

ALBERT JAMES HARNO
1889-1966

Albert James Harno was born in Holabird, South Dakota, on January 30, 1889, and died at LaJolla, California, on June 22, 1966. He earned the B.S. degree at South Dakota Wesleyan University in 1911 and the LL.B. at Yale in 1914. Upon graduation from Yale he entered the practice of law in Los Angeles, California, where he remained until he became dean and professor of law at Washburn College at Topeka, Kansas, in 1917. After serving at Washburn for two years, he went to the University of Kansas for a like period, and came to the University of Illinois as Professor of Law in 1921. The next year, 1922, President Kinley appointed him Dean of the College of Law, in which position he served until his retirement in 1957. In addition, he served as Provost from 1931 to 1944, when, faced with the decision to choose between the two positions, he returned to full-time work in the College of Law.

During his years as Dean, the College grew in stature and was recognized as a leading midwestern law school. Recruited to the faculty in those years were some of the outstanding teachers and scholars of the country. Dean Harno received recognition as a leading legal educator by his election as President of the Association of American Law Schools, National President of the Order of the Coif (the law school honor society), and Chairman of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association in the years of World War II. He acted upon his conviction that a university man in a professional field should take part in the problems and advancement of that profession, and his many offices and honors in lawyers' organizations attest to the vigor and effectiveness of his interest in law and lawyers.

It is difficult to measure Dean Harno's contribution to the University of Illinois, for his counsel and his quiet wisdom were sought in connection with most of the University's problems.

The Committee of Nine which was to propose a reorganization of the University through new acts and statutes had his services as Chairman. As Provost of the University he was influential in formulating major educational policies for the University, and many of the responsibilities of the office of Provost were established during his tenure. Many individual faculty members sought his advice on personal as well as institutional questions. He had the rare ability to listen and lead others to their own conclusions.

Though he retired from the University in 1957, it remained first in his interest and affection. While he was Acting Dean at the University of California at Law Angeles and Professor of Law at Hastings College of Law--positions which he held after his retirement here--he always used the pronoun "we" to refer to activities at Illinois and "they" to describe the faculties of which he was then a member.

Five universities, including our own recognized his contributions to education and to his profession by awarding him honorary doctor's degrees. He was given the medal of the American Bar Foundation for distinction in legal research.

As administrator, scholar, teacher, and friend, he will long be remembered for his service to this University.

(This memorial is in this somewhat abbreviated form because the University of Illinois Foundation has published a longer tribute to Dean Harno under the title "Young at Heart," a copy of which is attached to this resolution for inclusion in the records of the Senate. Copies can be supplied to members of the Senate by the College of Law.)

Edward W. Cleary
Russell N. Sullivan