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Letter From Dean J. Clay Smith, Jr. to the First Year Class: Civil Procedure

J. Clay Smith Jr.

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN
SCHOOL OF LAW

2.

October 6, 1987

Letter From Dean J. Clay Smith, Jr. to the First
Year Class: Civil Procedure

Several years ago when I was a student in Dean Clarence Clyde Ferguson's Civil Procedure Class, I learned how very important this subject was as a basic first year course. Civil Procedure remains important for all lawyers. In the early days of the modern civil rights movement, the real heroes were lawyers steeped in the knowledge of procedure and federal jurisdiction. After all the first step in protecting or the prosecution of rights is to get in and to stay in court. So do not take Civil Procedure lightly. It is historically important at Howard University School of Law.

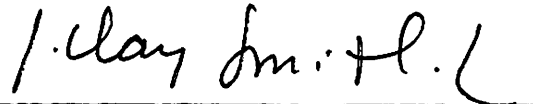
In this connection, I again urge you to refer to law review articles as a supplement to your learning. There have been several recent articles on various rules of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. I'm sure that your teachers will direct your attention to them. At your leisure, I would like to recommend a few classic law review articles on civil procedure or related to civil procedure for you to review. They are great, and might help you down the road:

1. Development In The Law Res Judicata, 65 Harv. L. Rev. 818 (1952)
2. Multiparty Litigation In The Courts, 71 Harv. L. Rev. 874 (1958)
3. State Court Jurisdiction, 73 Harv. L. Rev. 196 (1960)
4. Developments In Discovery, 74 Harv. L. Rev. 940 (1961)
5. Erie R.R. v. Thompkins and The Federal Rules, 62 Harv. L. Rev. 1030 (1949)
6. Erie Doctrine and Jury-Trial Requirement (discussing Byrd v. Blue Ridge Rural Electric Corp.), 72 Harv. L. Rev. 147 (1958)

7. The Right to Trial by Jury (discussing Beacon Theatres, Inc. v. Westerner), 73 Harv. L. Rev. 186 (1959)
8. State Enforcement of Federally Created Rights, 73 Harv. L. Rev. 460 (1960)

Items 1 and 2, above, could prove to be of immediate interest to you. Knowing that you have loads of work, I have provided these law review articles to help you through the storm.

Best wishes, and hang in there.



J. Clay Smith, Jr.
Dean