:30 five nights a week. I also worked for the phone company full-time while I was in law school.

There were seventeen people in my class. At the time I was seventeen years old. A lady and I were the babies in the class.

At that time the law school was in the Empire Building on 16th and Glenarm, and after classes a friend of mine and I would walk up to his apartment and study there until 11:30 p.m. The first

the fact that he had relatives living in the city and, he wanted to attend law school. Admitted to the Colorado bar in 1907, Wolcott practiced law in Denver for the next twenty years, many of them in distinguished association with William V. Hodges. Included in his professional achievements was a term as a Denver judge beginning in 1912.

On January 1, 1928, twelve days before he was to celebrate his forty-second birthday, Wolcott settled into the dean's chair. It was not always to be a comfortable spot for him. For the next fifteen and one half years he was to guide the school through a period of doubt, struggle and despair, but he persevered with great determination and success.
Wolcott had begun sending letters to the school's graduates. He continued the practice until the University initiated a more formal news medium for all DU alumni. The Wolcott letters would include faculty school activities, the annual alumni banquet and other alumni events, letters to appeal for funds perhaps the first such formal requests to alumni beyond those of earlier years when they were asked only to pay their annual alumni association dues of $2.00 per year (1928-29).

The appeals helped fulfill the school's commitment to meet budget needs beyond those funds provided by tuition. As time went on, the ABA/AALS requirements for library purchases kept increasing, making more urgent Wolcott's need to rely on alumni giving to the Law School Income Fund. In early 1928 he wrote:

Denver Law School has in the past gone further on a modest amount of money than any other school we know of. We and hope to rising and ours must keep rising too, if we are to maintain our relative position. To observe the min-

Law Schools we must spend $2,000 - $5000 more per year than we used to, and we have not the $2,000. Our two present sources of income are tuition fees and help from the University treasurer. The only other source of income which has been suggested to us is there are 400 living, and if they could contribute an average of $5.00 apiece the income problem would be solved.

In an alumni letter of May 12, 1931, the results of the above appeal were noted by Wolcott. He reported that "in our transition period, in the calendar years of 1928, 1929 and 1930, our alumni gave us a total of $1,137 in dues and gifts for income purposes."

The year that worked out nicely, but then the schedule got heavier. The second year we had classes six nights a week and then the third year it was extended to Sunday mornings in addition. It was a rugged situation for anyone working during the day.

I used a looseleaf notebook and a fountain pen on all of my subjects. And then in my textbook, I'd underline the important things. Then I could go through and just read the underlined portions. Our professors were all practicing attorneys. I don't imagine they received compensation for teaching. I think it was a matter of doing the right thing for the underprivileged.

Of course, I had a lot of notes on each particular subject and so forth, and we would rehearse those when we'd go through some of the questions that were asked on the last exam and see how well we'd do.

Let me tell you about the law school. We were on the fourth floor of the Empire Building and we had some outstanding attorneys as our professors. The professors would give you the everyday practical view of law, what you're up against and so forth. It was entirely different, I think, than the law school at DU or Boulder, which were strictly academic and all. We all spent our time reading our cases and commenting on our cases and commenting on the decision and dissents and so forth. I enjoyed that very much. I had access to the library and that was a tremendous, tremendous thing for me.

I thought we had a very brilliant class. These were individuals that were serious about it. And I became serious about it, too. I was determined to finish it. Our moot courts were good also. We enjoyed moot courts a lot. One of the professors was usually the judge, on evidence or on law. What you would do is get this set of facts and you either represented the plaintiff or you represented the defendant and you did your best on that. I enjoyed it very much. Class in those days was nothing like what class is today. I've seen some of the work that some of the students right now are doing and it is just brilliant. But I think what got me through the bar examination was my theory of justice and doing what the right thing was. I might not have agreed with the outcome, but I think the thing that got me through was my ability to think and convey my feeling, whether it was pro or con. I think I've always looked at law as fairness, doing the right thing.

When I was seventeen years old, I met my wife on a blind date, and during the summer we would date and go out a little bit. But during the winter when I was in class, I saw her once a month. That was it. I would go to work, do my class work and study. I had no time for anything else. In the summer, though, we would relax.
Appeals for endowment, building and scholarship funds continued on Wolcott’s agenda. Forms for bequests were even provided in the Bulletin. Wolcott endeared himself to the alumni, and he was successful in his own personal relations within this constituency, stating that he “knew of no professional school with a greater hold on its alumni.” He continued by saying that “there is something about our simple nook, overlooking city traffic, which inspires as strong a sentiment as is bred on any ivy-grown campus. There is likewise no school which appreciates more than ours what the alumni have done and are doing for it.” In a June 30, 1930, alumni letter he listed “from memory” each of those graduates who had attended the thirty-sixth annual alumni association dinner at the Denver Athletic Club.

Wolcott also began to use the alumni letter for student recruitment. Alumni each year received a copy of the Bulletin, a procedure that was followed from time to time until the early 1970s. Alumni were asked to share the Bulletin with a prospective student. For the first time a law school admissions committee was appointed, and an application form was included in the 1929-30 Bulletin. Wolcott commented on the enrollment situation, bemoaning the fact that while some eastern law schools were able to select their new first-year class by June 1, DU received most of its applications in the weeks just before the opening of school in the fall.

There were also accomplishments within the law school program. The school attracted national attention in 1927-28 when it instituted lectures and clinics on the subject of “Psychiatry in Relation to Law.” Noted as the earliest course in psychiatry established in any American law school, the program was a cooperative effort between DU and officials of the CU School of Medicine and the Colorado Psychopathic Hospital. In order to support this program and the other courses and to maintain the library at the required levels for ABA/AALS accreditation, Wolcott placed thousands of his own volumes on its shelves. In 1950, the University purchased for $3,500 an inventory of over 4,600 of these books from Wolcott’s widow.

