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Burton R. Laub: Dickinson Law's Fourth Dean

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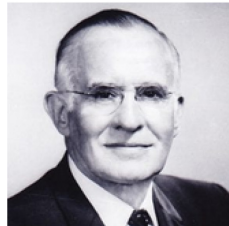
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Burton R. Laub: Dickinson Law's Fourth Dean

JANUARY 3, 2019 BY [PAMELA G SMITH](#)

185
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The Honorable Burton R. Laub was born on October 19, 1903 in Berwick, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Erie Academy High School in 1921. He obtained his B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce in 1925, and his law



degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928. In June 1964, he was awarded an honorary law degree from the Dickinson School of Law. Laub also received honorary degrees from Temple University and Gannon College.

Laub served, in Erie County, as first assistant district attorney from 1932-1940, district attorney from 1940-1946, and judge from 1946 to 1966. Laub was President of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association and the first President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. He served on the Judicial Advisory Committee of the PA Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Supreme Court Criminal Procedural Rules Committee, and the State Board of Law Examiners. Laub was also appointed to the Devers Committee by Governor John S. Fine, to investigate and recommend improvements to prison conditions in Pennsylvania.



Burton Laub Self Portrait

Laub became Dickinson Law's fourth dean on January 3, 1966. He served in that capacity until September 1, 1974, but continued to be active in the Law School community after leaving his post as dean. Laub was the author of many legal works, including the *Pennsylvania Trial Guide* and *Pennsylvania Keystone - Lawyer's Desk Library of Practice*. He also authored *The Dickinson School of Law - Proud and Independent*, which he described as "a sort of love letter" to the Law School. Laub was an artist as well, and the 1984 sesquicentennial edition of *The Dickinson School of Law - Proud and Independent* contains many of Laub's illustrations, including a self-portrait. On March

5, 1983, former classroom 132 was dedicated in Dean Laub's honor. Laub passed away at the age of 96 on December 28, 1999.

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