

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

J. KEITH MANN

(1924-2006)

Dean J. Keith Mann, a member of the law school faculty from 1952 until his retirement in 1988, died of pneumonia on November 27, 2006 at the age of 82. Keith, as he was known among his colleagues, also served as the law school's academic dean from 1961 to 1985 and as acting dean in 1976 and from 1981 to 1982.

An Illinois native, Keith was a naval officer in World War II and later attended Indiana University and its law school, where he served as the Articles and Book Review Editor of the Law Journal. Upon graduation, the law faculty elected him a member of the Order of the Coif, an honorary society limited to students graduating in the upper ten percent of the class. He then clerked for U. S. Supreme Court Justices Wiley Rutledge and Sherman Minton, practiced law in Washington, D.C., worked for a year as special assistant to the Chair of the U.S. Wage Stabilization Board and taught for a year at the University of Wisconsin before joining the Stanford Law School faculty as an assistant professor.

Keith was a leading expert in labor law and labor arbitration. He was considered the leader of a new emerging group of post World War II arbitrators, and is still remembered for a tutorial on labor arbitration he provided to the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare when he was 27. At Stanford, Keith taught labor law and labor arbitration, courses he infused with his experiences as one of the nation's top arbitrators. He was a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators.

Presidents turned to Keith to help resolve some of the most vexatious labor issues that arose after the war. President Eisenhower's Secretary of Labor, James Mitchell, asked Keith to examine atomic energy labor management problems. President Kennedy appointed him to settle two disputes – between the Southern Pacific Railroad and railway clerks, and between the airlines and the flight engineers. President Johnson appointed Keith as chair of a fact-finding board to help settle the 1967 West Coast shipyard strike. Because of his ability to strike an appropriate balance between the introduction of technological developments in the workplace and job security for displaced workers, President Nixon asked him to help resolve one of the most difficult strikes in recent history – the 1971 longshoremen's strike that lasted 134 days.

Even the United States Supreme Court turned to Keith for help in resolving unusually difficult cases. In 1980 the Court appointed him as a special master to take evidence and resolve complex legal issues between the federal government and the State of Alaska regarding ownership of submerged lands containing valuable mineral deposits. To give students an opportunity to watch a court in action, Keith held the hearings in the law school's moot courtroom. In 1997 the Court adopted as its decision almost word for word Keith's masterful 565 page report.

Keith's contributions to the law school went beyond teaching and scholarly endeavors. As the academic dean for almost 25 years, he served as the right hand to Deans Bayliss Manning, Tom Ehrlich, Charles Meyers, and John Ely. In addition to playing a

leading role in the administration of the school, Keith was a central figure in Stanford's evolution from a top regional law school to one of the top three national law schools. Keith helped recruit nationally renowned scholars, including William B. Gould, who was subsequently appointed by President Bill Clinton as Chair of the National Labor Relations Board, and Barbara Babcock, who was named by President Jimmy Carter as head of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Professors Gould and Babcock brought more than their expertise to the school. Professor Gould was the first tenure-line African American and Professor Babcock the first tenure-line woman hired by the school.

Despite his many administrative duties, Keith made time to mentor young faculty members, helping them choose courses that supported their research interests and ensuring they had all the research resources they needed. More than any other faculty member, he made certain that young faculty felt welcome and valued. During his tenure as associate dean, almost all junior faculty members were promoted to tenure and have remained on the faculty. Keith used his extraordinary poker skills to bring tenured and junior faculty together. He was described by one colleague as "the best poker player I have ever known. In faculty poker games in the 1950s Keith was always the big winner. Eventually he declined to play with us because he was embarrassed – it was like taking candy from children."

Keith also had a special way with students. He was always attentive to their needs and tried to find ways to meet their requests. They have not forgotten him. At alumni gatherings held throughout the country, usually the first person they inquired about was "Dean Mann".

Keith's dedicated service to the law school over so many years will not be forgotten. As former Dean Paul Brest remarked at Keith's memorial service, "Being associate dean is as important a service as there is within a university, and about as thankless a task as I know of. The associate dean does all the messy work, takes responsibility for everything that goes wrong, but doesn't share in the glory when things go well. Yet I can't recall hearing Keith complain about his work or his occasionally ungrateful colleagues. As he served his country, he served the school with extraordinary loyalty, and commitment, and care – and a good dose of humor."

As another colleague remarked, "Every successful law school has a Keith Mann, but we were singularly fortunate to have ours for over 25 years."

Keith is survived by Virginia Mann, his wife of 56 years; their children, William, Marilyn, Kevin, Susan and Andrew; and three grandchildren.

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