At this time, the University moved to formally integrate the law school as a department. Although this abrogated the school’s 1892 constitution which had limited the University’s subsidy of the law school to furnishing of quarters only, it fulfilled the plan of the trustees. The law school books of account were transferred to the University treasurer in November 1930. The change did increase the budget subsidy from the University to an average of $5,000 per year, representing the excess costs of operation above tuition receipts. Wolcott compared this with an amount of $15,000 estimated to be the annual deficit of other law schools in the region, pointing out that DU was
able to accomplish goals on a subsidy of $5,000 that it took at least three times as much to achieve elsewhere.

The stock market crash in October 1929 signaled the beginnings of a national depression, that was, of course, to seriously affect the University. Private schools were the first to experience the strain of falling enrollments. The University, highly dependent upon tuition fees for three-quarters of its income, cut its budget sharply for the fiscal year 1931-32 when attendance slumped. Retrenchment of salaries was the largest budget concern, and in October 1932 the teachers of the University of Denver agreed to cuts of five to forty percent. Wolcott noted in a February 1933 alumni letter that "enrollment is smaller than usual, and some students of excellent promise are having to drop out before finishing, for lack of money to continue. The members of the full-time faculty are waiving sizeable proportions of their current salaries, and every economy is being practiced."

By September school was required to have faculty instead of three, and a library budget of $2,000 a year instead of $1,500. This faculty requirement brought to the school William Jordan Johnston, a young attorney from Iowa. He was the first faculty member to come from outside of Colorado, and joined Wolcott, Marsh and Odis H. Burns on the full-time faculty. Burns had filled the vacancy in 1928-29 created by DeMuth's resignation after only a year at the school. The average salary of the four full-timers in 1933-34 was $2,150 per year.

By 1933, even more drastic moves were under consideration by Chancellor Hunter. After studying the University's proposals, the law faculty adopted those that would "offer certain courses in alternate years instead of annually; temporarily increase the teaching load of full-time teachers, as an emergency measure, even to the extent of their carrying an occasional course, if need be, now being carried by a

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**CHARLES F. BRANNAN**

*Class of 1929*

I chose DU because I was born and raised in Denver. In those days, DU had a good football team, and we were attracted, or at least we were aware of its existence, by the team. Also, this was the period of time just preceding the Great Depression and any chance I had, or thought I had, of going to school somewhere else weren't very financially supportable.

You didn't even have to have a degree to go to law school. I had two years of good academic work, a half year at DU and a year-and-a-half at Regis, and I don't know whether they studied them very hard or not but they didn't take long in telling me to come down.

I had no expectations about law school. Well, it was decidedly different than the campus out on Iliff and University and it was decidedly different than the campus out at Regis, too. But after all, there were just classrooms, there was a small library, there was a recreation room about ten or twelve feet by ten or twelve feet. It was big enough to accommodate one bridge table, as I remember. It was supposed to be used, though, for research. And of course it was on the second floor above Mapelli's Market, which fomented attractive odors. There was only one classroom where you got most of these smells, and you didn't get that often and it wasn't offensive, it wasn't offensive at all.

And 15th Street was a very busy street. Unrelated to the school, I remember distinctly about the busy street. One day at about noontime, a group of us had finished class and we were going down the stairs and hit the street level and up the street comes a twelve-cylinder Packard I had a hood that wouldn't end and one of us said, Boy, wouldn't you like to own that? And as quick as a flash one of the other guys said, Wouldn't you like to have what he owes on it?

People were not nervous about classes. It was a very relaxed group of kids, some of them very smart and some of them just run-of-the-mill. Well, I loved ol Dean Wolcott. He wasn't the big powerhouse that I guess everybody would have liked to have had, but he was a very fine guy.

Lucius Ward Bannister taught Water Law and Mining Law. He lectured back East on those subjects to Yale and Harvard and several other schools that didn't even have classes on western water law or western mining law.
because it didn't affect most of the country, only those areas west of the 100th meridian, I guess, and so he lectured back there.

We used the case method. But beyond that, professors had individual styles. All of them seemed very dedicated. They really were. And the very fact that they took time out of their business to come up there had to indicate that. Most of the students were serious. There was one guy whose name I can't remember anymore who had married a very rich woman, and he wasn't very serious. He burned a five dollar bill - lit a match to a five dollar bill - to show his utter disdain for money and threw it right down. Well, I don't know, I thought he was nuts because I could have used those five bucks.

I don't think I ever had a chance to choose courses. I think I took every dam course they offered. We went out to the medical school, and that was one of the funniest things that ever happened. There was a very, very close friend of mine who could not handle the bottle. He would show up to class sometimes and he would be loaded. And Dean Wolcott had warned him a couple of times and I think the last warning before this incident he told him, "Now you show up to class drunk once more and we're going to kick you out, you'll be put out of school." Well, we go out to the University of Colorado's psychiatric ward and a professor was showing me a particular kind of dementia. He brought in a couple of inmates that they were treating out there and talked to them. He talked on a lecture area about the size of a desk. We were out there in seats, and you could go off the stage into the hallway. There was a door that came right back into where we were, so there were always a couple of interns to take the patients when they were through with them. Well, the doctor released this guy and apparently he was an actor at one time because he went off the stage, you always keep your face to the audience, and he went off the stage like that, and of course the guys applauded. And he went past the interns so fast, he went out and came in and he started down the middle aisle, shaking hands with this guy, shaking hands with that guy. And he got to my friend, and he shakes his hand and he says, "You've been drinking." It was so damn funny, the dean laughed, too, and didn't kick him out that night.

I worked while I was going to school. I was the law librarian in the University building on Champa and 16th. I had gotten the job from the fellow who had it before me. I had to kick back to him a little portion of the fee. I studied on my own, because being the librarian I had a desk and a place to study. Classes were in the mornings and we were out on our own, really, in the afternoon. Some of us would go off together in groups and do various things, but part-time teacher; give full authority to the Dean to cooperate with the University administration in reducing temporarily the basal $3 per hour teaching rate of part-time teachers to such an extent as may be necessary during the present financial depression."

