

B.K. ROBERTS HALL DEDICATION

Florida State University
November 19, 1974

The State of Florida,
Florida State University,

and

Florida State University College of Law

honor

B. K. ROBERTS,

Justice, Supreme Court of Florida

1949-

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Florida

1953-54, 1961-63, 1971-72

Florida State University College of Law
November 19, 1974

PROGRAM



Presiding JOSHUA M. MORSE, III,
Dean, Florida State University
College of Law

Invocation REVEREND WALTER H. STYLES,
Pastor,
Faith Presbyterian Church

Welcome DEAN MORSE

Remarks MASON LADD,
Dean Emeritus,
Florida State University
College of Law

JOHN GERMANY,
Chairman, Board of Visitors,
Florida State University
College of Law

Remarks and Introduction J. STANLEY MARSHALL,
President,
Florida State University

Address and Dedication HONORABLE REUBIN O'D. ASKEW,
Governor of Florida

Response HONORABLE B. K. ROBERTS,
Justice,
Supreme Court of Florida

CHAPTER 73-370

SENATE BILL NO. 905

AN ACT designating the building housing the College of Law at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "B. K. Roberts Hall"; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, B. K. Roberts was born of a pioneer Florida family in the town of Sopchoppy and the County of Wakulla, Florida, on February 5, 1907, and developed his love of books and letters early by becoming the youngest licensed public school teacher in the history of Florida at the age of fourteen; and thereafter in 1928 entering the practice of law in Tallahassee, Florida, having been awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Florida College of Law, followed by admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States; and

WHEREAS, he continued in his practice until 1942, when he patriotically responded to the call of his country by enlisting and serving with distinction in the United States Naval service until 1946, after which he resumed the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, his distinction as a citizen, scholar of the law, and student of government led to his appointment as a Justice to the Supreme Court of Florida in [1949], an office which he has held continuously since that time; and

WHEREAS, in recognition and respect for his ability and the fidelity with which he discharged his duties, his colleagues and Associate Justices unanimously elected him to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida in 1953 and 1954, an honor which was to make the said B. K. Roberts the youngest Chief Justice of any state in the Union; and

WHEREAS, his colleagues of the Court have continued their recognition of the said B. K. Roberts by subsequently electing him to two additional two-year terms as Chief Justice, 1961-1963, and 1971-1972, an honor which has been bestowed on only two other men in our State's history; and in 1972 he was honored nationally by being elected Deputy Chairman of the National Conference of Chief Justices; and

WHEREAS, as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida for over twenty-three years, he has enriched the law with his learning, strengthened the court with his character, and added new security to the liberties and freedom of our citizens through his interpretation of the Constitution and laws of our land; and



President of Student Bar Association Diane Grubbs and Justice Roberts

WHEREAS, in addition, the said B. K. Roberts has continued his quest to assist the cause of a better government by serving on the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission from 1966 to 1967, as Chairman of the subcommittee on human rights, and as Chairman of the Judicial Council of Florida from 1962 until the present; and

WHEREAS, the said B. K. Roberts, through his proven leadership and ability in seeking a better government and his interest in the rights of the people before the law is widely known as one of the Country's most serious students of judicial reform, having been a primary sponsor and architect of the Florida Public Defender System, and Judicial Qualification Commission and, more recently, the general revision of our entire trial court structure and administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, it is generally known throughout the University community that for over ten years he worked with dedication and undaunted persistence towards the creation of the Florida State University College of Law; and

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

WHEREAS, in recognition of this goal and devotion, the Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Florida University System, in 1965, appointed him as Chairman of a Citizens Activation Committee to promote, establish, and develop the said Florida State University College of Law; and

WHEREAS, all projections and advice suggested that such an institution could not be in operation in less than three years, or considered for accreditation in less than five years, it was primarily due to the faith, persuasion and ingenuity of the said B. K. Roberts that in the span of one year a dean of national reputation and a faculty of outstanding scholars of the law had been retained, a temporary but adequate facility had been made available, a generous private contribution had furnished a basic library and, to the amazement of all, in September, 1966, the doors of the Florida State University College of Law opened to greet an entering class of 125 freshmen; and

WHEREAS, the development and reputation of the college was thereafter phenomenal with full accreditation by the American Bar Association and membership in the Association of American Law Schools being granted within three years of its opening, and the successful passage of the Florida Bar Examination by 100 per cent of the participating members of its first graduating class; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and the Legislature of the State of Florida desire in some fitting way to honor the said B. K. Roberts for his contributions to his people, government and profession, and deem it appropriate that such recognition can be extended and such honor worthily bestowed by setting aside and honoring with his name the building which houses his most beloved achievement, the Florida State University College of Law; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Mason Ladd, the founding Dean of such College of Law has, in writing, recommended that the Law School be named in honor of Justice B. K. Roberts, NOW, THEREFORE,
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The structure owned by the State of Florida and presently housing the Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee, Florida, shall bear the name of the individual who has given so much of his life to the principles taught within that institution and contributed so much to the existence of it, and said building shall be hereafter known as the "B. K. Roberts Hall."

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1973.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1973.

