Ex Post

The Case of the Vanishing Law Student

Robert E. Rains

At the University of Oklahoma
Was a student as popular as a lymphoma.

While at the law school he was a resident
He demanded one day to see the president.

And when the secretary barred his way,
He caused such annoyance and dismay

That she ran to court to get relief;
An order preventing further grief.

The trial judge took her at her word
And found as fact abuse occurred.

He ruled our scholar couldn’t go
To the office of the prez of the UL of O.

Not one to suffer without a squeal
This would-be shylock took an appeal.

But Appellate Division One
Said, “Your points of error won’t fly, son.”

After our lad had lost this case,
One might have thought he’s learnt his place.

But it wasn’t long thereafter
That it appeared he was a grafter.

When he’d applied for student aid,
He didn’t report some dough he’d made.

So, after a hearing had been held
Our two-time loser was expelled.

Robert E. Rains teaches Education Law at the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law.
And when he applied for readmission,
The U. of O. denied permission.
You might well guess what he did then—
Took his case to court again,
Asserting torts such as “false light”
As grounds for his new legal fight.
The district judge reviewed his pleading
And ruled a trial he’d not be needing;
He’d failed to state a legal claim
That U. of O. besmirched his name.
You know our lad; he would not yield.
In no time flat he had appealed.
He went pro se to judges higher,
Seeking redress for his ire.

It doubtless comes as no surprise
That they found, too, no action lies:
For, if financial aid one swipes,
The courts won’t care much for one’s gripes.

Our erstwhile student’s gone away
And what he’s learned I cannot say.
And just who was this would-be lawyer,
Lying scoundrel, staff annoyer?
The guy the law twice had to chasten,
I kid you not, was . . . Perry Mason.¹