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INTRODUCTION: ADVISORY COUNCIL ON UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

In November 1991, the Congress of the United States passed the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, Pub. L. No. 102-164. The Act included a section that created the Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation, which was charged with the task of evaluating "the unemployment compensation program, including the purpose, goals, countercyclical effectiveness, coverage, benefit adequacy, trust fund solvency, funding of State administrative costs, administrative efficiency, and any other aspects of the program and to make recommendations for improvement."

The Advisory Council is made up of eleven members, listed below, who represent the interests of business, labor, state governments, and the public. Five of the members are appointed by the President, three members are appointed by the Senate, and three members are appointed by the House of Representatives.

The Advisory Council generally has approached its work by focusing its attention on broad, fundamental elements of the Unemployment Insurance system. During 1993, its first year of operation, the Council examined the need for reform in the Extended Benefits component of the Unemployment Insurance system. Its work during the second year focused primarily on those issues related to benefits, eligibility, financing, and coverage. This year, the Council's third and final year of operation, the Council will consider issues generally related to program administration, including appeals and federal-state responsibilities, as well as a number of other issues that include non-monetary eligibility and program data.

In carrying out its mandate to evaluate and analyze the Unemployment Insurance system, the Advisory Council has relied on a diverse collection of information sources. The Council receives regular briefing materials from its staff and also has held a series of public hearings across the country in order to allow interested individuals and organizations to present their views to the Council. In addition, the Council has planned a number of academic conferences to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the presentation of works of research on Unemployment Insurance. In addition to the March legal symposium at the University of Michigan Law School these forums include two economics research conferences, one held in August 1994 and another planned for summer 1995.

This legal symposium, sponsored jointly by the Advisory Council and the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, is a critical component in the series of academic forums. It will enable the Council to consider the most current legal research on the Unemployment Insurance system, including numerous topics that are related directly to the Council's substantive agenda for the next year. The inclusion of legal scholars, Unemployment Insurance practitioners, and federal

and state policymakers among the symposium participants will provide the Council with a unique and valuable opportunity to integrate traditionally divergent perspectives as the Council begins its consideration of the legal and administrative components of the Unemployment Insurance system.

—*Janet L. Norwood, Chair*

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

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