In addition to the economic uncertainty, the school also faced an unusually high failure rate among law school graduates on the 1931-32 Colorado bar exams. Major changes had been made in the exam in 1931 when bar examiners increased the test's subject areas from eight to twenty-four. The DU law faculty noted in their discussions that "results showed the need for vigilance in maintaining our reputation. Among other factors involved are the rising standards of bar examiners, who of late in Colorado have been admitting only the upper half of the candidates who seek admission to practice." There was noted some increase in strictness in the law school grading during the 1930-31 academic year and that five failing freshmen had left school at the end of the first quarter with the possibility of others to follow when all grades were received. In a later faculty meeting it was at DU had fared badly in the bar results announced in October. Only eleven of the school's graduates passed, of the total of twenty-three graduates examined.

Leaders of the state's three law schools theorized that the Depression, the perennial concern with overcrowding in the bar, and poor communication were among factors responsible for the poor results on the exams. Acting Dean Stearns at the CU law school held the view that examiners stressed immediate practicality rather than a broad view of legal knowledge. He favored an exam which focused on general aptitude and on the integrity of the applicant rather than a test focused on too many unimportant areas. The Colorado law deans - Wolcott, Stearns and Barry - met with officials of the Colorado Bar Association. Wolcott gave assurances that a balance had been reached in Colorado between those entering and those leaving the law
ized the meeting as the first conference of deans of law ever held in the Rocky Mountains. That fall, the bar examination set of questions was loaned to the three law schools for confidential review by the deans and selected faculty. It marked the first time since 1912 that the committee had disclosed the questions.

With the increasing impact of the Depression, the law school received no subsidy from the University in 1933-34. This brought about a quiet fund raising effort to call upon law school friends and alumni for gifts of money to meet the deficit ($7,000) and to finance the school’s continued operation in 1934-35 ($4,000). The goal was to raise the $7,000 from forty people, all part of an overall University drive for $50,000. Other strategies for improving the school’s financial picture included the initiation of a limited schedule of work for graduate credit, designed to appeal to members of the Denver bar. In addition, an evening division was reactivated in 1934.

Wolcott’s tenure also witnessed the hiring of the school’s first women faculty members, all DU law graduates. Deirdre Dunlevy ’35, taught part-time from 1936 to 1938. She earned first place honors on the Colorado bar examination in 1935, the second woman to achieve this record. Helen Thorp Street ’39, was the school’s first full-time woman faculty member. She taught for a year and a half in 1941-42. Her classmate, Lois G. Clark Theobold, served on the faculty from 1942 to 1944. Soon following them was Frances Hickey Schalow ’43, who joined the faculty after her graduation. Her talents as executive secretary, librarian and teacher were to be of great benefit to the school over a period of nearly fifteen years. Others who joined the full-time faculty in those years were Charles A. Graham, Albert E. Zarleno ’33, Vance R. Dittman, Jr., and Willson Hurt. Charles E. (Chizzy) Works began teaching part-time, but eventually joined the full-time faculty.

there were no really organized activities. The only organized activity I can remember was when the law school played a football game with the dental school. It had been done, I’m not sure every year, but quite regularly. We didn’t even have enough men for a full team. Thompson Marsh and I were in the line, and in those days, in order to form a very formidable line, unbreakable line, we hooked our feet together. That’s stupid because if you got knocked down, you took your neighbor with you.

We sure as hell paid a lot of attention to the bar exam. Most of the kids studied down in the library for the bar exam, and they all came back to the library day after day waiting for the results to come out. And I had the phone and I was the one who called the Supreme Court and got the list. They gave me the list of names over the phone. And then some of them wanted to know what grade they got. But as far as I was concerned, I had passed, I didn’t care what the grade was. I just hollered them out. But everybody wasn’t there. Many of them learned from other sources because some of them were working.

The bar exam orals were interesting. I had a very pleasant discussion. I can’t remember the subject and I can’t remember the lawyers, as a matter of fact, but it was a pleasant experience. I’ll always remember the written part. The first exam was in an area in which I was good, and I whipped out that exam with full and complete confidence. I knew I knew the subject and I got it down and I got it down properly. It was really that kind of fortunate feeling that carried me all the rest of the way through.

There was a faculty award with a fifty dollar prize. That was a lot of money, given the fact that when we got out of school, out of our class, only three of us went to work for direct compensation. Our cum laude student went to work for International Trust Company, and I think he got a hundred dollars a month. I went to work for a fellow by the name of Albert Craig, and I got fifty dollars a month. And nobody else in the class got a dime. They went to work for nothing, for office space and experience. That was ’29, of course.

I worked summers so I had enough money to come back. I don’t mean by saying that that I was poor. My dad’s job was chief engineer at the Public Service Company and he had had a heart attack and had been retired, but we were a long way from poor and he did furnish a lot. You know, over the three-year period, he contributed $1,500 to my education. And then upon graduation, he tore up the note and handed it to me. He was a very fine guy.
Further, Wolcott cautioned that an abandonment of a med chair, and other committee members Denver attorneys Peter Hagner Holmes, L. Ward Bannister, Clyde C. Dawson '30, and Henry A. Kugeler '33. In an orientation letter to written mn ater the formation of the committee, Wolcott related steps that had already been taken in to the AALS These included new library acqu and a review of the collection; more strk grading procedures which failed ten percent of the first-year students; and awarding low averages to another ten to fifteen percent of the students, refusing them promotion. Wolcott also related to that "recommendations which have entirel failed to be financed are improved housing, the time librarian, the fifth full-time faculty member an raising the salaryscale, none of which can be accomplished out of present University funds."

In January 1937, the Advisory Committee to the law school was reactivated. Judge J. Foster Symes was named chair, and other committee members were Denver attorneys Peter Hagner Holmes, L. Ward Bannister, Clyde C. Dawson '30, and Henry A. Kugeler '33. In an orientation letter to Symes, written to the AALS report. These included new library acquisitions and a review of the collection; more strict grading procedures which failed ten percent of the first-year students; and awarding low averages to another ten to fifteen percent of the students, thereby refusing them promotion. Wolcott also related to Symes that "recommendations which have entirely failed to be financed are improved housing, the full-time librarian, the fifth full-time faculty member and raising the salary scale, none of which can be accomplished out of present University funds." Regarding the salary matter, Wolcott reported that "until the University emerges from its pay-cut period as it is now beginning to do, there are some procedural technicalities which hinder individual salary increases not common to all departments of the University."

