

Fourth Biennial Patent System Major Problems Conference Saturday, May 22, 1993

Transcript

"WELCOME"

Saturday, May 22, 1993

(9:00 a.m.)

MR. BENSON: We want to get going. A few people will be coming in later. They'll just kind of walk in. I want to introduce Bob Viles who is the President of the Franklin Pierce Law Center. He has a few comments to direct to all of you.

MR. VILES: Thank you, Bob. I want formally to welcome you to the Fourth Biennial Patent System Major Problems Conference. These conferences were started by Homer Blair, and it's Homer Blair who brought to the Law School both Bob Benson and his own successor, Karl Jorda, who are responsible for this Conference. Those of you who know me know I don't know much about patents. Hence, I am not going to stay for the Conference or meddle in your affairs here today. I simply wanted to come down from Concord to greet you and especially to say how appreciative we are at the Law Center of the support that many of you have provided for the school. I suppose one of the broadest forms of support has come from providing our MIP students in Bill Hennessey's program with internships in the summer. I also have appreciated all the advice that I've received from people around the table.

Right now at school we are in the throws of renovating and expanding our building. I looked down at my shoes this morning and realized they were covered with dust from that project. As of some time in June, we will have a home for our intellectual property programs on the top floor of the existing building. So, the next time you are at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord you will see a physical embodiment, if you will, of our program as well as a place for the faculty and students to interact. We're also going to have a mini-conference center in the new building addition. There's one feature of the addition that we really want to tell you about. But that would be stealing Bob Benson's thunder, and he will tell you about it later today. So, I wish you success in making this as successful and useful a conference as the preceding three Patent Systems Major Problems

Conferences. I'll turn this back over to Bob and to Bob Rines, the Chairman of the School.

MR. BENSON: Thanks Bob. Before I turn this over to Bob Rines, I just want to mention a few facts. Bob is the dreamer who started Franklin Pierce Law Center about 20 years ago. In that time, we have grown to about 400 students full time. We now are the largest producer of lawyers for New Hampshire of any school in the country. There are more people practicing law in New Hampshire that are Franklin Pierce graduates than any other school. Bob started this with the idea, among others, of merging science and technology with the law. Of our last entering class, over 35 percent of the incoming students have a degree in science or engineering. Twenty- five percent or more of our students specialized in intellectual property law. So, Bob, in your 20 years, you have accomplished a great deal and I hope that we are going to continue to grow to fulfill all of your dreams. Bob?