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## Events

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## Students dine and debate with McGowan and Greenberg

*Eminent judge and civil rights lawyer are DeRoy Fellows*

Initiated in 1980 through an endowment fund established by the will of Detroit philanthropist Helen L. DeRoy, the Law School's DeRoy Fellowships bring leading lawyers and national figures to campus for sufficient periods to attend classes, meet with students, and offer their insight and expertise in a variety of settings other than the formal lecture. This year the program's aim of bringing law students in contact with people who have influenced our legal and political life was particularly well served through the visits of United States Appeals Court Judge Carl McGowan and of Jack Greenberg, the director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Mr. Greenberg, who visited in early November, participated in classes in criminal law, employment discrimination, professional ethics, and civil rights litigation in federal courts. He also held an open discussion session for students, met with members of the Black Law Students Alliance, and talked with small groups of students over meals and at a reception sponsored by the Law School Student Senate.

Mr. Greenberg has been associated with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund since its inception. After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1949, he became an associate of one of its founders, present Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

In his more than twenty years with the Fund, Mr. Greenberg has played a part in such landmark Supreme Court cases as *Brown vs. Board of Education* and

*Furman vs. Georgia*, a case in which the Court held that the uneven and arbitrary imposition of the death penalty possible under existing statutes constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

Since 1967, Mr. Greenberg has conducted a national drive to abolish the death penalty, arguing that it has had a racially discriminatory impact. In 1978, Mr. Greenberg received a Grenville Clark Award for public service.

Judge Carl McGowan, who spent ten days at the Law School in March, had been made an honorary alumnus of the University at winter commencement only a few months earlier. The statement of his merits made on that occasion clearly suggests the value of his experience and influence for law students. The substance of that statement is given here.

During a rich and varied life in the law, Carl McGowan has made invaluable contributions to the public weal. As a distinguished federal judge, he has ably advanced the ideals of justice and of liberty under law. For many, he has become the exemplar of a judge.

Early in his career, Judge McGowan served as counsel to Governor Adlai Stevenson. A biographer of Stevenson has written that McGowan was the governor's most valuable advisor on "substance, on policy and on questions of principle versus political expediency." The biographer continues, "McGowan performed the further invaluable function of saying no to Stevenson, a role not common around public men."

In his eighteen-year service on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge McGowan has consistently combined preeminent technical competence with profound ethical concern. His judicial opinions, written in the plain style with few flourishes, show painstaking thought, careful articulation, and broad erudition. They reveal his extraordinary affinity for the modes of legal analysis and his deep understanding of the social context in which law operates.

Although deeply engrossed in professional responsibilities, Judge McGowan has contributed significantly to legal scholarship and to an understanding of the aims of legal education. Law schools, he has persuasively maintained, must foster not merely competent technicians but wise and reliable counselors with an "understanding of the purposes of law" and sensitivity "to the requirements of a just and orderly society, and to currents of change." To that end, he has been a forthright defender of humanistic values in university law training.

There is a striking consistency in the quality of John McGowan's career as a teacher, in state government, as a private lawyer, and as a federal judge. In all of these roles and activities, he has been distinguished for his exceptional professional competence, his wide learning, his sense of public calling, and his unflinching decency and integrity. The University of Michigan is proud to claim him as one of our own by conferring on him the honorary degree Doctor of Laws.

During his stay at the Law School, Judge McGowan participated in classes on constitutional law, administrative law, and legal ethics. He also met informally with students and faculty.