

FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE DEAN

October 29th, 1963.

Hon. Mr. Justice V. C. MacDonald,
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Vinc:

It was good to hear from you and to learn that you still keep one foot in the academic path of virtue. I am not at all sure about your comparison of the influence of professors of law with that of erudite members of the Bench. From time to time I wonder if the academic voices have any influence at all. Perhaps the difficulty is that I am looking for it amongst the judges.

In a way, I think you may have a point. It seems to me that most of the problems in my field about which I used to spend so much effort have, most of them, been solved in the way in which I have prophesied. I take not the slightest credit for which since I think the results were more or less inevitable but, of course, for public consumption we can pat ourselves resoundingly on the back, even if we are not sure who was responsible for what. I suppose the real answer is that all of us connected with the law, no matter in what capacity, are forced along its main currents, no matter how hard we may struggle to the contrary, and in that sense all of us contribute our small bits to the "coral reef". I think Frankfurter's analogy applies to anybody connected with law in any capacity.

Your comments that for the first time in thirty years you and your wife are now alone is another reminder-- I seem to have so many these days--that we are all of us getting older. We still have Bill more or less permanently with us. John was married a couple of years ago and Carol, having joined the ranks of the medical practitioners three years ago, is sometimes with us and sometimes away.

About three weeks ago I had to attend a 35th year reunion dinner--being the first class I taught at Osgoode Hall. When I saw all the tired old faces, I practically required a stretcher to take me home. At one time

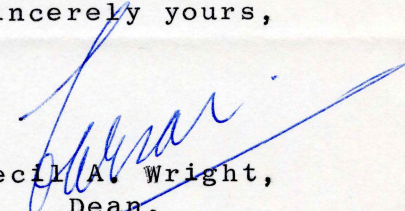
I used to think that association with young undergraduates might keep the sources of eternal youth bubbling with zest. This is another illusion that is disappearing with the years. True, they still bubble but I usually am at a very low simmering point.

We are still in the process of getting our building completed here. At long last they have begun work on our new Moot Court-Classroom and it may be that sometime in the spring it will be ready for occupation. As we have a first year of about 133, the use of this is almost mandatory. We are attempting to keep our various classes below 75 and the problem of sectioning first and second year is becoming acute; this means that our staff of 13 to 14 will have to be raised close to the twenty mark. In many ways, I regret this since it seems to me we are getting in the big business class and not only am I out of touch with what students are doing but I really am at a loss to know what various members of the faculty are doing--if anything.

When I last saw Peter, he was on his way to Australia, I presume to visit Brian. I did not know he had returned, as he must have done according to your letter. I hope he got as much out of his trip as he was hoping when I last saw him.

When you get a chance, I hope that you and Hilda will pay a visit to Toronto where we might have an opportunity of ruining the reputations of whatever friends we may have left. In the meantime, all the good wishes of myself and my wife to you and your long-suffering spouse.

Sincerely yours,


Cecil A. Wright,
Dean.

CAW/jm.