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Dean O. H. Thormodsgard

Jerome Hall

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DEAN O. H. THORMODSGARD

COMMENDATION

O. H. Thormodsgard and I were law school classmates, graduating from the University of Chicago in 1923. Our paths diverged but they joined again in 1929 when, going to North Dakota to teach in the Law School, I found Mr. Thormodsgard had preceded me by three years. In the intimacy of a small faculty, headed by Dean Roger Cooley, a friendship developed which has continued these many years, undiminished by distance or the demands of our particular vocations.

The year after I joined the North Dakota faculty, Mr. Thormodsgard became Acting Dean. He was an ideal administrator. Devoted to the interests of the students, he was their constant friend and kindly advisor. Alert to the importance of close relations with the Bar, he took immediate steps to foster its growth. A serious scholar himself, he was cognizant of the needs of the faculty and did everything in human power to improve the facilities, encourage creative scholarship, and insure personal loyalties. Considering the limited resources available, the Dean's accomplishment was a work of genius!

In his participation in the Association of American Law Schools, Dean Thormodsgard has contributed much to legal education in this country. He has been a member of important committees, and has otherwise made his experience and judgment felt. So, too, has he served as a Commissioner on Uniform Laws and in many other important organizations.

Throughout the many avenues of a far-ranging career, sincerity, conscientiousness, and an appreciation of sound values have characterized the man and his work. What he has done in and for North Dakota is a lasting achievement in which anyone might take a pardonable pride. He has raised the standards of legal education, imparted a thoroughness to it that is nowhere excelled, and made the Law School respected everywhere. For me, he remains the symbol of the spiritual warmth and intellectual hospitality of North Dakota, a tower of strength among legal educators and, always, a cherished friend and colleague.

JEROME HALL, Professor
Indiana University Law School