



Dean Isaac C. Hunt, Jr.

William S. Jordan

As a relatively new faculty member, I served as secretary to the Dean Search Committee in 1987. We set a deadline of March 31 for applications for the deanship. That afternoon, I received a call from Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., expressing interest in the position. It turned out that Ike, as we came to know him, was finishing up as Dean of the Antioch School of Law in Washington, DC, after positions at Jones, Day, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and as Acting General Counsel of the Army. Considering that background, I told him that his call would count as having met the deadline if he would get the papers to us right away.

The result was his appointment as the first African American dean of the law school, the first to hold any deanship at the University. Ike presided over a major expansion of the law school facility, as we connected the C. Blake McDowell Law Center and West Hall. We gained both a beautiful atrium and a new student lounge as we incorporated the first floor of West Hall into the law school. During his tenure, the law school retained its American Bar Association accreditation with no negative comments by the ABA, a highly unusual result.

After stepping down as dean, Ike was appointed a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission by President Clinton in 1995 and reappointed by President George W. Bush.