

International Flavors at the Law School

As our society recognizes its place in the international political and business world it should not be surprising that our nation's law schools should take steps to recognize this international community. For those who have worked at our School, or closely observed its development, the pace at which international opportunities have been incorporated may still be surprising, however.

Individual faculty members, of course, have had special interests in the law of other nations or the business relationships between countries. Many of the young faculty members who joined our faculty in the 1970's had had experience working for law schools or the governments of some African countries. Their experiences were often worked into our course materials as examples of how

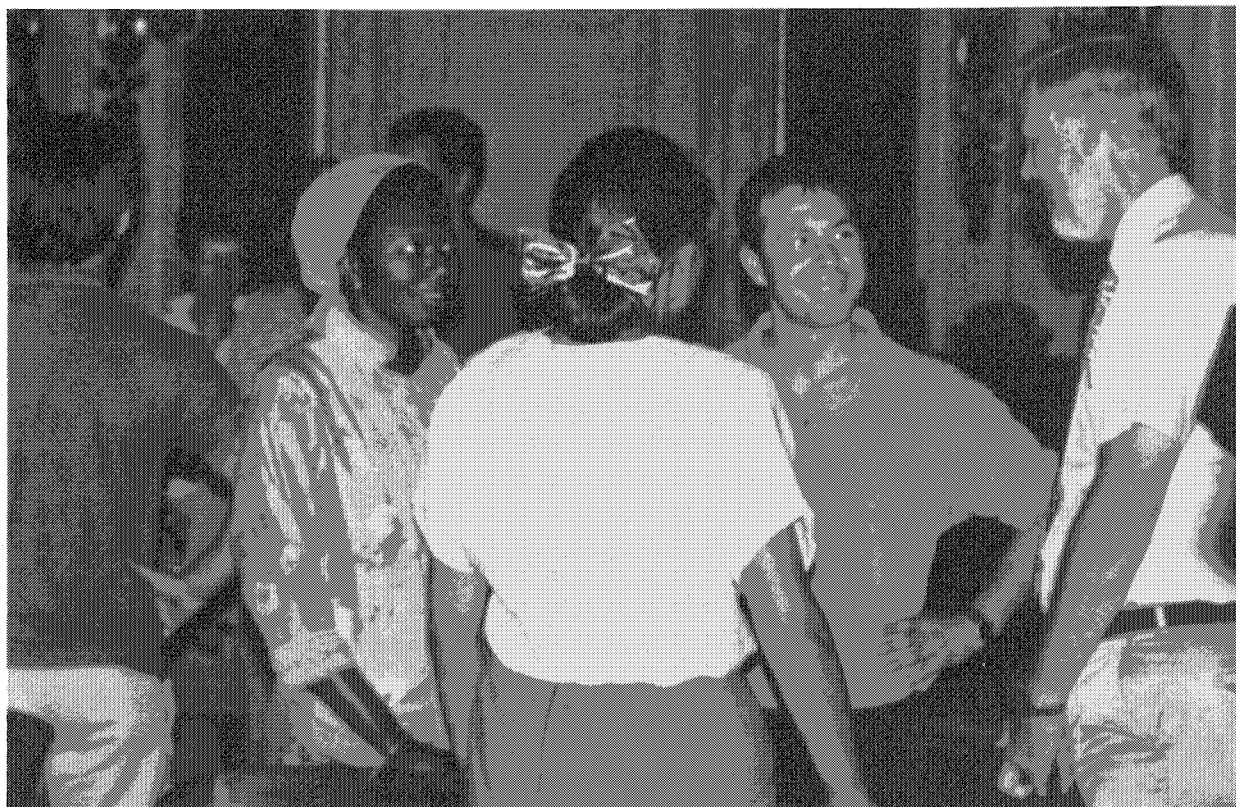
other nations or peoples resolve disputes or formalize conduct. Prof. Charles Irish has been called upon by numerous Caribbean countries to assist them in developing their tax codes, and, more recently, his interest has extended to the nations of the Pacific Rim. Prof. Marc Galanter was tabbed as an expert by the Indian government in litigation after the Bhopal disaster. For many years Prof. Zig Zile has taught students here in a course on the law of the Soviet Union.

We have also had a trickle of students taking advantage of programs offered by a large number of other law schools for study abroad with academic credit given here. Popular locations have included the British Isles and the Continent, where instruction is arranged in English. Of

course, these programs also offer the opportunity to travel and to meet people in "exotic" places.

From time to time we have also had foreign nationals enrolled as regular students at the Law School. Sometimes these persons had finished law schools at home and needed less than three years of American study to qualify for bar admission here. Sometimes they were fleeing persecution or seeking better opportunities here. Most often, they looked forward to learning the law of the United States so that they could apply it to help their government and their people.

Recently the number of foreign students, particularly foreign graduate students has increased sharply. In the fall of 1988, 29 foreign students, representing



1988 Summer Program in U.S. Law and Legal Institutions students meet with Prof. John Kidwell in the State Capitol

16 different countries, were enrolled. The impact on our students, as they exercise the opportunity to learn about other cultures and nations, is enormous.

For the past three years, our students and faculty have had another international opportunity. The law school at Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, West Germany and our own have had a student and faculty exchange program. Wisconsin students pay UW tuition but study at Giessen along with their German counterparts. Courses, of course, are conducted in German. So far six of our students have gone to Giessen. Likewise, six German students, paying their own tuition have studied here. There are no administrative costs, nor are any Law School funds required to sustain the exchange.

The faculty exchange usually involves two members from each school, who teach (in English) for about three weeks each at the other school. We go in May and June, and they come here in September and October. Eight of our faculty (Baldwin, Bernstine, Church, Irish, Melli, Thompson, Uphoff and Zile) have gone to Giessen and five Giessen professors have come here to teach seven separate, one-credit courses.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity for international exchange, however, is the Summer Program in United States Law and Legal Institutions, which recently concluded its sixth year. The Program is designed to give lawyers and advanced



Above: Profs. Marc Galanter and Gordon Baldwin meet Indian Supreme Court Chief Justice P. N. Bhagwati

Below: 1987 Summer Program students on the steps of the Education building

law students from other countries intensive exposure to the basic structure of our legal system and three significant areas of our law: contracts and commercial law, product liability and corporations and securities regulation. One week of the six week program is also devoted to international trade law.

This program has reached its maximum enrollment of 60 students who literally come from around the world. In its early years, most students were from European countries, but this year students from the Pacific Rim countries were the most numerous.

Five professors, Larry Church, Ken Davis, Charles Irish, John Kidwell and Zig Zile, are responsible for organizing the program and conducting the courses. In addition to the academic component, students are brought into large law firms to see how law is practiced here and attend typical social and recreational events such as a night at County Stadium to watch the Milwaukee Brewers play.

As an indication of how valuable this training is for the foreign students, this summer recruiters from a West German law firm flew to Wisconsin to interview applicants studying in the Program. Hundreds of lawyers trained at the University of Wisconsin are now practicing law, running businesses and assisting their governments. Each is at least a source of good will and perhaps more.

