

Support For The Law School Needed

by
Gordon B. Baldwin

Since 1957 relative support for legal education in Wisconsin as compared to support for the University generally has declined by nearly 60%. In 1957 the Law School budget constituted 7/10 of one percent of the University of Wisconsin budget. In 1969 the Law School budget is little better than 4/10 of one percent of the total University budget. Because of new campuses and new programs this way of stating the dimensions of the decline may be a little misleading, but the Law School's portion of the Madison campus budget has declined too, although much less strikingly. Moreover this is the only public Law School in the State.

The absolute dollar increase, which is substantial, is accounted for by inflation and the increase in size.

The decline in relative support for legal education is having serious consequences. The annual budget can only be balanced by a variety of undesirable expedients. For example, faculty must be encouraged to take leave without replacing them with visitors. Desirable student activities must be foregone. Although the quality of the school is improving in many ways, that improvement, beyond the new buildings already insufficient in size, has been financed by non-Wisconsin funds. Several important Foundation grants over the past decade have enabled Wisconsin to keep its head above water and have contributed to maintaining our national distinction. A Ford Foundation grant, secured through the leadership of Willard Hurst, enabled the faculty to undertake broader research projects that have had a valuable impact upon teaching. Stewart Macaulay's Contracts class, for example, benefits immeasurably from the research into actual business contract practice that the Ford grant enabled him to do. Frank Remington, Edward Kimball, Margo Melli and Herman Goldstein's book and course on criminal



Dean Baldwin

justice administration could not have been prepared without grants from the American Bar Foundation. Nate Feinsinger's work on dispute settlement procedures receives financing from several non-State donors. The "Clinical Program" was instituted through a grant from the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility. The International Legal Center is helping Zigurds Zile, Joseph Thome and Gordon Baldwin improve the quality of legal education in such diverse places as Latin America and the Middle East. The lessons they are learning are having an impact on their teaching here.

However important these special grants are in maintaining a great law school at Wisconsin, they do not cover some of the most basic essentials of a good school. The quality of the law library, for example, is in great jeopardy. Funds for book purchases have not increased in six years, although book prices have risen by nearly 50%. The library book budget is already the lowest among Big 10 schools. It is about a third as large as Michigan's. Although Governor Knowles recommended more than doubling the library capital budget, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature did not see fit to follow that recommendation.

Funds for the purchase of supplies, postage and duplication facilities have not increased appreciably in five years, although costs are rising dramatically here too. Mrs. Davidson reports, "I just don't know how we're going to manage in January when our supplies and ex-

pense budget runs out." In prior years the University has been able to cover a substantial deficit in library and supplies and expense items, but the budget crisis confronting the whole University means that the law school can not confidently rely on that help again.

One of the immediate consequences of the Wisconsin budget crisis is a cut back in summer teaching and research opportunities. For the most part faculty are paid on a nine month basis. However, for many years, all those who sought summer support, either through summer school teaching or research, were able to secure it. Now that is no longer possible for everyone. Consequently, those members of the faculty who have withstood tempting offers from other law schools paying as much in nine months as Wisconsin has been able to pay in twelve are likely to find such offers more appealing. This is a serious risk we cannot afford to run. Wisconsin has been remarkably successful in keeping its faculty, but this has been a source of wonder to many people. Last year at least 15 schools, including many far less well known than Wisconsin, had median faculty salaries greater than Wisconsin's. This year several more have passed us in that category. We are moving downward in the scale.

It is imperative that at an early date the budget position of the Wisconsin Law School in relation to other law schools be rapidly changed upward; it is also important that its relative position within the University be drastically improved.



Mrs. "D."