

**Tribute to
Dean Stanley A. Samad, 1920–2000**

Stanley A. Samad is credited with laying the foundation for The University of Akron School of Law as we know it today. A Cincinnati area native and the son of a machinist, Dean Samad was 39 years old when he left Franklin University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, after eight years as Dean, to become the founding Dean of The University of Akron School of Law in 1959. The University of Akron and the Akron Law School merged that year, and Dean Samad oversaw the Law School's transition from a small night school with a part time faculty, to a fully accredited program.

"He had some difficult times while raising the Law School's stature, but he was always able to surmount them," said the late Norman P. Auburn, who was president of The University of Akron from 1951 to 1971. "He had the vision to see the Law School for what it could become and followed through with that vision."

During Dean Samad's twenty year tenure, he helped implement the merger of The Akron Law School, founded in 1921, with The University of Akron, and the transition of the Law School to its first on-campus location in Leigh Hall. Under his leadership, the School of Law obtained American Bar Association accreditation in 1961 and became a member of the Association of American Law Schools in 1974. He oversaw the building of the C. Blake McDowell Law Center, which was dedicated in 1973. His tenure as Dean saw the faculty expand from only three full time members to over 20 full time faculty, and the establishment of a Clinical Program staffed by full time attorneys and faculty members. "His work is the foundation upon which all the rest of us have been building," said Richard Aynes, current Dean of the University of Akron School of Law.

Many alumni tell stories of Dean Samad's generous support of their efforts to become law students and members of the bar. Judge Joseph Vukovich ('73), a former state representative and now a judge on the Ohio Seventh District Court of Appeals, recognized Dean Samad's work to ensure that the Law School remained a place where people from all walks of life could pursue law degrees. "I don't know if I would be a lawyer, let alone a judge, if it wasn't for Dean Samad," Vukovich recounts. Vukovich was in a combat area of Vietnam when he applied

to the School of Law in 1969 and he could not send a check for the seat deposit. Yet, the Law School gladly accepted him.

A portrait honoring Dean Samad was unveiled in a ceremony in the Law School's atrium on June 24, 2002. Many of his friends, relatives, colleagues and students were on hand for the ceremony. A committee chaired by Judge Marvin Shaprio ('65) coordinated the efforts to establish the portrait and scholarship fund. "We can think of no more fitting tribute to Dean Samad's memory than to dedicate the portrait to the Law School and begin the funding of the scholarship that will bear his name," said Judge Shaprio. "He always cared deeply for his students, many of whom would not be attorneys today without his help." The Stanley A. Samad Scholarship will continue Dean Samad's support for students while also providing a perpetual memory of his many contributions to the School of Law.

Dean Samad received his law degree from The University of Cincinnati and an LL.M. from New York University. He was a member of the Army Air Corps in World War II. Stanley A. Samad died on November 18, 2000. He was 80 years old.