

November 3, 1965

Mr. Hubert Rumphrey  
McLendon, Brim, Holderness & Brooks  
440 West Market Street  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Hugh:

The obvious model for a comprehensive appellate moot court program is of course the famous Ames Competition at Harvard. We happen, by sheer coincidence, to have two men on our faculty who have run this competition at Harvard after graduating. Consequently, we've had more than the ordinary opportunity to get first hand appraisals of its worth as a part of the total educational process. [I'm frankly sold on it as perhaps the best immediate device for bridging one of the obvious education practice gaps on a fairly high educational, yet controllable, basis. My own impression as a practitioner was that the "skills" most noticeably in short supply among even the most successful lawyers were the skills of oral advocacy and brief writing.] A competition on the Ames scale is of course beyond us financially but I'm convinced we could run a good productive one if we had the resources of about \$1000 a year to pick up some of the obvious override type expenses--extra secretarial help, modest prizes, and honoraria for particularly eminent judges brought in from afar to judge the finals.

To give some idea of the nature of the thing and the type contribution it can make, both to the school as an institution, to the students who participate, and to the profession through the development of these skills, I asked Martin Louis, who joined our faculty this year after running the Ames at Harvard for the last two years, to give me a memo, which I pass on to you.

I really believe that this might be a truly great memorializing device for Mr. Holderness. It would be used to develop particular lawyer skills of a high order, and it would annually give occasion for public remembrance of his name in connection with the publicized final arguments. It should certainly bear his name "The Holderness Competition," and this could of course continue notwithstanding we might beef up the support from other sources later. We could certainly provide the safeguard of formal periodic review by trustees of your selection to assess its worth and, if necessary, rechannel use of the income to other purposes if this were thought necessary.

Let me know how this strikes you generally.

Sincerely,

Dickson Phillips  
Dean

DP:sl

Enclosure