

Warren Critical of Bar for Shunning Unpopular Cases

By JOHN H. FENTON

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BOSTON, Oct. 29 — Chief Justice Earl Warren, in an address today at the dedication of a new law school building at Boston University, said it did not "reflect credit" on the legal profession when prisoners with meritorious defenses had to write petitions to the Supreme Court in their own handwriting from their cells.

The defense of those accused of crime, Chief Justice Warren said, "has been downgraded to a point where it is considered by most lawyers not to be respectable to represent unpopular defendants regardless of the merits of their cases."

The Chief Justice, who holds an honorary degree from the University, received a special citation at a dedication convocation. Associate Justice Tom C. Clark and Prof. Paul A. Freund of the Harvard Law School received honorary degrees at the same time. Each spoke at other sessions of a day-long program.

The new building, which cost \$5.5 million and has 19-stories, is on the uptown campus, overlooking the Charles River.

"Every lawyer, I feel, has an obligation, somewhat higher than one not privileged to be in our profession, and that is to further the cause of sound government," the Chief Justice said.