

A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR STEVEN G. GEY

Professor Steve Gey's name first appeared as faculty advisor for the *Florida State University Law Review* in its Spring 1987 issue. Twenty-one years later, his name still graces the masthead. Amazingly, Professor Gey has served as faculty advisor to the *Law Review* for almost two-thirds of its existence, a true feat considering his numerous other demands as an enormously popular teacher, extraordinarily productive scholar, frequent participant in pro bono causes, and leader in faculty governance. Even while meeting all of these other obligations, Professor Gey has provided unflagging support and dedication to the *Law Review*.

The *Law Review* takes this occasion to pay tribute to the man who has, with wit and warmth, shepherded the journal through two very full decades. On the surface, the position of faculty advisor to a student-run legal journal may not seem terribly demanding. By their very nature, however, student-run journals have high annual member turnover. Each incoming editorial board becomes fully active at the end of the spring semester; twelve months later, a new board eagerly steps up to take the reins. As each graduating class of *Law Review* members bids farewell to the Ausley House, an enormous amount of institutional knowledge leaves with them. Although staff manuals and training documents record the journal's basic procedures and editing processes, each incoming board is faced with an overwhelming amount to learn.

Beyond the expected challenges of piece selection and editing lies the perennial task of uniting over fifty law students (all with differing schedules, interests, and outside responsibilities) into a cohesive and focused journal staff. Here is where Professor Gey especially excels as faculty advisor. He is the epitome of an active advisor, one who continually checks in and spends time with *Law Review* members. As new editors settle into their roles and begin preparations for the upcoming volume, Professor Gey is the fount of institutional wisdom from which the new board draws support and encouragement. He pulls from over twenty years of experience in advising each editorial board on how to produce the best volume possible.

In comments collected from past members and editors, one theme consistently emerges. Professor Gey is always there. Period. Any time his *Law Review* "kids" need him, he is there. An incoming Editor in Chief immediately receives three phone numbers for Professor Gey—at home, at school, or on the go—a signal of his willingness to be available whenever the journal needs him. And the *Law Review* frequently does need him. One past Editor in Chief recalls that her term in office was a particularly busy year for the journal. Novel issues kept arising and she regularly needed Professor Gey's advice (and sense of humor). He always answered

her calls, no matter what time of day or night, and helped guide the journal through a very demanding year.

More recently, when the *Law Review* was inundated with articles during a busy fall submissions period, Professor Gey happily and eagerly rallied together a group of professors to gather one evening and support the journal staff during an article-reading “party.” The camaraderie that Professor Gey and his merry band of law professors supplied that night buoyed the spirits of the journal staff more than the pizza and cases of soda ever could. Professor Gey certainly had other things to do that evening, but he chose to spend it at the Ausley House with his “kids” and stacks of articles.

Beyond his position as advisor to the *Law Review*, Professor Gey has played a significant role in the lives of many students. Several current and former students credit Professor Gey as the reason they came to Florida State. Other students list him as the reason they stayed in law school after difficult first semesters. Even more students recall that Professor Gey helped them hurdle some stage of the admission or orientation process at Florida State. It is accurate to say that Professor Gey has helped countless students at Florida State, and each of those students had their law school experience enriched as a result.

There are enough fond memories and stories about Professor Gey to fill an entire volume. With that in mind, we hope this tribute presents our readers with a small glimpse into why we are so fortunate to have him as our advisor. In the following pages, three scholars will discuss the numerous accomplishments of their peer and friend, Professor Steve Gey. Erwin Chemerinsky will share his thoughts on Professor Gey’s scholarship, Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte will discuss Professor Gey’s advocacy work, and Nat Stern will detail Professor Gey’s notable impact on the Florida State University College of Law.

With this tribute, we seek to pay a debt of gratitude to Professor Gey. As classes and assignments and editing deadlines flew by over the past twenty-one years, we failed to pause and contemplate the vast, enduring impact that this one remarkable person was having on our organization. He is more than just our faculty advisor; he is a renowned scholar, an institutional cornerstone, and a powerful advocate. He is amazing and incomparable. He is our friend.

Thank you, Professor Gey.

-The Florida State University Law Review