The Law Advisory Committee responded by recommending that the school raise tuition, decrease enrollment by weeding out poor students, and add a fifth full-time faculty member. On the last point, Wolcott favored raising salaries before hiring the additional teacher.

A periodic AALS inspection of the law school in 1936 confirmed deficiencies that Wolcott had long been pointing out to the administration. The inspection report noted inadequate facilities, deficiencies in the library collection and catalog, low faculty salaries, conditions not adequate for achieving standards of teaching and productive scholarship, and the allocation of too great a proportion of teaching to part-time instructors. The AALS inspectors also urged that the faculty apply more strict standards to beginning students.

These were serious critiques and presented a considerable challenge. In a lengthy letter to Chancellor David S. Duncan, who had succeeded Hunter in September 1935, Wolcott traced the history of the law school and concluded by responding to each AALS recommendation. He expressed confidence that the University could satisfy all suggestions. Wolcott pointed out to the Chancellor that since its inception, at the same time as that of the law school in Boulder, the DU law school had been overshadowed by CU's strong financial support, its better physical plant and its ability to attract prospective students away from DU. Further, Wolcott cautioned that "if our School were to be discontinued, it would be a bigger Christmas present than any the University of Colorado has ever received, and an abandonment of the best law school location in the mountain region."
AALS officials scheduled a follow-up inspection for September 1937. This prompted several very quick decisions. The evening division and graduate programs were eliminated. A librarian, Minnie Wilson, was hired and a two-year program of physical improvements at the school, particularly in the library, got underway in August. Some minor adjustments were made to full-time salaries. Tuition was increased to $75 per quarter, $225 per year, which may have had serious effects on enrollment. Successive fall first-year totals were forty-four in 1936, twenty-eight in 1937, and twenty-four in 1938.

The law school escaped serious AALS restrictions, but soon faced an internal review that was less than welcome. On March 13, 1939, the Academic Policy Advisory Committee of the University of Denver Faculty Senate, requested the school to report on whether a law school was needed in Denver, on the cost to the University of operating a "grade A" law school, and on what benefits the University received from operation of the law school. This action may also have been prompted by Wolcott's earlier mention of "salary increases not common to all departments" - which translated into faculty salary differentials, a matter often discussed between University and law school administrators.

A detailed response. He acknowledged that University treasurer reports had shown law school deficits between 1934 and 1937 in figures ranging from $2,300 to $3,400. He noted that these deficits reflected an annual charge of $3,000 for rent of the law school facilities, which, Wolcott stated, "is a charge not made against any other department or by other universities against their law schools."

Wolcott also argued that the law school might become a financial asset to the University:

We believe that the operation of our law school at a deficit for several years to come, if need be, in our

Milton Morris
Class of 1939

I decided to go to law school because I didn't feel that I was fit for anything other than the law. I went to the University of Colorado for undergraduate from '33 to '36 and then down at the law school from '37 to '39. We had a program of combined degrees, and so I got both an A.B. and LL.B. at DU.

I chose DU because it was easier for me to work part-time, and being in Denver, I could have free room and board at home which I couldn't have had up in Boulder. We at DU liked to think we were better, and CU liked to think they were better. I think it was just a matter of choice on where you went as to how you thought about it. Because I had a half scholarship, DU was cheaper for me, but for most, CU was a much less expensive school to go to.

We had one woman in our class, I'd say she was probably the smartest student in the class. I think everybody in our class was pretty well-prepared all the time. In those days, it was a matter of preparing for making a living and I think everybody was pretty serious. That didn't mean that there weren't the crap games in front of the dean's office, but I think everybody came pretty well-prepared.

We only had about ten people in our whole class and I think they made us sit alphabetically. But with those small classes, I don't think it made much difference. Actually, we sat in chairs where we could write on a table top of the desk chair. We had a routine of reading our briefs when called upon and then the prof would hold a discussion of that case and like cases.

For class we used onion-skin paper with paste on one side, and we'd paste that into the notebook and then write the class comment underneath that. The onion skin was our own briefing of the case. It was a help when you didn't have a typewriter. Of course, you'd write it out. Then you'd merely lift it up and write the class comments underneath it. And also, if you made a mistake in the case, you'd do your correcting. So when you got ready for finals, you had everything pretty well laid out.

I think most of us felt that law school should have been without grading. We thought that if we got through law school that should be enough, or maybe if there were grades, they shouldn't be a bar exam when we got out because our exams pretty much covered the material.
I think the students put their professors in two classes. The one class would be Tom Marsh who taught you how to practice law by making you think. The other type of class is the one that spoon-fed you the law. And of course, spoon-feeding was the easiest way of getting prepared for your bar exam and also learning what the law was. Thompson is the one who taught us how to practice law. He really made you think, making you follow a thought logically from your premise on to the conclusion.

Thompson had a way with him that was unique. I don’t think there’s ever been another prof like him, nor will there ever be another one like him.

Thompson Marsh had everybody buffaloe, but had a very kind heart. He had probably the dreariest sense of humor of any professor there. Tom used to give a weekly exam of one question. You didn’t know what day it was going to come on, but obviously you were going to get it sooner or later. You would hand in a written answer. They were ten minute exams. You would usually get it back the next day. There was also Gordon Johnston who was everybody’s favorite. He had a great sense of humor. A little on what then was considered the risqué side, but today would be considered very tame.

I recall something from an earlier class which I think is one of the stories that goes with the law school lore. Maybe ten years before my time, there was a student who became a fairly well-known lawyer in his time. Anyway, he tells the story of one of the part-time profs who at that time was very deaf. He’d call on a person to recite a case and when the person was finished and had sat down, the prof would say, “Substantially correct Mr. or Miss so-and-so,” and go on to say, “Now to repeat, the ruling of this case was such-and-such.” Well, one day he called on this particular person, and the person got up and said, “Well, you blankety blank blank son-of-a-bitch. You know damn well I wasn’t prepared. What did you have to call on me for?” And he ranted and raved for about a minute or so and sat down. And the prof said, “Substantially correct Mr. so-and-so. Now the ruling in this case was so-and-so.” Now of course he didn’t know what the whole class was laughing about. But that story has persisted.

