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# Maynard E. Pirsig: On His Retirement

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## Maynard E. Pirsig: On His Retirement

In June of this year University policies require the retirement of Maynard E. Pirsig, who has been a member of the Law School faculty for 41 years and its dean from 1948 to 1955. Dean Pirsig is still youthful and energetic, an effective teacher still creating new courses, and an imaginative and constantly productive scholar. Fortunately, our sorrow in losing him from the teaching ranks is tempered by the knowledge that he plans to remain at the Law School to continue his scholarly research on matters of vital concern to the state, the nation and the legal profession.

For nearly half a century Maynard Pirsig has been a significant force in the Law School and the legal community of this state. Starting as a first-year law student in 1922, he quickly made his mark as a potential scholar, becoming Note Editor of the Law Review in his senior year. For the next six years he was counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, but also became a part-time member of the Law School faculty in 1929 and full-time in 1931. He was given two years' leave to study judicial administration at Harvard and in England, and upon his return created the first course in this country on Judicial Administration. For 41 years he has provided effective leadership to his state and nation as a legal educator, as a scholar, and as a member of the bar constantly concerned with improvement of the law and its administration, particularly through the courts. His marked achievements in all of these areas are well summarized in the following tribute presented to him by the Law Alumni Association on October 18, 1969:

The Members of the Law Alumni Association  
of the  
University of Minnesota  
present this

TRIBUTE  
to  
MAYNARD E. PIRSIG

Distinguished graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School in 1925;

Professor at University of Minnesota Law School for 40 years and Dean of the Law School, 1948-55;

Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, 1942-43;

Leader in developing procedures for rehabilitation of juvenile and youthful offenders, whose effective advocacy led to enactment of Minnesota Youth Conservation Act in 1947;

Commissioner from Minnesota since 1947 on National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, in that capacity Chairman of the committee which drafted the Uniform Arbitration Act and chairman of the committee which drafted the Uniform Juvenile Court Act;

Successful arbitrator and mediator in labor disputes;

Member of U.S. Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure, 1951-57;

Member of U.S. Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Practice and Procedure since 1958;

Reporter and draftsman for Revision of Minnesota Criminal Code, 1957-63;

Author and scholar of distinction and national stature in many areas with special achievement in judicial administration, uniform State laws, arbitration, pleading and rules of civil procedure, criminal law practice and procedure, juvenile courts, corrections and professional ethics;

Pioneer educator for many years of Juvenile Court judges and officers through continuing education programs;

A truly outstanding and distinguished lawyer and citizen whose dedicated public service and numerous accomplishments have improved the law, bettered society, and reflected great credit on his Alma Mater.

Dated this 18th day of October, 1969.

The foregoing record of high achievement speaks for itself. But I cannot let Maynard Pirsig retire without recording publicly his high qualities as a colleague and fellow faculty member. I have served on the faculty with Maynard for 24 years, two years as a fellow teacher, seven years under his leadership as dean, and 14 years as dean of the law school on which he was a senior faculty member. In all of these capacities Maynard Pirsig has been an ideal colleague.

When his advice is sought, Maynard is always ready to share his keen insights, his good common sense, and his extraordinarily sound judgment, but he never forces his advice on a colleague. On matters of educational policy he is articulate, thoughtful and innovative, concerned always with what is best for the Law School and the legal profession, but he accedes gracefully and cooperatively to the will of his colleagues if his views