

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE AND INFORMATION CENTER

By Sue L. Center, Director

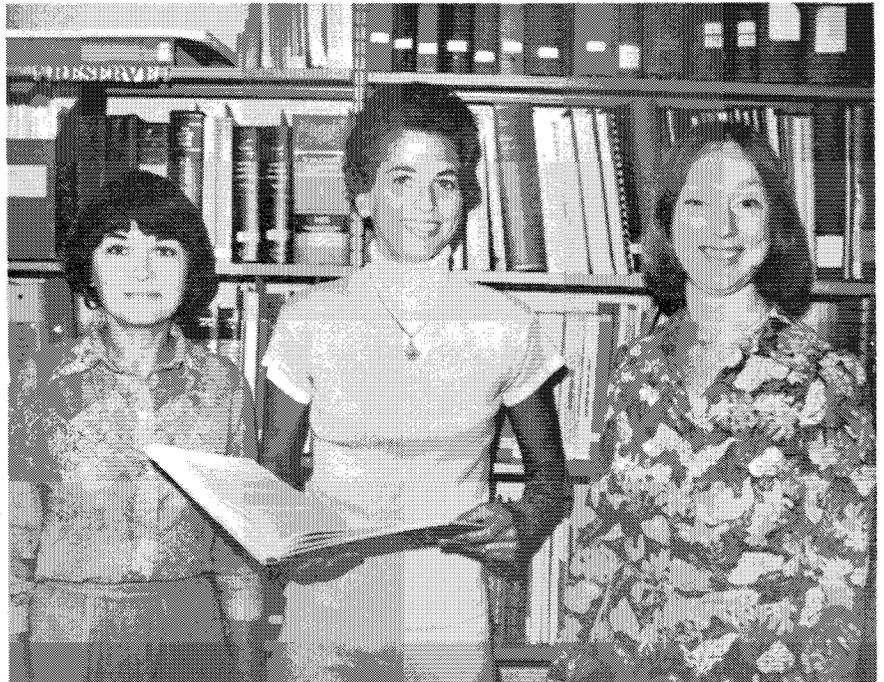
It is 8:15 A.M. The telephone at the Criminal Justice Reference and Information Center rings and a caller explains that he has been appointed to a citizen's committee charged with the responsibility of screening applicants for the position of town police Chief. Does the Criminal Justice Center have any information or standards that might serve as guidelines for his committee? The Librarian taking the call responds affirmatively and promises to send the materials on loan that same day.

Child abuse; hollow point bullets; adolescent suicide; battered women; halfway house programs for juveniles, women, alcoholics, and ex-offenders; police policy manuals; and defense of drunk driving cases are but a few of the thousands of topics about which people have requested information at the Criminal Justice Center. Located on the first floor of the Law Library, this specialized lending library is comprised of over 20,000 volumes and 350 periodicals on the criminal justice system. It is open Monday through Friday, from 7:45-4:30. The staff includes the Director, Sue Center; Cynthia May, in charge of Cataloging and Technical Services; and Barbara Meyer, Public Services Librarian, all of whom give reference first priority. This unique library, which is jointly supported by the Law School and the Governor's Office, is a prime example of the Law School's commitment to outreach and "The Wisconsin Idea" — the concept of University service to the entire State.

The collection is divided into seventy broad subject areas. Included among these are different types of crime; police administration, training, and education; arrest, search and seizure; pre-trial procedure; sentencing; prosecution and defense functions; jails; correctional programs; volunteers; probation and parole; juvenile delinquency; juvenile corrections; civil disorders; alcoholism; and drug abuse. In addition to this basic collection, special collections include penal press publications (inmate newspapers) from correctional institutions throughout the United States, theses and dissertations, and local and state criminal justice agency statistics and research reports. The Staff has devised its own subject headings and classification system which provide rapid, in-depth access to the wealth of information available.

Last year the Center circulated 4300 items in response to 1700 requests for information. Approximately 50% of these requests were from persons affiliated with the University of Wisconsin System, and 50% were from patrons around the state working in the field. This library is open to anyone with an interest in criminal justice. User groups include public defenders and prosecutors, correctional personnel, inmates, social workers, law enforcement officers, judges and their staffs, students and teachers, specialists from the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice, libraries, committees and task forces, and special interest groups.

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Center staff Barbara Meyer, Sue Center, Cynthia May.

# Alumni Events

EDWARD J. REISNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WLAA

Although reference is the main function of the Center, other services are also provided for its users. Special bibliographies of materials contained within the Center on particular subjects are prepared upon request. Illustrations of recent compilations are crime and the elderly, courthouse security, solitary confinement, and restitution. In addition, two abstracting newsletters, "Current Criminal Justice Literature" and "Current Corrections Literature" are mailed on a regular basis to law enforcement and correctional personnel, respectively. They provide patrons with a brief synopsis of new materials received by the library which are available on loan. Another project implemented by the staff has been the collection and dissemination of court report advance sheets to three correctional institutions in Wisconsin.

Questions about the Center or reference requests may be submitted by mail (c/o Law School), by telephone (608-262-1499), or in person. The staff attempts to answer all reference questions, but policy precludes engaging in legal research or advice. A brochure describing the Center is available upon request.

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## Alumni Note

The new Dean of the Northwestern University Law School is *David S. Ruder, Class of 1957*. A native of Wausau, Dean Ruder practiced with the firm of Quarles, Herriott and Clemons, Milwaukee, before joining the faculty at Northwestern in 1961. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Wisconsin Law Review, and elected a member of Coif.

While summer is a traditionally slow period at the Law School, the WLAA office has been alive with activity. In June, we co-hosted the third annual UW-Marquette Law Alumni Reception in conjunction with the State Bar of Wisconsin's annual meeting. But for the underestimation of alumni appetites, coexistence reigned supreme, and we look forward to a long continuation of this event. The Alumni Association also acted as host for a reception at the annual meeting of the State Bar of Arizona, thanks to the efforts of Walter Raushenbush, who taught there last semester. The summer of receptions culminated in the ABA reception at its annual meeting in Chicago. More than 100 alums from around the country met and shared reminiscences.

The tempo shows all signs of picking up for the Fall. As part of the annual Fund Drive, beginning in late October, WLAA anticipates publishing its first alumni directory since 1953. The directory will be available either as a premium for contributions or for purchase. Since the directory will be compiled from our mailing list, if you wish to make any changes, please do so now.

We cannot emphasize too often the importance of the annual Fund Drive. The cost of attending law school continues to rise. Resident tuition this year tops \$1,000, while non-resident tuition is \$3,272. The crisis in financial aid will be severe for second semester unless the Fund Drive again sets a new record. While pleased with last year's effort, compared to other schools, UW is not among the leaders in alumni support. Please help us.

## Lest You Forget

AS YOU MAKE PLANS FOR  
YOUR TAX-EXEMPT CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR 1977

*remember*

*the Law Alumni Fund*