Derby Day was a big deal. Everybody went down Larimer Street to the pawn shops and would buy a derby which they would keep during their law school tenure. — Milton Morris

A gift of $250,000 to DU by Mrs. Vemer Z. Reed in February 1940 for a law building fund was a lively topic of discussion at a law faculty meeting several months later. No decision had yet been made as to what building(s) to erect and whether such structure(s) should be at University Park or downtown. If a law building were to be included in the University’s building program, the law faculty felt that “subject to the desire to avoid delay in achieving the much-needed Law School Building the University Park campus is the more desirable permanent location for our department.”

Despite the serious financial difficulties, for the first time Wolcott was able to arrange for several scholarships to help meet the needs of qualified students. Who were enrolling at other schools because of DU’s tuition costs. Several years later the school announced its first named, endowed scholarship, the Daniel Lee Webb Scholarship Fund, honoring a 1900...
graduate. Webb scholarship awards continue to be made to the present day. In addition, in 1937-38, for the first time and not again until the 1960s, both the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations were headed by DU law graduates. R. Hickman Walker ’09, was the Denver president and Wilbur F. Denious ’02, the state bar president.

The peaks and valleys of Wolcott’s deanship became stabilized over the next several years. Evidently the report to the Advisory Committee had calmed the immediate concerns of those questioning the value of the law school’s continued existence. And the problems with the accrediting agencies continued to be part of life. However, the onset of World War II was to impact the law school significantly.

The attention of Denver’s citizens was focusing on the war in Europe and its future effect on the United States. On October 16, 1940, a holiday was declared at the University of Denver in order to facilitate the registration of all male students between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five. The first numbers in the lottery were soon drawn, and arrangements were made for those students anticipating service duty to complete the regular four-year law course in three years. Faculty who served in World War I were requested to send information to the chancellor’s office, which would serve as a central clearing house for such data.

In August 1941, the law school was moved to temporary quarters on the University Park campus. It was housed in the south wing of the Mary Reed Building until 1944 when it returned to “Mapelli’s.” In retrospect, some felt the move was a mistake and could have been a reason for the extreme decline in enrollment during the war. The law school graduat-

law school tenure and wear it on Derby Day. I think for those who drank beer it was a beer bust. Those of us who didn’t would go to the drugstore and have a Coke or two or a sandwich, and then they usually had some sort of a program.

There were a variety of people in law school. You had fairly rich people, and then there were blacks in our class that were very well thought of, for example, Howard Jenkins. There wasn’t any differentiation in social castes from the standpoint of who was invited to what. I know I went to the weddings of the black people as well as the others, so it was not a matter of the caste system. I think you have to remember that with ten people or so in a class, everybody was friendly, and nobody cut anybody out. I mean if you went over to the drugstore, it might be with a black student, it might be with one of your white students. There was friendly competition, as far as the students were concerned, but not based on any religious set-up or color.

There were a lot of interesting things that happened in law school. Mapelli, who was the head of the Mapelli Market, tells the story of when the people from class would come down and buy some meat and some bread and make sandwiches, and sit out in front of the store and eat their lunch. One of the ones who used to do that was Sid Grossman who later formed a partnership with one of the other fellows in his law class. Mapelli said, “I’ve got some bills to collect.” He said this in front of the students one day sitting in front of the store. “Who wants to try to collect them?” So Sid Grossman said he wanted to. So Mapelli gave him a couple of bills for some fellow on the north side. He went out that afternoon and the next day he came back and he handed Mapelli the money he collected, but he had two black eyes.

And Sid said, “Well, I got beaten up, but here’s your money.” And Mapelli said, “You’re a good man. You’re my lawyer from now on when you get out of school.” And he was Mapelli’s lawyer the rest of his life.

Since I had been working in a law office for three years during law school, working preparing cases and doing everything except going to court, practice was not very different from law school. After I graduated from law school I did see clients and I did go into court, and that was the only change from law school to practice. I think that the top salary in Denver at the time I graduated was something like $50 a month and that was with the biggest law firms and maybe one student would get that job. The rest made extra money, as I did, by serving summonses at a dollar apiece. It was a matter of everybody being in the same boat except for those who were rich.
HELEN THORP STREET
Class of 1939

I had graduated from Vassar College and had studied at the Sorbonne in France in my junior year at Vassar. And after I came back from Vassar, I just played around for a couple of years and didn't have anything much to do and decided that I would go to law school for one quarter and not tell anybody. I thought, "If I'm bored, I'm not going to stay." So, I simply went down to speak to Dean Wolcott and he said he'd be glad to have me come. That's all the application there was at that time. I started and I was absolutely fascinated with the way the law made your mind work.

The law school was on Fourteenth Street. It was on the second floor. The whole law school was on the second floor—the classrooms, the library, the offices—and in the springtime Mapelli cured its ham and fish and the windows were opened, and so we learned our law the hard way.

There were, of course, very few, practically no women in the law school. At that time, DU was not merged with Westminster. We were separate. We were a day school. They were a night school. And I certainly would say that I was treated with every courtesy both by my fellow students and by the professors. There was no discrimination as far as that was concerned. We were all very good friends, and many of us remained good friends for many, many years. We were a good class.

Thompson Marsh had the most fantastic memory. I had him for Property and even for Future Interests. He was scary. He was called "Black Tom" sometimes. He was tall and lanky and great looking and he would walk to work, and he was also a bird watcher. So you'd see him walking to work all of the time, watching, seeing the birds, with glasses, watching for the birds. But someone would say something about a case and he would say, "No, I think you'll find that that was overruled in 92 Pacific on page 778 on the right-hand side of the page." He had a fantastic memory.