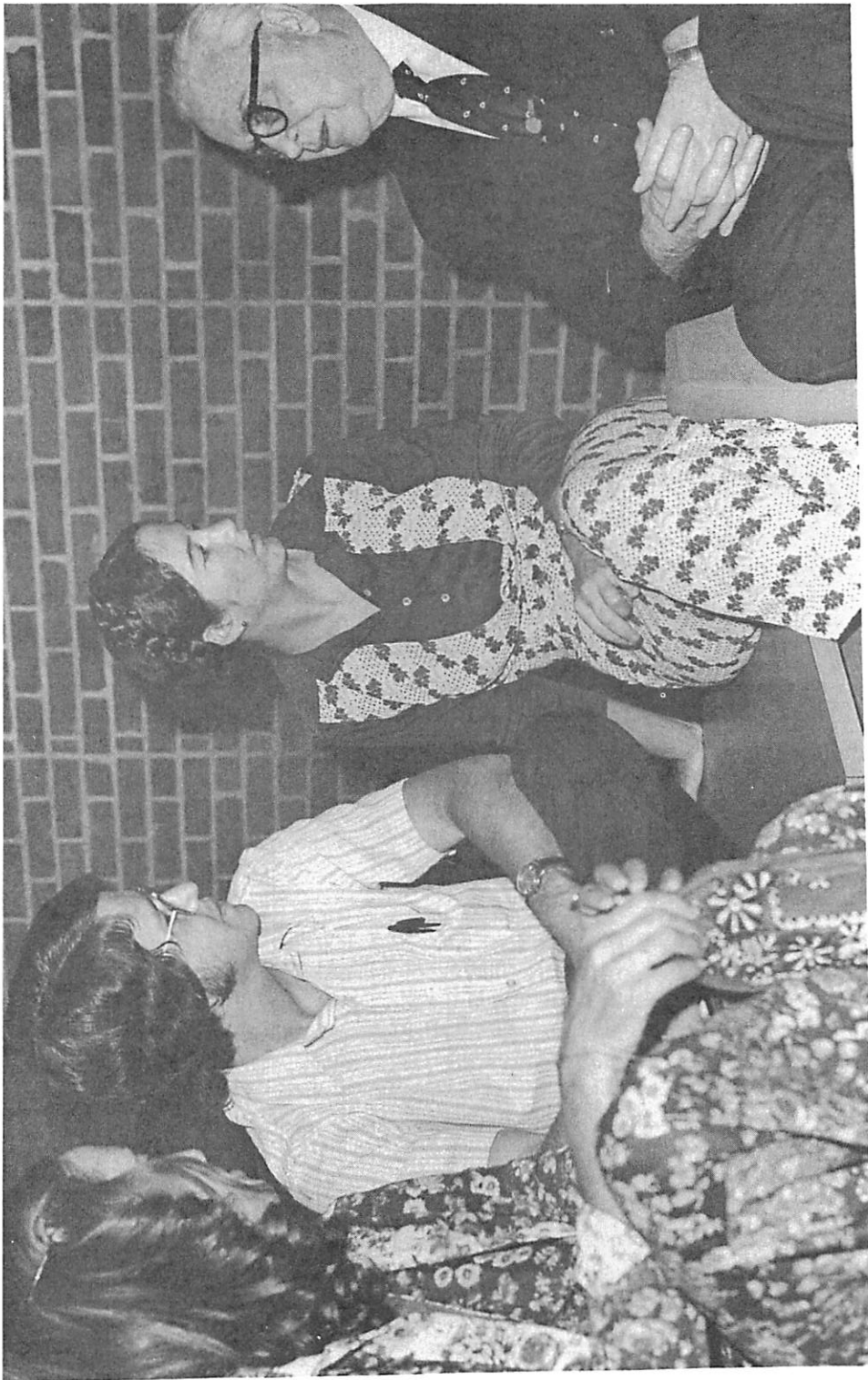
The Florida State University College of Law was established pursuant to an act of the Florida State Legislature in June 1965. It, thus, became the tenth of the Colleges and Schools now forming the educational organization of the Florida State University. In September 1966 under the deanship of Mason Ladd, longtime dean of the University of Iowa College of Law, the College of Law opened its doors to a charter class of over one hundred students.

Classes in the new College of Law commenced on September 5, 1966, with a special program and orientation event. In addition to the dean, assistant dean and law librarian, the full time teaching faculty numbered three. On November 1 of that year the formal opening of the College of Law was held in Longmire Building, its temporary home for five years.

The charter class began graduating December 1968; members of that class taking the Florida Bar Examination passed one hundred per cent, setting a record that can never be excelled.

In July 1969 Joshua M. Morse, III, graduate and former dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law, succeeded Mason Ladd as dean. In December 1969, less than four years after opening its doors, accreditation was granted to the College of Law by the Association of American Law Schools and in summer 1970 by the American Bar Association.

On September 20, 1971, classes were first held in the building today being dedicated in honor of Justice B. K. Roberts. The College of Law faculty then exceeded twenty and the student body four hundred. Today the full time faculty number twenty-six and the student body four hundred eighty-eight. Its students publish the *Florida State University Law Review*; they have won the annual moot court competition sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar Association; members of the National Moot Court Team have been finalists in the national competition. Florida State University College of Law students regularly are assigned to offices of the State Attorneys, the Public Defenders, and the Attorney General wherein they are allowed to appear in Florida courts under Article XVIII of the Integration Rule of the Florida Bar.



Justice Roberts and law students

This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$385.00 or 16 cents per copy to inform the public of the program for dedication of B. K. Roberts Hall at Florida State University.