Joel Rogers Joins Law Faculty

Prof. Joel Rogers is the most recent addition to the faculty of the Law School. Prof. Rogers comes to us from the University of Miami Law School, where he taught for one year after leaving Rutgers University—Newark, where he taught law, political science and business. A 1976 graduate of Yale University Law School, Rogers also studied at the University of Heidelberg for a year, and received a PhD in political science from Princeton in 1984.

At Rutgers, Prof. Rogers taught in political science, labor studies, public policy, law and business. In 1985 he won the Henry J. Browne Outstanding Teacher award there. At Miami he taught administrative law and regulated industries. Here at Wisconsin, he has a joint appointment in the Law School and the Department of Sociology. At the Law School, he has taught administrative law and a course on law and the welfare state. In Sociology, he teaches social theory and political sociology.

Prof. Roger's first direct contact with our Law School came through the Legal History Workshop in the summer of 1983. "I had a great time at the Workshop, and have been trying to get hired ever since," he reports. "Wisconsin Law School has an outstanding reputation in legal history and law and social science field, as well as in more traditionally defined legal fields. For someone like myself, with strong interests in social science and theory, it seemed like a natural place to be."

Prof. Rogers has authored or coauthored numerous books and articles, most of them on democratic theory and the political economy of U.S. party politics. His most recent book is *Right Turn:* The Decline of the Democrats and the



Future of American Politics. Asked if he would describe his own politics as liberal or conservative, Prof. Rogers said, "I'd describe myself as a democrat, with a small 'd'. I believe individual liberty should be institutionally protected, but not only through private property rights; and I think you need a state that is strong enough to overcome the background material inequalities that infirm formal liberty. Some people would call that view 'super-liberalism'. Being a liberal, I won't object to their doing so."

Despite the fact that his first exposure to Madison was in the summer, having now weathered his first Wisconsin winter Prof. Rogers is still enthusiastic about our Law School and his role in it. "This place is fantastic. The students are great. The colleagues are great. Nobody gets in the way of your doing work, and the atmosphere is strenuously tolerant of diverse views. It's what a Law School, and a University, ought to be."

Prof. Roger's wife, Sarah Siskind, is a practicing lawyer in Madison. They recently had their first child, Helen Siskind Rogers. In April the Law School recommended that Prof. Rogers, who gave up tenure to come to Madison, be again tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.