

1982 DEAN'S REPORT

Once again it is my privilege to report to you on the state of the Law School and to review briefly some of the past year's activities.

I believe that the University of Wisconsin Law School continues to be one of the nation's leading centers of legal education, respected for its teaching and widely acknowledged as pre-eminent in its program of legal research. Of course, the School has not been immune from the effects of the inflation of the latter portion of the 1970's and the current recession and state budget cuts. The Law School has had to share these cuts with the rest of the University. The effects have been felt at least in the following areas: (a) Opportunities for outside funding for research support have diminished as the federal government and private foundations have cut back their funds available for academic research support. This in turn affects our instructional program because we have been using the funds freed up by faculty members who receive salary support from other sources to hire attorneys who teach in our trial advocacy courses and similar practice-oriented courses. (b) There is great uncertainty as to the future status of federal student loan programs and other programs of financial aid for students. (c) Faculty salaries have not kept pace either with inflation or with salaries paid at most law schools with which we compete in hiring of faculty or generally with salaries paid in many areas of private practice. Thus, we clearly are living in financially difficult times along with many other segments of society.

In view of these problems, I believe it to be most opportune that we are about to launch the Law School's first capital fund drive. The drive has been in the planning stages for some time.

The basic goal is to raise at least three million dollars for endowment purposes. Other law schools with fewer alumni have done this well, and I am confident that we can do it too. The Law School will seek funds for two broad purposes. Slightly over half of the \$3 million goal will be used for support of the overall program of legal education. Just under half will be devoted to further strengthening of three specific substantive areas: interdisciplinary legal studies, business law and labor law.

I am happy to report that we already are the recipient of three large gifts which give us a good



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start toward achieving our goal and which has given us great encouragement to move forward with the fund drive. First is a bequest of over \$140,000 from Thomas Tracey, a 1937 graduate of the Law School who died a year or so ago. This gift provides an endowment in support of our library. Secondly, the Evjue Foundation of Madison recently announced a \$75,000 gift to endow a professorship in the Law School. We are seeking funds to endow several of these professorships. They do not pay basic salary but rather provide funds which can be used for travel to professional conferences, for extra secretarial and research support and similar incidental expenses. We believe these special professorships will foster an environment which will permit us to compete successfully for the best teachers and scholars and to retain those who already are here. Finally, we are the recipients of an absolutely magnificent bequest which we believe will total more than one million dollars, the income from which will be used for student scholarships and loans. This is a gift from the estate of Dorothy Shaw, widow of James D. Shaw who was a long-time Milwaukee practitioner and an 1899 graduate of the Law School. This is a most significant contribution to the well being of the Law School and its future students. Thus, there is good news to go along with the bad news about budget cuts and the economic recession.

Let me now say a few things about other matters on which I traditionally report to you at this time. Two new faculty members will join us this fall. One of them is Howard Erlanger who taught for a number of years in the Sociology

Department, then went to law school at Wisconsin, and for the past year has been teaching half-time at the Law School as a visitor. Professor Erlanger already has an outstanding record as a scholar and teacher in the area of sociology and law. At the Law School, he will be specializing in teaching Trusts and Estates, an area in which we have been short-handed for some time. The second professor actually will devote full time to running the Law Library. She is Professor Anita Morse who, in addition to having established a record as a law teacher and scholar, has had about 10 years of experience as a law librarian. She currently is at Cleveland State University Law School and will be joining us in September. She will be succeeding Maurice Leon who as many of you know has served the Law School well and faithfully for over 25 years, the last 13 of them as Director of our Law Library. Maury Leon has reached mandatory retirement age. All of us who know him wish him well in the future and thank him for his dedication to serving the Law School and its students over the past three decades.

I must also regretfully report that two faculty members resigned during the past year. One is Fredericka Paff who had been with the Law School for several years and was an expert in the constitutional law area. She decided to go to work for the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. The other is Kathryn Powers who specialized in corporate tax law and securities law. She decided to join a Denver law firm.

As usual, there are a number of comings and goings among our faculty members. To mention just a few, Professor Joel Handler, who is an expert in administrative law and welfare law and has written numerous books in his area of expertise, will be returning to Wisconsin from a two year leave to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Professor Handler was honored recently by being appointed Vilas Professor of Law by the University, a position which was held by Willard Hurst for many years

prior to his retirement from teaching. Professor Ted Schneyer will be returning to Wisconsin after having spent the year as a scholar at the American Bar Foundation studying the structure of bar organizations. Leaving for a full year next year will be Professors Gary Milhollin and Robert Gordon. Professor Milhollin will be teaching at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and Professor Gordon will be teaching at Stanford.

