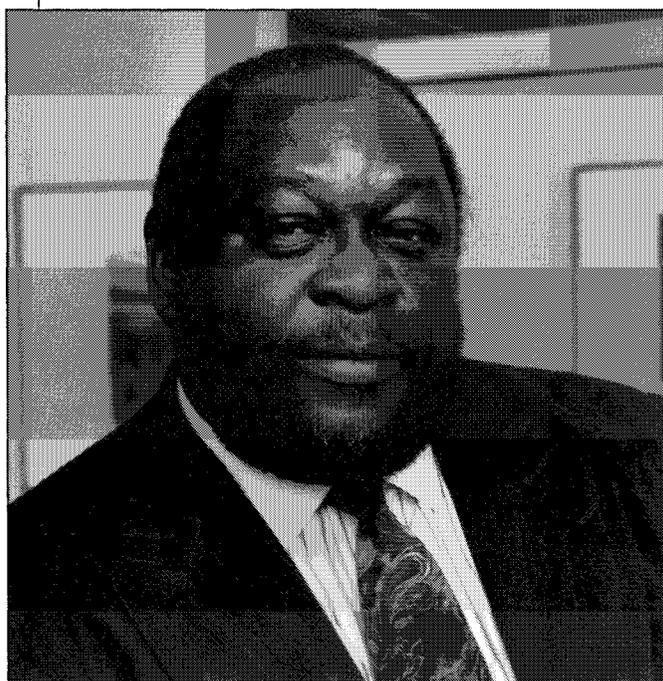


There are some duties that a dean really enjoys, like receiving big checks, big checks representing substantial contributions to our Law School. The two photos included in this column represent two of those happy occasions. The Winnebago Tribe of Wisconsin has made a contribution in support of our Great Lakes Indian Law Center, a clinical program which has placed students with each of Wisconsin's tribes. The other contribution was from Mead Data Central in support of our building project.

As we travel around the state and around the country, raising funds for the building expansion and improvement



Dean Daniel O. Bernstine

project, several common myths about funding for the Law School and voluntary support are repeated. I thought that by sharing them with you here, I might be able to spend more time with you in person explaining our needs and how your assistance can help us all.

Myth #1: I am a member of WLAA, I already pay \$20 per year and have done so for many years.

Once upon a time, WLAA was the major source of voluntary support for the Law School and twenty dollars a year was indeed a big help. Unfortunately, times have changed. Part of the annual dues of most WLAA members goes to support the Law Review. In return, you receive all six issues of the Law Review at a greatly reduced cost. Whatever is left over, about \$10,000, becomes part of the annual budget for alumni relations. For 1994-95, that budget will probably exceed \$400,000. Obviously either there are not enough WLAA members or dues are not high enough to do what needs to be done.

Myth #2: I live and work in Wisconsin. My taxes support the Law School. I don't have to give any more.

About 60% of our graduates reside in Wisconsin and most, presumably, pay state taxes. These taxes, again in years gone by, did "support" the University. Today, however, state taxes only "assist" the University. State support makes up less than 25% of the University budget. The remainder comes from research grants and contracts, tuition, and voluntary contributions. While the portion of the Law School budget that comes from state taxes is higher (about 60%), our share of research funds is substantially less, placing the same emphasis on private contributions to maintain our level of excellence. A few years ago we did some math to learn just what an "average state taxpayer" might contribute to the Law School budget. I think you will agree that, if you are average, three dollars a year does not constitute sufficient support of this School by one of its resident graduates.

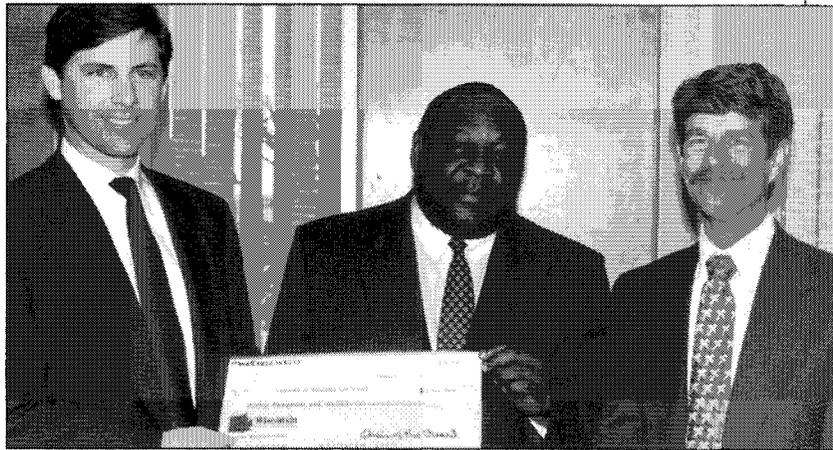
Myth #3: Why should I help, the School never did anything for me while I was there!

