

35 Years Service

Senior Dean to Retire

When J. Alton Hosch retires as dean and professor of law of the University of Georgia School of Law at the end of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1964, the nation's oldest chartered state university will lose its senior dean, in point of service, and a barrister-teacher-administrator who has contributed largely to the development of legal education, and who, in recognition, has been the recipient of many high honors, state and national.

Dean Hosch has served the University for 35 years as a faculty member, and at the time of his retirement will have been dean of the Law School for 29 years. He is the oldest dean in point of service of any member school of the Association of American Law Schools and any law school approved by the American Bar Association. During this period, as the record and reputation of his division so continuously proclaim, he has done more than lead. He has played a major role in developmental projects which have literally and figuratively carried the Law School onward and upward.

Back in 1928, Dean Hosch aided tremendously in a reorganization plan, then greatly needed. This accomplished, he returned to law practice in his native Gainesville. But not for long. When Dr. Harmon W. Caldwell was named president of the University, Hosch was brought back to Athens as dean of the Law School.

In 1953, under Dean Hosch's leadership, the Institute of Law and Government was established as an integral part of the Law School and he served as the first director, until 1957, along with his duties as professor and dean. It was at this time that the University's yearbook was dedicated to him, with this tribute:

"For many years of tireless service and outstanding contributions to the University, the 1958 Pandora staff takes pride in dedicating the 71st edition of the Pandora to J. Alton Hosch."

And again last July it became known that this eminent Georgian had once more given the law school an immense boost. His plans for larger facilities and staff were implemented by a Board of Regents announcement of \$2,773,000 for additions to the present law building. It was at this time, and on this high note of achievement, that Dean Hosch asked that he might retire at the end of the present academic year.

In addition to his work at the University of Georgia, Dean Hosch has been a visiting professor of law at Emory University and the University of North Carolina. He has been president of the University of



Dean J. Alton Hosch

Georgia's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and is a member of many other learned, professional, and honorary groups, including Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma, Gridiron and Sphinx. He has been chairman of the board of the University of Georgia Social Science Research Institute.

Dean Hosch is a former president of the Athens Rotary Club, and is a member of the Western Circuit Bar Association, Georgia Bar Association (of which he has been a governor), American Bar Association, Inter-American Bar Association, American Law Institute, American Judicature Society, Personnel Security Board, Atomic Energy Commission. He has been Commissioner on Uniform State Laws for Georgia since 1940, and is a Methodist.

During World War II he was on leave as a Colonel with the Armed Forces. He was on several missions overseas and served as a legal adviser to the United States member on the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo, Japan. He holds the rank of Colonel, Judge Advocate General Corps, United States Army Retired. In recognition of his distinguished military service, Dean Hosch was awarded the Legion of Merit and the citation reads:

"Colonel J. Alton Hosch, 0200305, Judge Advocate General's Department, Army of the United States, as Assistant Chief and later Chief, Contracts Division, Office, Judge Advocate General, from May 1943 to November 1945, ably conducted negotiations for the construction and control of air fields in foreign countries. With outstanding legal ability, keen foresight and sound judgment he rendered invaluable assistance to the success of our operations in the European Theater."

Dean Hosch now serves as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Georgia.

A native of Gainesville, Dean Hosch is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hosch and a brother of Heygood C. Hosch and Hugh W. Hosch of Gainesville. Dean Hosch was educated at Riverside Military Academy, of which for some years he has been a member of the Board of trustees; the University of Georgia; and the Harvard Law School. He was awarded the honorary LL.D. degree by Piedmont College.