
In Memoriam: Francis Xavier Busch (1879-1975)

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IN MEMORIAM



FRANCIS XAVIER BUSCH
1879-1975

The Board of Editors of the DePaul Law Review are proud to dedicate this issue to the memory of the late Francis Xavier Busch, founding Dean and Dean Emeritus of the DePaul University College of Law.

FRANCIS XAVIER BUSCH 1879-1975

On November 29, 1975, after a long illness, Francis Xavier Busch was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama, near his Wetumpka home, "Rosebusch Hill." Dean Busch had lived to the age of 96, and for this reason one might be tempted to measure his success simply in terms of longevity. In his case, however, the nearly five score years were filled with a lifelong commitment to the service of mankind.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 9, 1879, Dean Busch moved with his family to Chicago in 1895. After employment as a secretary at the Chicago stockyards, he entered the Illinois School of Law which had been established in Chicago in 1897 by Dr. Howard N. Ogden. Upon graduation in 1901, he began the practice of law, soon to return to his alma mater as adjunct professor. As the school grew in size it began to attract to its faculty such scholars and practitioners as George Warvelle and Clarence Darrow, with whom Busch enjoyed teaching. While he taught, he continued to be a serious student of the law, earning the LL.M. in 1905 and the LL.D. in 1912.

It was also in 1912 that the Illinois School of Law became fully merged with DePaul University as its College of Law. Francis Xavier Busch was chosen as the college's founding dean, a position he held until 1923 when he was named Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. During his tenure as dean, the College of Law became fully accredited by the Association of American Law Schools and instituted a policy of openness to all qualified applicants, regardless of race, creed, or sex. This policy was supported and encouraged by the Vincentian heritage of the University and has remained the commitment of the College of Law.

In 1927 Dean Busch returned to the private practice of law in the Chicago firm of Taylor, Miller, Busch and Boyden (now Taylor, Miller, Magner, Sprowl and Hutchings). In 1931 Mayor Anton Cermak recalled him to reorganize Chicago's legal department and in 1933 he was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be the special assistant to the United States Attorney General. This same year Dean Busch married Jean Mapes Lucas who introduced him to the Alabama countryside he was to fall in love with and finally retire to in 1954. Until his retirement,

he continued an active association with the College of Law and was in part responsible for the professional education of at least 2500 attorneys.

Throughout his professional career Dean Busch was active in the Democratic Party, participating in the national conventions of 1924 and 1928. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and had served on the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners and the Chicago Civil Service Commission. In 1929 he was elected President of the Chicago Bar Association.

In addition to his teaching and public service Dean Busch was an accomplished trial lawyer and author. Among his many publications are *Casebook of the Curious and True* (1957), *Law and Tactics in Jury Trials* (1949), *In and Out of Court* (1942), *Outlines of Elementary Law* (1920), *Outlines of Common Law Pleading* (1912), and the inaugural article for this *Review*, "The Art of Jury Persuasion," 1 *DePaul L. Rev.* 1 (1951).

A disciplined enthusiast for the practice and the rule of law, Francis Xavier Busch will be missed and remembered for years to come by the profession, the city, and the school which he so deeply loved and so honorably served.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

The Very Rev. John R. Cortelyou, C.M.

PRESIDENT

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

