Wilbur Bowker began his long association with the Faculty as a student in 1929. Following graduation, he practised with Milner Steer. He returned from World War II to teach at the Faculty. He was appointed Acting Dean in 1947 and became Dean in 1948, a position which he held for twenty years. Dean Bowker became the first Director of the Alberta Law Reform Institute in 1968. He was well known for his keen sense of humour, and is remembered as a wise and kindly man, a humanitarian, a scholar, and a superb teacher. He had a deep interest in the history of the law in Alberta and wrote extensively about it. The esteem in which he was held was reflected in the naming of the building housing the office of Alberta Department of the Attorney General as the Bowker Building. He received the Order of Canada in 1990 and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the university in 1992. Wilbur Bowker passed away in 1999.

In 2001, a new professorship was established in his honour. The individual holding the office of Dean of the Faculty of Law is now known as the Wilbur Fee Bowker Professor of Law.