Part of the answer to this one is shown above, but more importantly I ask you to consider what your life would have been like without the training you received here. Surveys of our alumni indicate that the great majority have spent at least part of their lives using the training received here. Not everyone enjoyed being a law student, especially the hours of study, faculty that could test your preparation, and more work than most of us previously experienced. Most of these bad feelings seem to abate with time, however. The intellectual skills, the discipline and the friendships formed in Law School have value even to those who have left the law to pursue other paths. Perhaps we did something for you even if you have not discovered it yet.

As we clean and move in preparation for the start of construction we sometimes find the most interesting items. I would like to quote from a letter found in our files:

Another need which can hardly be fully realized within our present limitations of space is the need of rooms for training in practice both before the courts and administrative tribunals. Something might be done in the way of fitting up some rooms made available by the removal of our library to the new library wing. But the real need is for specially designed rooms in a new or an enlarged law building.

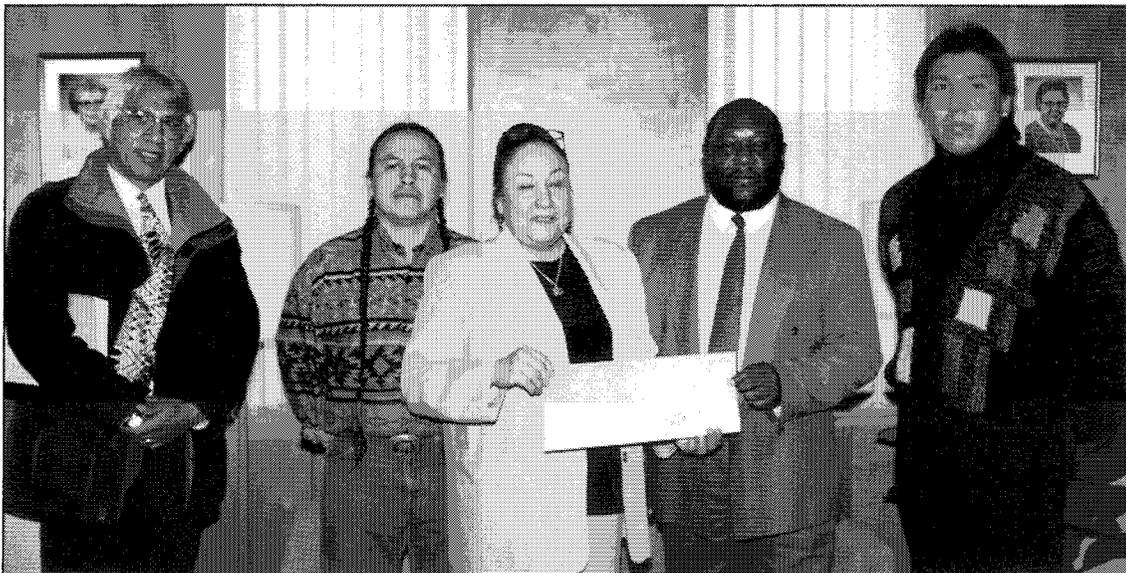
Of course the great need the Law School has is for



A representative from Mead Data Central presents a contribution to Dean Bernstine.

more space. Our need has been somewhat relieved but not met by the new library addition, the product of federal aid and borrowed funds.

These comments were written in 1945 from Dean Oliver S. Rundell to Basil Peterson, who had asked how contributions could be used by the Law School. Dean Rundell must be smiling today, 49 years later, as the same issues face us again. Let us solve them now so that all of you, and several generations of our successors, can benefit and prosper.



Dean Bernstine receives a contribution from Winnebago Tribal Chair Jo Ann Jones ('87).