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Teree E. Foster

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## DEPAUL AT 100: ST. VINCENT, MARTIN, AND DAVID

*Teree E. Foster\**

As DePaul University celebrates its Centennial Anniversary, two reasons account for the uncommon pride with which I pen this introduction to *DePaul Law Review's* Centennial Tribute by Provost David Hall, entitled *The Challenges of Black Leadership in the Twenty-First Century*. The first reason encompasses the visionary, spiritual, and moral leadership relationship that existed between Provost Hall and Dr. Martin Luther King, the extraordinary person to whom he pays tribute. David was a third-year law student at the University of Oklahoma when I began teaching law. As we worked together on undertakings that embraced and advanced equality and justice, it was obvious to all with whom he came in contact that David Hall would make maximum use of his ample gifts: penetrating intelligence; profound integrity; abiding principle; passion regarding equality, justice, and truth; and vibrant, inspirational oratory, and wit, all expressed through a bass voice that is at once riveting and mellifluous. That he would dedicate himself to the pivotal principles espoused by Dr. King and would, by his deeds make a mark indelible and inestimable upon the world, was never doubted.

David answered the call of service to Dr. King's momentous vision whenever and however that call came. After graduating with a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, he earned LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard University. He began his legal career with the Federal Trade Commission in Chicago, but moved after two years to the academy, where the vision he shared with Dr. King could form the basis for influencing a generation of law students who would themselves shape society.

As a law professor, a law school dean, and now a university provost, David has worked capably and effectively as a disciple of Dr. King, serving both justice and the law with consummate skill and grace.

It is his work as an educator and administrator that provides the second reason for my profound pride in introducing this article. David has been an instrumental influence on legal education and on the practice of law, and it is his work as a reformer of legal education

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\* Dean and Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law

that has had a most consequential influence. He has been in the forefront of a vision of legal education that subsumes classroom pedagogy and academic rigor to an ethic of service. Northeastern University, where David served as professor, dean and now provost, requires substantial public service and public interest internships during the law school experience. The school utilizes education as a means to providing service to assuage the needs of human beings and of the larger community.

This vision of professional education is consonant with the core Vincentian values of DePaul University.<sup>1</sup> For 100 years, DePaul University has continued to strive toward those principles of justice, equality and preservation of human dignity that characterized Dr. King's vision. The charter of DePaul University, adopted in 1907, explicitly proclaimed that the religious affiliation of an applicant, or lack thereof, would have no influence upon that person's admission to the University.<sup>2</sup> From the outset, DePaul University's student body was comprised largely of immigrants and the children of immigrants.<sup>3</sup> In 1911, DePaul became the first Catholic university in America to admit women students,<sup>4</sup> and the admission of African-Americans followed within a few years.<sup>5</sup> DePaul University's culture and education em-

1. The university derives its title and fundamental mission from St Vincent de Paul, the founder of . . . a religious community whose members, Vincentians, established and continue to sponsor DePaul. Motivated by the example of St. Vincent, who instilled a love of God by leading his contemporaries in serving urgent human needs, the DePaul community is above all characterized by ennobling the God-given dignity of each person. This religious personalism is manifested by the members of the DePaul community in a sensitivity to and care for the needs of each other and of those served, with a special concern for the deprived members of society. DePaul University emphasizes the development of a full range of human capabilities and appreciation of higher education as a means to engage cultural, social, religious and ethical values in service to others.

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY, *THE MISSION OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY* (1998) (adopted by the Board of Trustees, DePaul University, Nov. 1991)(on file with *DePaul Law Review*).

2. Dennis P. McCann, *The Foundling University: Reflections on the Early History of DePaul*, in DEPAUL UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL ESSAYS AND IMAGES 51, 53 (John L. Rury & Charles S. Suchar eds., 1998)(on file with the *DePaul Law Review*) [hereinafter referred to as CENTENNIAL ESSAYS AND IMAGES].

3. John L. Rury, *Student Life and Campus Culture at DePaul: A Hundred Year History*, in CENTENNIAL ESSAYS AND IMAGES, *supra* note 2, at 171, 172-74.

4. The Articles of Incorporation adopted in 1907 obligate the DePaul University "to provide, impart and furnish opportunities for all departments of higher education to persons of both sexes on equal terms." McCann, *supra* note 2, at 60. The women who entered in 1911 studied part-time to obtain teacher accreditation, *id.* at 54, although a few women entered the Colleges of Law and of Commerce. Rury, *supra* note 3, at 177. In 1916, full-time women students were admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences, and the numbers of women in LA&S quickly grew to 40% of the student body. *Id.*

5. For many decades, DePaul's nondiscriminatory core principles assured the University, and the College of Law, a high proportion of Jewish students, who confronted quotas at many other

phasize individual human dignity, concern for the poor, provision of educational opportunity to those for whom access to education might be difficult or impossible, and amelioration of the community.<sup>6</sup>

It is most fitting that during the celebratory Centennial of DePaul University, David Hall's speech responds to the challenges and the accomplishments forged by Dr. King, and in turn, forges a path for the future of African-American leadership. David's leadership in and contributions to the continuing struggle for equality and justice remain highly significant, because his work has been sustained throughout the years, because he devotes every shred of his prodigious talent and energy to this endeavor, and because his vision—like that of Dr. King—is so lucid and so unerring. His efforts have resulted in permanent change, which affects, enhances, and humanizes legal education and the law which governs the citizens of this society.

I close with a personal observation. David is a highly valued treasure, a resource of immense abilities and influence, a highly capable and effective advocate for justice. His words sear one's soul, yet he remains a modest, unassuming person. David Hall influences people not by the power of his personality, but by the greatness of his spirit and the effectiveness of his deeds. We are honored that his contributions are part of DePaul University's Centennial celebration and the *DePaul Law Review's* Centennial issue.

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Chicago universities and law schools. For example, in the 1930's, Jewish students comprised roughly 25% of the student body at DePaul and approximately 40% of students enrolled in the College of Law. *Id.* at 171, 179-80.

6. Richard Meister, *Epilogue, DePaul and the Future of Higher Education*, in CENTENNIAL ESSAYS AND IMAGES, *supra* note 2, at 345, 351.