In an unusual testimonial, the AALS later noted that the war emergency favored the unapproved schools-especially those which conducted night classes-in their competition for students with AALS approved schools. Wolcott wrote to Charles T. McCormick, president of the AALS and dean of the University of Texas School of Law, suggesting that "the unapproved schools . . . attract older students, many of them married and with deferred selective service status, which will help those schools to survive the present lean period." Wolcott also cited the ability of the unapproved schools to reduce their overhead expenses as being particularly in their favor. DU requested approval to decrease overhead during the war, noting that if such were not granted it would increase the chances "that Westminster will emerge from this period stronger than either of the association's Law Schools (in Colorado) or at least stronger than ours."
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On the university level, Caleb Gates succeeded Chancellor Duncan and would serve through August 31, 1947.

The law school's request to operate with only three full-time faculty was approved by the AALS in September 1942. The three were Wolcott and Professors Theobold and Marsh, with R. Hickman Walker '09, serving as a part-time teacher. Marsh joined the legal staff of the regional Office of Price Administration early in 1943 and Dewain Delp joined the part-time faculty to help fill this vacancy. Gordon Johnston and Vance Dittman were serving in the Navy. The school also resumed a summer session in 1942, to assist seniors accelerate their studies. The regular term schedule was curtailed to offer only courses for first- and second-year students, of which seven or eight were anticipated at the beginning of the March 1943 spring quarter. A request was made to the AALS to continue into 1943-44 with only two full-time and one part-time faculty. Approval was given with the specification that the extension was valid only until July 1, 1944.

Both the ABA and AALS approved other special national wartime measures. At its annual meeting on December 30, 1941, the AALS passed resolutions "permitting law schools to reduce, inter alia, the residence requirement and the number of credit hours hitherto required for graduation from the law course . . . ." The ABA approved a similar resolution relating to the national emergency on February 28, 1942. The Colorado Supreme Court had adopted a resolution on February 13, 1942, exempting certain graduates of law schools from Colorado bar examinations upon completion of their service with the armed forces.

The law faculty also helped keep the school open during the crunch of the war years by making voluntary contributions from their salaries to the school's bud-

I enjoyed him. He was challenging. We had awfully good professors. We were really a privileged group of people because we were small, we were informal in many ways, and we had a marvelous time.

We were very formal in class. We always felt on the spot, because if we gave an answer, everybody would feel free to jump on us and disagree with us, and so would the professor. In discussing a case, he would tear us to ribbons. Tom Marsh was one that certainly could. One of my papers was published in DICTA. And it was a paper about, and of course it was absolutely wrong, but it was a matter of air rights, and I took the position that you owned it from the floor of hell to the ceiling of heaven, which is absolutely wrong, in a way. But, I took that position and that was published in DICTA.

I didn't take Trusts and Estates in school. You got to pick some classes but you had certain requirements. At that time, I don't know why I didn't take a trusts course, but I'm sure it was there. The other course I didn't take which I later went down and audited was the course in taxation, which became so tremendously important. But, at that time you see, we were way back in 1940, and taxes, sure, we paid taxes, but it wasn't anything like it is now.

The bar exam was three days written and then some orals. At the oral, you were examined by certain judges, with the idea that you were morally the right caliber for law. You didn't have a regular bar refresher. Gordon Johnston, who was the professor for tort law and I've forgotten what else he taught, gave a bar review course to six or seven of us. Sometimes, when there wasn't a woman involved, I think they went up in the mountains and took a cabin. But when I was there we stayed in town and there were probably only six or seven of us doing it. He did it for several years. And he was simply saying to us, "This is what the bar wants; this is the kind of question and this is the kind of answer."

When I graduated and took the bar, nobody would give me a job. Nobody wanted a woman. I had been number one on the bar, but I couldn't get a job. And at one time, I thought I had a job in the trust department of one of the banks, and suddenly I was told they didn't want me. I found out later that the head of the trust department didn't want a woman. A year later, they took a woman and she turned out to be very good and she went on to a job in Washington and had a very good career. So maybe I broke a little ground. When I received an award for practicing for fifty years last summer, from the Colorado Women's Bar Association, they gave two or three of us the Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award, I said, "Well, I don't know that I've blazed any trails that way," but in a way I did because I couldn't get a job.
HELEN THORP STREET
continued

So I turned my attention mainly to serving on boards. The charitable organizations in Denver didn't have any women lawyers on their boards and they were delighted to get one. Now, at the same time that I was doing the volunteer work, I was practicing on my own in a very limited way. I had married a lawyer, who was the attorney for the Burlington Railroad, and I had his library open to me if I wished. But I fell into a trusts and estates practice.

When World War II started, some of the professors were called away and Dean Wolcott asked me if I would teach a class to take Gordon Johnston's place. I am perfectly certain that he would have asked the milkman before he would ask a woman, but he couldn't get the milkman, so he had to ask me. And I taught Torts and Domestic Relations and Equity. About four or five years ago, I was at a party in a group and this attractive man came into the group and he said, "Helen, I was one of your students." And I said, "Oh, you were?" And then he said, "Yes," he turned to the group and he said, "Helen taught me domestic relations and I've been married and divorced four times." After the war, I came back and taught just for about six months because I was going to have a child, and at that time, you hid it, if you could, you know. And so I finished the course and went into maternity clothes the day after the last class. I was very proud of the fact that I'd been able to wear a suit until then. And about fifteen years later, I saw a man in California and he said, "You know, I was in your law school class." I said, "Oh, you were?" He told me when it was and I said, "Oh, that was the last class I taught because I was pregnant and I was very proud of the fact that I didn't go into maternity clothes until the day after the last class." "Oh," he said, "Mrs. Street, we never knew you were pregnant." And it was still, mainly at that time, mainly men. I don't believe there was a woman in that class. It was later that the women began to come in all of the time. But I liked teaching. It was great fun.

