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Preble Stolz Letter

Preble Stolz

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End Cass
Beach

March 1, 1973

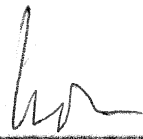
MEMORANDUM

FOR: Professor T. Emerson
Professor H. Schwartz
Mr. A. Neier

FROM: Norman Dorser

The enclosed letter from Preble Stolz, an able
rate" teacher at Berkeley, may interest you. I sent
and "copy of the memorandum that Tom and I prepared, and
him is the response.
tb

ND/pmv
encl.


Norman Dorser

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF LAW (BOALT HALL)
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720
TELEPHONE [415] 642-5198

February 27, 1973

Professor Norman Dorsen
New York University
School of Law
Vanderbilt Hall
Washington Square
New York, NY 10003

Dear Norm:

It was good to see you too, and I hope we will meet more often in the next few years than we have in the past. Let me know how and when I can help you in locating out here.

I've given some very inconclusive thought to your organization of law teachers. AALS leaves much to be desired, but I don't think its organization as a gathering of schools is the root of its troubles. The meetings always give me the willies because the snobbism in our profession becomes so blatant. The Harvards will talk to the Yales, and the Yales to the Penns, etc., but who will talk to the learned gentlemen from Drake? The social lines that divide the top 10 from the rest, vague though they may be, are barriers that are very hard to cross. I would be very apprehensive that an association of law professors, especially if it met at the same time as AALS, would be infected with the same disease.

I also wonder what law professors have in common beyond fealty to ambiguous abstractions that claim as well the loyalty of all lawyers. We have a common interest in legal education but I have learned I think conclusively that law professors are profoundly provincial and almost never think beyond their own law school in considering curriculum or anything else involved in law school policy. (It is not, incidentally, that useful things could not be accomplished--

Norman Dorsen
February 27, 1973
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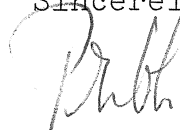
consider for example, a general revision of policy on transfer of students from school to school, or cooperative library arrangements, minority recruitment, etc., etc. I do not mean to say that these things should be done, or that it would be easy, but the potential for better serving all by specialization is plainly there.)

I feel strongly that any new organization ought not to get in the business of soliciting governmental aid for legal education. Fighting for position at the public trough is, to my mind, a disgusting display and I would that AALS would stop.

If the objective is to get a stronger voice on public issues not specifically tied to legal education, my own view would be to live with snobbism and go for an organization of distinguished professors of generally recognized distinction. How do you do that? I do not know, but I'm confident that is not your idea so I will not speculate.

Keep me informed of developments. Despite the negative tone, I am interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Preble Stolz", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Preble Stolz
Professor of Law

sp