

Louisiana Law Review

Volume 53
Number 1 *September 1992*

Article 3

9-1-1992

Dedication: R. Gordon Kean, Jr.

Jane H. Barney

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Jane H. Barney, *Dedication: R. Gordon Kean, Jr.*, 53 La. L. Rev. (1992)

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Dedication to the Late Dean Paul M. Hebert

The first article in volume one of this Law Review (1938) was an address by Dean Roscoe Pound entitled "The Influence of the Civil Law in America." Dean Pound delivered the address as part of a symposium held in connection with the dedication of what was then the new law school building. In concluding, Dean Pound emphasized the Civil Law as the basis for all comparative law. ("... comparative law takes its whole scheme and system from the civil law . . ." (p. 16).)

The confluence in 1938 of the conference, the dedication of the law building, and the start of the law review reflected the vision of the Dean of the Law School, Paul M. Hebert. All of this was part of Dean Hebert's successful initiative to revitalize the Civil Law in Louisiana. However, Dean Hebert's broad view of law was concerned with more than the law of Louisiana. He looked to international and comparative law as a means of better understanding our own legal system, improving it and moving toward the unification of law in those areas in which that might be advantageous, e.g. commercial law.

Dean Hebert played an important role after World War II in the movement to create an international order. As a judge at the Nuerenberg Trials in the I.G. Farben case, Hebert dissented in part from the acquittal of some defendants on charges of using slave labor. In that dissent, Judge Hebert wrote:

International law cannot possibly be considered as operating in a complete vacuum of legal irresponsibility—in which crime on such a broad scale can be actively participated in by a corporation exercising the power and influence of Farben without those who are responsible for participating in the policies being liable therefor.

For forty years thereafter the division of the world into American and Soviet spheres retarded efforts aimed at international cooperation and the unification of law. Since the demise of the Soviet Union, those efforts have been revived. Most of the current emphasis for unification of law has focused on the harmonization of economic standards from one country to another. The integration of the European Community and the attempts to integrate North America economically into a single free trade zone have encouraged the use of a comparative approach to law. Dean Pound's 1938 address, which cited the "economic unification of the World (going on in spite of Nationalism everywhere)" as evidence of the need for comparative law, has become ever so current today.

This symposium on International and Comparative Law is appropriately dedicated to the memory of Dean Paul M. Hebert and the continuation of his vision for the Law Center and the Law Review as

institutions which teach and improve the Civil Law in Louisiana within the larger context of international and comparative law. By happy coincidence, the editor-in-chief for this volume of the Law Review is the adoptive granddaughter of Dean Hebert. The Law Review encourages the submission of articles on international and comparative law for publication in this or other Law Center journals.

John S. Baker, Jr.

*This Issue of the
Louisiana Law Review
Is Respectfully
Dedicated to
R. Gordon Kean, Jr.*

