



PROFESSOR JOSEPH A. SINCLITICO, JR.

TRIBUTES

Joe Sinclitico faced a problem which is relatively unique in our era: how can a viable law school be created out of little more than the desire to do so? Armed with a visionary's will, Joe set about locating a building, founding a library, ferreting out qualified professors and attracting capable students. The likelihood of accomplishment would have seemed negligible to most of us, for to attract students, the school must in fact exist. To hire qualified faculty, each recruit must be assured that an adequate salary, students, a building, and a bright future await them. Together with these intimidating obstacles comes the necessity of finding funds with which to finance the entire project. Joe did these things. One wonders what magic he used. For I remember, now with some chagrin, that the University of Nebraska made an offer to a fine teaching prospect who rejected Nebraska's offer to accept a position at a far-away institution newly named the University of Puget Sound School of Law. At the time I wondered how a new school could so successfully compete for faculty with an established state university. At that time, I did not know Joe.

Dean Sinclitico accomplished another Olympian triumph: in a two-year period he convinced the American Association of Law Schools to accredit his school. The AALS standards are high; but then, so are Joe's. In 1975, the American Bar Association also approved the UPS School of Law. I doubt that another man could have persuaded them to do so. Indeed, UPS was the last law school to be fully accredited prior to moving into a permanent facility.

A few statistics will prove that this tribute is well founded. In February, 1975, the state bar passage rate was 72%; the passage rate for UPS graduates was 91.3%. In July, 1975, the state passage rate was 70%; the passage rate for UPS graduates was 75%. In February, 1976, the state passage rate was 80%; that of UPS was 93.5%. The success of the UPS graduates was not the result of a program designed to assure bar passage. Their success was the result of a program designed to turn a willing student into a capable attorney. Their dean, Joe Sinclitico, was a model for them: a strong will can move a law school in among mountains.

*Wallace M. Rudolph
Dean of University of
Puget Sound Law
School*

Born in Massachusetts, raised in Italy, having to relearn English upon returning to America in his teens, educated at Holy Cross (A.B. 1936) and Harvard Law School (J.D. 1939), admitted to the Bars of Massachusetts (in 1939) and Pennsylvania (in 1960), Joe Sinclitico practiced law, served in the army (Legal and Renegotiation, Ordinance, 1942-46), tried law teaching, and held a number of executive positions in business before settling down to a career as a teacher of law.

Mildly peripatetic, he taught at St. Louis University, Duquesne and San Diego before assuming the deanship at San Diego (in 1964) and the adventure and challenge of building a brand new law school at the University of Puget Sound (in 1972).

Although not peripatetic with respect to the philosophy of Aristotle (Peripatetics), Joe Sinclitico made good use of his Italian linguistic ability while developing his own interests in the philosophy of law during a sabbatical (1970-71) at the University of Rome Del Vecchio Institute of Philosophy of Law. This interest in legal philosophy is reflected in the fact that he has taught some seventeen different subjects during his career, ranging from the commercial to the philosophical. His interest in labor law and arbitration, as well as his experience as a business executive, led him into mediation, conciliation and arbitration, in addition to teaching and deaning, areas in which he has served with distinction.

Able, energetic, with a fine sense of humor and a driving, delightful personality, Joe Sinclitico will long be remembered affectionately by all who have had the good fortune to know him and work with him. His claim to fame, a claim won here in the Pacific Northwest, is associated with his decanal duties at the University of Puget Sound School of Law. Starting from scratch he put together a law school that in record time won the approval of the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association and membership in the Association of American Law Schools.

Students, faculty, bench and bar and the community owe a deep debt of gratitude to Joseph A. Sinclitico, Jr. for his leadership, drive and guidance in developing a school of law that has provided, from its inception, quality legal education.

Joe, we salute you and thank you.

*George Neff Stevens, Professor
Emeritus, University of Puget
Sound Law School*

Professor Joseph A. Sinclitico enjoyed a distinguished career as a lawyer, as a professor of law and as a dean of a San Diego law school before coming to our new law school in 1972. His legal ability and talent in various areas of the law are widely known.

Upon accepting the position of Dean of the University of Puget Sound School of Law, Dean Sinclitico selected a group of young lawyers who wanted to teach law and promptly and vigorously did what had to be done to put a brand new law school into full action in a very short period of time. The Dean was at all times dedicated to the proposition that our law school must be a first class school of law, maintaining high admission requirements for candidates.

Only a person of his exceptional talents possibly could have brought a new law school with new teachers to the point where they could mount the intensive program that resulted in accreditation by the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools in the record time of two and one-half years.

The law school's directions toward excellence continue as they were begun and the University and the law school will be forever indebted to the magnificent start and leadership provided by Joseph Sinclitico in the vital beginnings of this fine institution. To repeat what I have said to Dean Sinclitico many times, "What you have done has been a miracle."

*Judge George Boldt
Senior United States District
Judge (retired)*