

PAST AND FUTURE: THE SAME

DANIEL GORDON*

During the 1987-1988 school year, Professor Siegfried Wiessner lobbied Dean Jacqueline Allee and the St. Thomas University School of Law faculty to create a law review. Professor Wiessner prevailed, and the *St. Thomas Law Review* served, and continues to serve, as an intellectual anchor for the School of Law. The *Law Review* contributes to the School of Law and its continued development and maturation in a number of ways:

The *Law Review* creates a focal point for student academic leadership. The *Law Review* editors and staff serve as the student academic leadership. They set the tone for the serious learning tasks implicated in training for lawyering, which includes a strong intellectual skill set.

The *Law Review* serves as a center for ethical practice for St. Thomas law students. The editors and staff possess great autonomy, which contrasts with the typical law school classroom under the direction of faculty. This autonomy requires an ethical commitment to the scholars who publish in the *St. Thomas Law Review*. With few exceptions over the years, the *Law Review* has taken its responsibilities to authors very seriously. Issues emerge in a timely fashion. The cite check and other work obtains completion in a timely manner.

The *Law Review* also serves as an intellectual showcase for students and the School of Law. A marvelous example involved the superb job the *Law Review* performed when it hosted many law reviews throughout the United States for the National Conference of Law Reviews. The *Law Review* managed the conference with great planning and execution.

The *Law Review* assures that the School of Law participates fully as a vital component of a Catholic university sponsored by the Archdiocese of Miami. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* requires that Catholic universities and their component schools and departments advance academic freedom and an interface of ideas. The *Law Review* serves as tangible evidence that St. Thomas University is a serious Catholic institution of higher education that encourages intellectual dialogue.

The *Law Review* assures that the School of Law participates in a broader intellectual narrative, connecting St. Thomas with national and

* Daniel Gordon is a former Professor of Law at St. Thomas University School of Law. He served on the Board of Faculty Advisors for the *St. Thomas Law Review* in 1992 and as its sole faculty advisor from 1993 to 1997 and in 2007.

international legal academics, practitioners, and the courts. Over the years, articles have been cited in a variety of intellectual and practice venues.

The future will remain the same. At least, this former *St. Thomas Law Review* advisor hopes so. Yes, the *Law Review* will adapt to a new electronic format along with other law reviews. The *Law Review* may well include some type of blog or ongoing electronic real time dialogue. However, the contributions of the *Law Review* to the School of Law, its students and faculty, the Catholic university and its sponsor, the legal academy, practitioners, and the courts will remain steady. Hopefully, a former advisor will write the same account twenty-five years from now.