

UNM School of Law
Faculty Meeting
September 8, 1975
Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Blackwell, Daniels, Desiderio, Ellis, Fink, Flickinger, Goldberg, Hart, Jones Kovnat, MacPherson, Martinez, Minzner, Muir, Norwood, Occhialino, Parnall, Ragsdale, Reynoso, Romero, Simson, Teitelbaum, Utton, Walden, Walker, Students Ted Baca and Steve Valdespino

Dean Hart called the meeting to order; attention was given to the following:

1. The faculty granted the petition of Sammy Pacheco that only the highest grades and credits for repeated courses be counted in his grade point average.
2. The faculty denied the petition of Alexander King that he be reinstated in order to complete his clinical work.
3. After distributing the new faculty committee list, Dean Hart specified the criteria for goals of each committee.
4. Dean Hart declared October 10, 1975, a school holiday to commemorate the dedication of the new State Bar Association Building, the Bicentennial Celebration, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first graduating class of this law school, the fiftieth anniversary of the State Bar of New Mexico, and the appointment to the Supreme Court of New Mexico of a law school alumnus, Daniel Sosa. (This date coincides with the annual convention of the State Bar members.)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise R. Camp

Louise R. Camp
Secretary

LAW
OFFICE

2156 N. Halsted. Chicago, Illinois 60614

312/929-1880

Cable: Peoples Law

Michael Deutsch
Jeffrey H. Haas
Hollis Hill
Ralph Hurvitz
G. Flint Taylor Jr.
Lee Tockman
lawyers

August 22, 1975

Pat Handlin
Susan Kaplan
Mara Siegel
staff

Dean Fred Hart
University of New Mexico
School of Law
1117 Stanford, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Dear Dean Hart:

At your suggestion I am submitting a proposal and an appeal to the faculty. I hope the faculty will seriously consider my alternative.

While working on the Hampton case, I would also clear away the two remaining incompletes in Constitutional Law and International Law. This would bring up my cumulative grade point average.

It is my understanding that clinical law courses may be taken on a credit or noncredit basis. Thus, the clinical hours I assume would have no bearing on my overall grade point average.

I have discussed this proposal with members of this law firm. They have given their support and if needed will tender letters of recommendation to the faculty. Mr. Herbert Reid of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund has been asked to oversee this proposed clinical project.

I will furnish any background material that the faculty might be interested in seeing and on completing the project I would submit a report to the faculty.

Since coming to Chicago, I have literally been living this case. I am currently residing with attorney Jeffrey Haas, who has been involved with the Hampton case for six years. He and his associates are public interested-minded lawyers; their time is contributed pro bono publico.

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During the past ten weeks I have become devoted to the Hampton case. It is my intention to actively see the case through in any event. I feel this is the proper course for me at this time. The Hampton trial will be a valuable learning experience.

Without the faculty's approval application of this learning experience will be more difficult. Foresight dictates that in spite of the possible difficulties this is the course for me to follow in seeking a full and practical legal education.

If I want to pursue a legal vocation I must maintain a close relationship with the law. If I am not allowed to participate in this case through the clinical law program it behooves me to continue a course of practical legal education on my own. In other words this is the direction I shall take after these major factors.

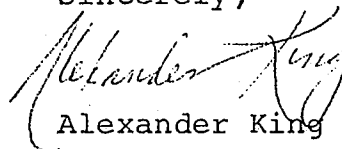
In one sense I have chosen my own penance which I humbly offer. On the other hand, I feel the positive value of this experience for me and experiment for the faculty would exceed all negative exponents.

This clinical experience would act as a bridge for me between the theoretical and practical aspects of legal education. In fact the faculty would be serving the interest of legal education by allowing me to participate in the Hampton law suit.

I hope my offer pleases the faculty and that they will act favorably in considering this matter.

Again, thank you, for all your efforts in my behalf.

Sincerely,



Alexander King

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2156 N. Halsted Chicago, Illinois 60614

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Dear Dean Hart:
Faculty Members:

On August 15, 1975 I along with Daniel Smith a second year law student from the University of San Diego completed my collective report to the National Lawyer's Guild Summer Project Committee regarding my experiences with the Hampton project here in Chicago. This summer Dan and I have had a practical and valuable legal experience.

The case we have been working on is now in discovery with an early November trial date. We have attended depositions, hearings on motions before the Federal District Court, strategy meeting and conferences while being exposed to the daily activities of an urban law office.

On my first evening in Chicago I attended a meeting of a local chapter of the NAACP, whose member were informed about the case and their support enlisted. All of the counts in the complaint go to violations of Federal civil rights.

This civil rights action has been filed on behalf of the occupants of a West Side Black Panther Party residence which was raided by the Cook County State's Attorney's Police with a search warrant for illegal weapons. During the predawn raid Fred Hampton the twenty-one year old Chairman of the Illinois Black Panther Party and Mark Clark a young party leader from Peoria were killed. Four of the seven surviving occupants were wounded; the police weapons included shortguns and a machine gun.

My objective in continuing to participate in this ongoing Federal civil rights suit is to increase my practical legal experience. This proposal, with the faculty's permission, could become part of the clinical program.

By accepting this field experience within the clinical law program the faculty would be favoring a liberal and changing concept of legal education. A liberal legal education is based on the premise that law is change; the law reflects or should reflect social change in action.

This is the appeal: that inspite of my past performance, the faculty should allow me to continue my legal education while participating in the Hampton law suit.

Having set forth in my original petition several extenuating circumstances for my past performance, this appeal is directed to future events.

The faculty, in making a decision about the future of my legal education, can follow the strick academic code or take a more equitable approach in resolving the matter.

Under the traditional academic code once a student has failed to maintain the standard cumulative grade point average, the student is to be suspended.

Suspension is more severe than probation, which does not tend to isolate the student from the academic community. Probation is a strong admonishment which seeks reconciliation and rehabilitation as opposed to alienation; punishment.

Under the academic code the suspension pattern is laid down for once and for all; the rule is set, unchanging, unalterable. Once the decision to suspend a student is made the only other term to be considered is duration. Should my suspension from law school be permanent or shall I be allowed re-entry in six months, a year or more.

The common law approach is directed towards equity and justice based on the circumstances of each particular case. The common law applies precedence and the judge's feeling of equity and fair play. There is room for compromise under the common law.

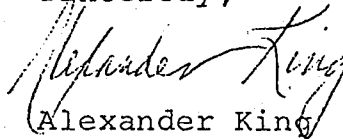
this experiment to be tried; when justice is served there are no real losers. Surely this course of action would be most equitable and just.

I humbly request that the faculty seriously consider this proposal and appeal. I know that continuing to participate in the Hampton law suit will be good for me and give me a valuable, practical legal learning experience.

I appreciate the attention and consideration the faculty has given this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Alexander King in cursive script.

Alexander King