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Harry Kelven Letter

Harry Kelven Jr.

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Recommended Citation

Kelven, Harry Jr., "Harry Kelven Letter" (1973). *Founding of SALT*. 16.
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May 23, 1973

Professor Harry Kalven
University of Chicago Law School
1111 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your heartening letter. I had been hoping to use the magnetism of your name on our initial letter, but since we are pretty well committed to a larger mailing in September you will have the opportunity to be associated with the proposal at an early stage.

I am particularly pleased, as I know Herman will be, by your appraisal of the idea, at least in its present form. It gives me the courage to continue with the ordinarily unwelcome task of helping to form yet another organization. A lot of our problems will be logistical, of course, but for the present our main job will be to attempt to gauge the interest of our brethren.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Norman Dorsen

ND:mc

cc. Herman Schwartz

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE LAW SCHOOL

1111 EAST 60TH STREET
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637

May 21, 1973

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

Dear Norman:

I'm sorry I turned out to be so inaccessible to the phone last week. But as circumstances would have it, I was home with a slight fever for a couple of days, staggering back to meet a class and then went off to California. The total result was that I was simply not near my phone or the office for over a week during which time you appear to have made several attempts to get me. I am sorry for the inconvenience this must have caused and sorry not to have my name on the list of endorseees for your proposal.

I think the proposal is a lucid, well drafted circum-spect effort and will permit a proper testing of the degree of enthusiasm for a new association. I have discussed the idea briefly with Herman Schwartz several times at meetings of the Prison Committee, which we are both on. As to the merits, I think an Association of Law Professors could be an important new force in legal education and politics. I am impressed with how potent the Chicago Council of Lawyers, a group of young lawyers organized in competition with the Bar Association, has in a few years become in Chicago. There are very few counter forces in this society and this could become an important one.

If I have a suggestion it would go to not giving reform of legal education so low a priority as the statement appears to do on page 3. I would think it at least as important as the new association's attempt to bridge the generation gap in legal education between the old, tired establishment represented by the AALS and the newer crop of teachers. There ought to be a group which is primarily an association of younger law teachers (moderated, it would be hoped, by a few wise older heads like ourselves!)

In any event, the idea seems to me to be refreshing and sensible and I would be pleased to be associated with it.

With warmest regards,

Cordially,



Harry Kalven, Jr.

HKjr/mns

cc: Herman Schwartz