

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Preface | vii |
| Acknowledgments | ix |
| Chapter 1. Family, Growing Up, and Harvard College | 1 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 5 |
| Chapter 2. Harvard Law School | 9 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 11 |
| Chapter 3. Teaching in China | 17 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 25 |
| Chapter 4. Early Teaching Years | 29 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 35 |
| Chapter 5. World War I | 41 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 49 |
| Chapter 6. Some Other Law Schools | 51 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 60 |
| Chapter 7. Harvard and Law Reform | 65 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 70 |

A Harvard Law School Professor

| | |
|--|-----|
| Chapter 8. World War II and Post War | 75 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 80 |
| Chapter 9. Travel, Retirement and Visitorships | 89 |
| Addendum to Memoirs of Warren A. Seavey by His Son | 91 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 92 |
| Chapter 10. Reflections on Writings | 97 |
| Additional Information and Observations | 100 |
| General Bibliography | 103 |

Preface

It is hoped that *Life of a Law Professor* will be interesting not only to law students and professors, but also the vast number of lawyers (now more than a million) who have spent three significant years of their lives in law school. Students rarely know much about their professors. They are distant icons in the classroom setting; disappearing to their offices afterwards. Almost nothing is known of their lives. But law professors often have most interesting careers.

This book is about the life of one of the most famous professors of Harvard Law School. Indeed, some of his expertise became embodied in Harvard students over many years, in the Restatements of the Law, in textbooks and casebooks, cites in court opinions, and in the education of students at a series of law schools all over the country where he served as a visiting professor in his later retirement years. Professor Warren Seavey's legal career spans two-thirds of a century, witnessing gigantic changes in legal education.

Doing this book was especially enjoyable because I felt great empathy with Professor Seavey. We both went to Harvard Law School, though at different times. As a student, I had the opportunity to see him conduct class. We both taught law in China, travelled on the Siberian Express, edited and published casebooks, textbooks, and law journal articles. Both of us had problems with authority figures at times. We were both active members of the American Law Institute, taught at a number of American law schools, were active in asserting civil liberties and civil rights, and had the opportunity to test out retirement. My empathy is combined with great admiration for his skills as a classroom teacher and as a legal scholar.

This book is unique in several ways. For one, it seeks to give an overview of some of the issues and changes that have taken place over the century. In the General Observations, which follow each chapter, there is

A Harvard Law School Professor

reflection not only on legal education at that time, but also some comparisons between law school developments at the turn of the century and the new millennium. It gives a “present tense” in the life of the professor, and a past and future tense in terms of Harvard. It gives some insight on law schools generally and the lives of professors today. Hopefully, much of this is accomplished—but if not there is still the fascinating life of Professor Seavey for the reader to enjoy.

This book is co-authored by two law professors: Professor Warren Seavey of Harvard Law School and by a Harvard Law School graduate, Professor Donald King of Saint Louis University. But it is unique in that it is a book co-written by a deceased professor and one who is still alive! How can a book be co-authored now by a person who has been dead for a number of years and one who is alive? This is accomplished by having a different type of book. There are the recollections of Professor Warren Seavey, written when he was still alive and then preserved by his family. Added to this account of various stages of his life are the observations of Professor King, who spent a semester as a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School and who recently edited a book, *Legal Education for the 21st Century*.

Finally, this is a book which has been promised “a party” at Harvard Law School—something most books don’t get! Upon its publication, the Special Collections Department of the Harvard Law School library will host a reception for it. Accompanying this will be a display of Warren Seavey memorabilia which have been preserved by the Seavey family as well as manuscripts, letters, and other documents contained in the rare manuscripts collection.

The book is meant not only for one’s entertainment, but also to raise some questions about life, legal education, and society. In addition, the types and massiveness of forces of change across the century cannot help but emerge. If the reader finds the book enjoyable and if only several questions lodge themselves in the reader’s mind for further thought, then the book will have been a success—it will have deserved its party!