The Times They Are A-Changin’

Casting an amused look at how different a law student’s world was in 1968 compared to 2014, Professor Sanford Katz reflects on a half-century of change at Boston College Law School. What better authority than he to tap into the memories of his students? With his new book, "A Journey Through Time: The Ageless Professor Katz’s Journey Through Time," Katz offers a glimpse into the past and a forecast for the future.

When Professor Sanford Katz, now on the eve of retirement, joined the law faculty at Boston College in 1968, he was thirty-five years old and a new dad. His office was in More Hall. He used a manual typewriter, wrote on a yellow legal pad, and carbon-paper to make copies, and generally found students to be more radical than they are today. In his legal specialty of family law, palimony, no fault divorce, and other issues that were unheard of in 1968, Katz pushed to nationalize BC Law’s education program, opens student loans to law school, and his students are more radical than they are today. In today’s classroom, students expect more from their professors. Katz says, “You’ve got a lot of students in the world, but you’ve also got a lot of professors.”

To find out how much a law school has changed in the last half century, BC Law Magazine went on a research mission, scouring old records, surveying the inners of students’ backpacks, and, most notably, tapping the memories of Professor Sanford Katz. Why Professor Katz? Because he’s tapping into the memories of his students.

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