

Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)

Volume 11 | Number 2

Article 5

Spring 1967

Who Will Watch the Watchers?

University of Michigan Law School

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Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, *Who Will Watch the Watchers?*, 11 *Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)* - (1967).

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/lqnotes/vol11/iss2/5>

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"Who Will Watch the Watchers?"

Professors Julin and Israel featured in U-M Television Center production examining law enforcement problems in light of recent Supreme Court decisions

As part of the continuing effort of the Law School to use television to bring about a general understanding of the reasons for and the implications of United States Supreme Court decisions, the school recently joined with the University of Michigan Television Center in producing the series "Who Will Watch the Watchers?"

Beginning with an examination of the implications and impact on law enforcement of the Supreme Court decisions in the *Escobedo* and *Miranda* cases, the ten-program series features Law School professors Joseph R. Julin and Jerold H. Israel along with a selected guest on each show.

The series deals with a broad range of law enforcement problems upon which Supreme Court decisions have had, and will have, an effect. These include arrests, search and seizure, wiretapping and eavesdropping, entrapment, and crimes of vice. It concludes with three programs in which the private citizen's rights and relations with public enforcement bodies are discussed.

The series has been distributed to an over-50-station commercial network which carried it in most of the large cities throughout the country. Response thus far has been quite favorable. This is the third time Professor Julin has been involved in a major TV series on legal problems. The first, entitled "A Quest for Certainty," released in 1964, received the American Bar Association 'Silver Gavel Award for Outstanding Social Service' in that year.

The 1964 series, Julin's first extensive work before the camera, utilized a large amount of graphic material in aid of the aim of acquainting the viewer with the law generally.

By contrast, the present series used a panel-discussion format, mainly because of the greater complexity of the questions which were to be dealt with.

"I was kind of the 'contrary' panel member," Israel laughs, "since I al-

ways tried to present the other side whenever an argument was advanced. This was because we wanted to stress the balancing of considerations which is so important in the law enforcement area."

Each program featured Julin and Israel with a guest panelist in a discussion of a specific problem or area. Among the guest panelists were Law School Dean Francis A. Allen, Professors B. James George, Jr., Yale Kamisar, Marcus L. Plant, and Edmund F. Devine of the Law School, Professor Albert Reiss, Jr., chairman of the University of Michigan Department of Sociology, and Vincent Pier-sante, Chief of Detectives for the Detroit City Police Department.

"In many instances we felt that our discussions were much clearer and more cogent than they would have been had we been conversing privately simply because we knew that we were attempting to get points across to laymen," Julin remarked.

However the program certainly could not be termed one which the everyday television bug would find interesting, since the inherent complexity of the area made some familiarity with the subject matter almost a necessity.

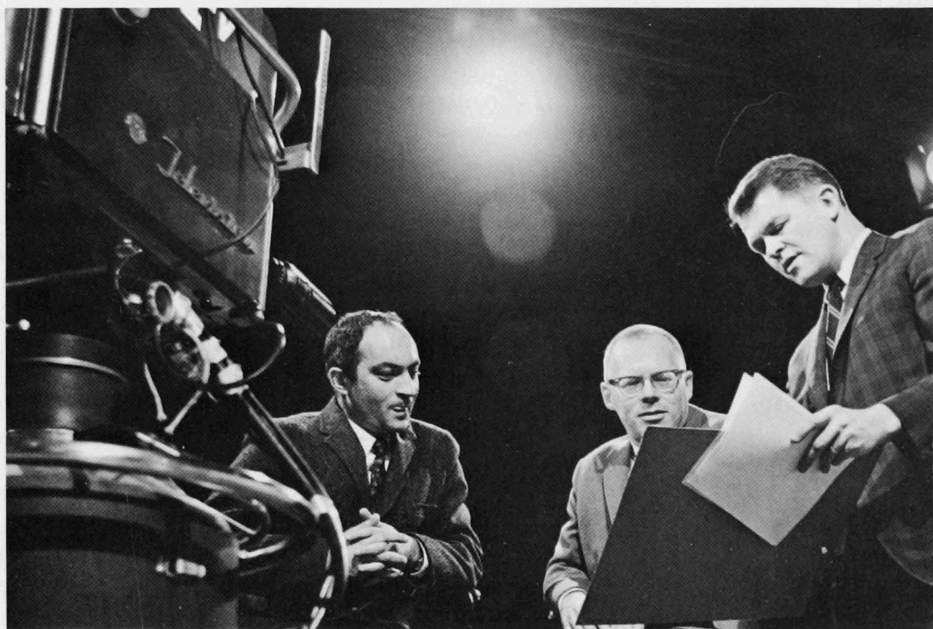
"I suppose you would say that it is aimed at the 'intellectually curious' and those with some familiarity with the general area," Israel explained. "Some of the questions we dealt with, like those concerning confessions and interrogations, would, of course, not be new to most persons, but many of the other shows dealt with subjects which only the more sophisticated could appreciate."

Israel found the shows dealing with the private citizen and his relation to present-day law enforcement problems especially interesting.

"Many people have never thought of this aspect, and I found that the questions of the rights of the innocent,

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Professors Jerold Israel and Joseph R. Julin discuss the format of a program with Lee (Mack) Woodruff, producer of the U-M TV Center's "Who Will Watch the Watchers?" series.



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individuals and private agencies taking the law into their own hands, and the relationship of public law enforcement agencies to society were very interesting to the viewers," he stated.

Each having had previous experience in television work, both Julin and Israel found the work in producing the series rewarding insofar as the purposes they hoped it would serve.

"They are definitely a valuable medium, and I think they could be used with success in many areas and at many levels. I'd especially like to try something along this line at the undergraduate level in an attempt to interest college students in the legal profession," Israel concluded.

