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9-1-1969

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Lindsey Cowen, *A Dean's-Eye View of Thomas F. Green, Jr.* (1969),
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A DEAN'S-EYE VIEW OF THOMAS F. GREEN, JR.

*Lindsey Cowen**

MY first contact with Tom Green occurred six years ago when I was in Athens being interviewed as a prospective dean. I walked into his office and found him behind a desk piled high with books, folders, papers and miscellaneous materials necessary for legal scholarship. Tom's office was filled from floor almost to ceiling, in every available space, with other books and pamphlets. I was aware, of course, of Tom Green's reputation for superior scholarship. Regretfully I must admit that I immediately classified him as an "ivory tower" professor interested primarily in research and publication. My error in so assessing the scope of his interests and activities soon became very clear. Tom Green knew then and knows now the world of legal education, as well as that of the practicing bar. His insight into and understanding of our profession and of its needs is truly astonishing.

Subsequently I learned that the then president of the university had sought Dr. Green's reaction to me as a prospect. Tom's answer is not a matter of record, but I was offered the position; I can assume only that I had passed his scrutiny. By what margin, I will probably never know. It has been clear, however, that he did not give me a blank check. He has always reserved the right to offer constructive criticism and, if he thought it necessary, to oppose proposals from the dean's office. In retrospect, I sometimes wonder how I passed his examination.

Under the new administration, one of Dr. Green's first responsibilities was to make recommendations concerning the curriculum of the University of Georgia School of Law. In summary his report recommended three basic changes:

First, to make a greater effort to educate our students for public responsibility; second, to strengthen our cultural and perspective courses; and third, to increase the number of required courses.

In a sense, the final recommendation was directed to a temporary situation. Time, nevertheless, has proved its wisdom.

The other suggested changes, completely valid at the time, become

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even more important as we enter the 1970's. Elsewhere in his report, Tom stated:

We should introduce the students not only to legal ethics, but also to official ethics, conflict of interests and related topics. Thought should be given to placing greater emphasis on the nature and techniques of policy-making.

In these days and times, the wisdom of his words needs no elaboration.

Concerning cultural and perspective courses, the report continued, "the 'cultural' courses require some attention. The most pressing problem arises from the lack of student interest in these courses." It is enough to say that in the intervening five years, the efforts of Tom Green and younger members of the faculty who have been influenced by him have resulted in a drastic change in the attitude of students. Their enrollment in elective work and formation of culturally-oriented activities, such as the Society of International and Comparative Law, evidence their current respect for cultural or perspective courses.

Until his retirement on June 30, 1969, Tom Green demonstrated his overwhelming concern for excellence in legal education by active participation in faculty debates on all facets of the program. He has always been his own man, guided only by his conception of the proper methods for achieving the excellence which we all seek. There have been many times when he and I were on opposite sides of a particular issue. For instance, on one occasion he announced quite frankly that he was out to "beat me" on a particular proposition. Certainly I do not concede that on each occasion of difference Dr. Green has been right and I have been wrong. However, I do acknowledge fully, freely and gratefully that he has been motivated only by principle; he has worked only for what he considers to be the ultimate good of the School of Law and its students.

In conclusion, whatever success in attaining excellence has been achieved over the forty years of Tom's service to legal education has occurred largely because he has kept his eye on the ultimate goal. Happily he has demanded no less of us who have been associated with him in the task.