Law school was much better, much more fun than I had expected. Hard, but that's what I wanted. I wanted something to exercise my mind, and the thing that was fascinating was that it changes the way you look at everything.

get. Wolcott notified alumni that because of the paper shortage and other wartime measures there would not be a catalog published in 1944. A boost in tuition was approved for 1943-44, charging $6.00 per quarter hour for students with a college degree, with a maximum for fourteen-fifteen hours of $84-$90. Students without a degree were charged $7.00 per quarter hour for the first ten hours of study, and $6.00 for each additional hour.

The strain and stress of Dean Wolcott's work during this period became a serious physical drain on him. In the latter part of 1943 he was on a leave of absence because of poor health, and Frances E. Hickey, the executive secretary of the school, was substantially in charge of administrative functions during Wolcott's absence. Dean Wolcott resigned prior to the start of
the 1944-45 academic year, and the Law Alumni Association honored him in September 1945, with extraordinary praise:

To Roger H. Wolcott, studious, scholarly, utterly devoted to the task in hand, tireless in attention to detail, whose benign and gentle personality, genuine love of people, and subtle wit have left a happy impress on many generations of students of the University of Denver Law School during his service of some sixteen years as Dean, its Alumni present this watch in affectionate remembrance.

Even in semi-retirement, as dean emeritus, Wolcott maintained a close interest in the school until his death in Denver on October 30, 1948, from the effects of a protracted heart ailment.

While World War II raged on several fronts, the future of the University of Denver law school remained a question. It was, perhaps, a wait-and-see attitude that prompted the appointment of an administrator for the law school. Named to that post and to succeed Wolcott was Alfred C. (Pete) Nelson, dean of the DU Graduate School. He was to hold the position of administrator of the law school for less than a year.

Nelson did not escape the usual matters of his law dean predecessors. A budget crisis continued, forecasting a deficit for 1945-46. Part-time instructors were paid $1.00 per credit hour for their work. Nelson communicated to Chancellor Cherrington his distress regarding the library budget and the addition of a full-time faculty member now that the AALS extension permitting a faculty of two full-time and one part-time teachers had expired. Nelson asked that the business office be permitted to spend $1,500 instead of $1,000 on library acquisitions to conform with the AALS requirement. He pointed out to Cherrington that "should the Trustees decide they are not going to appropriate $1,500... we might as well go all out

JOSEPH BERENBAUM
Class of 1940

You don't know what makes you want to go into law school in the first place. I started out thinking I was going to do something in the writing field or the journalism field. But that field paid so poorly that you went to law school because you thought law school, maybe, was an opening for not only the legal profession but that possibly you could get a job someplace else. Economic conditions were not very good at that particular time, so it seemed to be a pretty good all-around education.

I choose the University of Denver because that was the only school I could afford to go to. You could work and go to the University of Denver at that time. Most of the students, as well as myself, worked before school. I know that while I went to school I worked maybe thirty-five to forty hours a week. I went to school in the morning from eight to twelve. Then you'd bolt out of there at twelve o'clock for another job. Then you'd work Saturdays. But you could also find time for extramural things like playing tennis on the tennis team, because that you could do really late in the afternoons. So we managed to keep very busy.

I shouldn't say this, but I did not find law school very difficult. And I happen to be a very early riser. So my studying, when I did, would be in the morning, from five-thirty or six, for an hour, hour and a half. But I did not find it very difficult. I found the legal profession a very logical profession. We're getting it rather complicated with all the laws and statutes we've passed. But basically it's a profession based upon logic.

We didn't have a lot of students at all. If somebody was a reasonable prospect, I kind of have a feeling they got into law school. Altogether I think most of my classes were eighteen or twenty in a class. There were a few older students, but most of the students were in the same position as I was. I took three years of liberal arts and then moved downtown. Not many kids could afford to go out of town. You were very fortunate if you could somehow manage to go to the University at all. If I remember, tuition was three hundred dollars a year. And you used to pay that out twenty-five dollars a month. I worked at the school paper then, and I wrote some articles for the Associated Press at the same time on the side. It did not take a lot of time.
The law school had lots of required courses. Basic courses. You were only spending a limited number of hours in school so you took the required courses. You didn't take as many collateral-type courses as you do now.

There wasn't much recreation. We just went to school. And then we bolted out to a job. I worked in a service station for awhile and I worked in an office and did other kinds of work like that. I worked during Christmas and spring breaks. You worked all the time. One summer I worked at a place that sold ice to people. It was mostly physical-type work, because people still had ice boxes, and they bought the ice in twenty-five pound or fifty pound pieces. It was a very different life, so different that it is difficult for people to realize that it existed.

Nelson was succeeded at the law school by James F. Price. Price, president of the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, was named to a myriad of positions at DU effective July 1, 1945. His several titles included: dean, College of Law (formerly the School of Law); dean, College of Business Administration (formerly School of Commerce); director of Public Administration; and coordinator of the Civic Center Campus. Price brought outstanding law and business credentials to the double deanships and eventually became chancellor of the University. Prior to his two-year presidential term at Emporia, he served from 1941 to 1943 as dean of the School of Law at Washburn University at Topeka, Kansas. From 1936 until 1941 he headed the business and social science departments at Menlo Junior College in California. And for four years before that, he was a professor of economics at the University of San Francisco. Price was also secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Industrial Commission from 1942 to 1943. He was the first person from outside the Denver legal community to direct DU's legal academic program on a full-time basis.

A native of Manhattan, Kansas, Price earned his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 1927 and then studied at Stanford University, earning his law degree in 1930 and a master's in law in 1937. Prior to returning to Stanford for his master's, Price was a partner in a successful New York investment firm and lived for two years in Shanghai, where he established the first active legal trust business in the Orient. He held seats on the New York Stock Cotton and Commodity Exchanges and the Chicago Board of Trade.