Finally, I must note with sadness the loss through untimely death last fall of former Dean and Professor George Young. His passing was a great loss to the Law School as well as to his many friends in the practicing bar.

In addition to their teaching responsibilities, faculty members continue to engage in a great variety of research and public service activities.

There has been a particularly active research program in the disputes processing area. This is an area of current concern to both the bar and society generally as ways are being sought to unclog the courts and to find alternative ways of settling disputes. The Law School rightfully is becoming known as a national center for research in this area. We also have had an unusual number of distinguished speakers in our lectures program this past year. Many of these lectures are supported by funds made available through an endowment which was set up in memory of former Dean Oliver Rundell. Some of our alumni contributed to that memorial fund when it was created about 30 years ago and can take satisfaction that their dollars are still at work enriching the life of the Law School.

We continue to admit and to graduate approximately 300 students each year. There has been no abatement of demand for admission to law school. In fact, for the class which will enter in the fall of 1982, we had over 1,900 applicants, almost all of them seemingly well qualified. The students continue to be a very diverse group, with approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ coming directly from college, about $\frac{1}{3}$

having been out of college for up to 3 years and the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ having been out for more than 3 years.

Job placement opportunities for graduates continue to be quite good, although the market is tightening considerably. If we compare the placement opportunities for the class of 1982 with those for the class of 1981, we find that placements are taking place at a slightly slower pace, more graduates are going into private practice as compared with jobs in the public sector, and starting salaries are up over \$2,000 from the previous year, the current median being around \$22,000.

Another matter about which alumni and friends of the Law School often express concern is the effect of the part-time and evening program which was mandated by the Legislature a few years ago. When one considers both the costs and benefits, it is my present judgment that the program has not had any substantial adverse effect on the Law School and may have benefited a few students. Enrollment in the program has remained very small. A total of 37 students have started on a part-time basis during the past three years. Of those, only about half currently are enrolled on a part-time basis. Many of the others have switched to full-time attendance. They were subjected to the same admission requirements and are taking the same courses as other students. I might add, however, that we still look upon this program as an experiment and have not reached a final judgment on its merits.

Finally, let me review for you briefly some of the continuing activities of our self-study. I reviewed a good portion of these activities in my report to you last year but noted that the study still was continuing with regard to the review of our second and third year curriculum. I noted at that time that I had appointed a special three-member faculty committee to gather more facts, do an analysis and report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the faculty in the fall of 1981. That special committee, consist-

ing of Professors Arlen Christenson, John Kidwell and Peter Carstensen, reported its findings and conclusions late in the fall semester of the 1981-1982 academic year. Since then, the faculty has been reviewing those findings and conclusions and will take action on them in the fall of 1982.

The special committee brought in a number of resolutions, but I will attempt to summarize them briefly in two or three categories. A number of the resolutions relate to the concern that there are too many survey courses in the second and third year curriculum and that the courses are not very closely integrated and often do not seem to follow any particular pattern or sequence. Thus, the committee has suggested that we explore the concept of creating clusters of courses, not with the idea that students would specialize in particular areas but rather with the idea that clusters of rel-

ated courses would promote better interaction among faculty members who teach the courses. This in turn should promote better sequencing of courses, avoid overlaps and gaps, and in general promote a more rational curriculum. The thought also is that the cluster of courses would tend to afford opportunities for more in-depth experiences for students, including intensive writing experiences, and that this would have a beneficial effect on the students' legal education.

A second set of resolutions relate to the general question of whether we are making the best allocation of resources between traditional classroom courses on the one hand and simulation and clinical courses on the other hand. Thus, the Committee is recommending that we make a firm decision as a faculty on what clinical and simulation programs we are going to support and at what level.

A third set of resolutions relate to the expansion of opportunities for students to engage in joint program work, such as joint degree programs with the Business School or with other departments in the University.

It is too soon to predict exactly what changes will result. Curricular changes do not come easily. One speaker from a distinguished school in the East at a recent conference I attended said, in speaking of curricular reform at his school: "When I was involved in curricular reform during an intensive two-year study at our school, the questions progressed from (1) What kind of changes should we make, to (2) how can we practically make some changes, to (3) why did we change so little?" I am optimistic, however, that net benefits will flow from the study we have been engaged in at Wisconsin.

Orrin L. Helstad
Dean



UW Law Alumni in California

you are invited

to an ALUMNI LUNCHEON

as part of the

State Bar of California

1982 ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, September 13, 1982

Details and reservation forms will be
mailed in August