One of Price's major assignments during his first year at DU was to give special attention to the expansion of the business school program. He held strong convictions that undergraduate courses in law, business, and government should be correlated. Since the Colleges of Law and Business Administration were under the same administrative head, it was predicted that it would not be difficult to incorporate work from the business school into the law curriculum. Price introduced the bachelor of science in law degree three-three and two-two-two programs. Under the three-three program, a student with three years of pre-legal work totaling 130 quarter hours, could enter law school and, upon completing a minimum of 120 quarter hours, be eligible for the bachelor of laws (LL.B.) degree. The two-two-two program enabled a student with two years of pre-legal work to enter law school and, in the next two years, cover all of the basic legal courses and qualify for an undergraduate degree with a major in law. The student then elected to pursue either business administration or public administration and, in the final two years, completed legal courses and also devoted about half-time to the other major field of study. The LL.B. degree was awarded at the end of six years. Price explained the program by saying that

At the time of graduation the student will have had two professional fields of training and thus will have wide opportunities in job placement. Many of our students have no intention of entering the practice of law, but none is graduated without the thorough legal training that has always characterized this school.

Derby Day parade, circa 1940s
A program leading to a master's degree in government management was offered under the two-two-two program in the fall of 1949. The bachelor of science in law (BSL) degree program continued through 1961 and was awarded to ninety students during this time. Many students also went on to earn the LLB degree.

Early in Chancellor Gats' tenure, the University maintained an active role in Denver's civic center area despite its unforeseeable future created by the war and the fact that the law school had moved from that area to the main campus. However, the progress of the planning for the University's civic center presence is important to the history of the law school. Helen Bonfils, daughter of one of the founders of The Denver Post, donated a building within the block where the University had long planned to build. It was bounded by the Civic Center and Court Place on two sides, and by 14th and 15th streets on the other two. A government center was formed, located in the building at 1465 Cleveland Place given by Miss Bonfils. Within the center were the Bureau of Business and Social Research, the Department of Government Management, the National Opinion Research Center, the School of Social Work, and the Social Science Foundation. With the decision to expand the business school in this area, the University obtained additional contributions of lots at both ends of Cleveland Place. Miss Bonfils donated a tilling station lot at one end and, at the other, John Evans donated the Mapelli property. In order to prepare for the anticipated influx of veterans at the end of the war, the University organized a $15 million fund raising campaign, which called for expansion of units at both University Park and downtown. The campaign was co-chaired by Frank H. Ricketson, Jr. W19, a member of the University board of trustees and then president of Fox-Intermountain Theatres. A new law building was not among those listed in one report. Price did report to AALS officials however that one of the new buildings would later house the College of Law.

The Westminster family was saddened by the sudden death of Dean Barry on September 2, 1941. He had reportedly refused to heed warnings from physicians, instead maintaining a heavy schedule preparing for the new school year and anticipating a partnership with his son, Hamlet J. Barry, Jr., a 1940 graduate of Westminster.

The Association trustees unanimously agreed by resolution that Dean Barry, more than any other person living or dead, was due the credit for the success of the school. In July 1949, the Association purchased the school's new quarters, a building at 1848 California Street, named the Hamlet J. Barry Memorial Building. The building cost was $35,000 and required another $12,000 in remodeling expenditures.

Succeeding Barry was Clifford W. Mills, who had served as his associate dean. Mills' fourteen-year deanship would cap a long and distinguished career in Denver's legal circles. A native of Lake City, Colorado, where he was born January 21, 1882, Mills inherited his interest in the law. His father, J. Wamer Mills, was a lawyer and his grandfather, Joseph Trotter Mills, was a circuit judge in Grant County, Wisconsin. Mills moved to Denver with his family where his father practiced law and founded the Mills Publishing Co., a publishing house for legal books and legal documents.
The young Mills attended Denver schools, earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and returned to Denver to study law at the University of Denver. In 1908, while still in law school, he married Maude Ketchapaw. Family responsibilities forced him to drop out of law school three months before graduation and he finished his legal education for the bar in a law clerkship.

Mills' association with the Westminster Law School came at the urging of his close friend Barry to accept an appointment to the faculty, which he did in 1917. He confessed that the academic life had always appealed to him. Mills became Barry's associate dean when Barry succeeded Murray. As dean, Mills followed the pattern of his predecessors and DU counterparts, giving half of his time to the school at considerable financial sacrifice and the other half to his law practice. Mills also distinguished himself by serving as a regent of CU longer than any other regent in Colorado history, from 1917 to 1941, with the exception of 1925 to 1927 when, as he noted, "the Ku Klux Klan beat me that term."

Upon his retirement in 1965, and with the strong recommendations of the DU College of Law administration and faculty, the University took the extraordinary step of awarding Mills a bachelor of laws degree. Westminster Law School honored Mills at a testimonial dinner on June 7, 1955, during which he received an honorary doctor of jurisprudence degree as well as other resolutions of appreciation from members of the bar. Three days later, CU also conferred an honorary doctor of laws degree upon Mills.

Westminster struggled during the years of World War II. Enrollment dropped and instructors agreed to serve with no pay to help alleviate the budget crisis. The Westminster Alumni Association, operating under new bylaws and articles of incorporation approved in November 1942, gave $900 to the school in January 1945 to help meet expenses through that fall. Tuition was raised to $210 per year, and by the academic year of 1945-46 there were sufficient funds to pay $1.00 per credit hour to instructors. This was soon increased to $5.00 per night, and the dean's salary was reinstated at $100 per month plus his teaching stipend. Instructors were given bonuses of $2.50 in May 1949. The prosperity of the post-war years and the influx of GIs with veterans benefits boosted enrollment such that instructors' pay rose to $10 per lecture. Projected growth of the school was evidenced by the establishment of two sections of the senior class in July 1948. A legal assistance plan was also established, providing senior law students practical experience in acting as attorneys for indigent persons in the justice courts by appointment of the justices of the peace. The first case was held in the court of Judge Edward Day W'33.

Westminster alumni maintained a very active organization and worked with the faculty in all aspects of the school's operation. At one time, the alumni association sponsored independent courses in public speaking, dramatic reading and the art of expression. Under its 1942 reorganization, Norma Comstock W'32, was elected president. Mrs. Comstock, it should be noted, faithfully served the association, and later the University of Denver, in important ways for many years. She was secretary of the Westminster Board of Trustees from 1946 into the early 1960s and her meticulous minutes provide invaluable historical data.