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THE LAW SCHOOL 1948-1949

Oversized enrollment again characterizes the student body of the University of Michigan Law School for the year 1948-49. Somewhat reduced from last year's record of 1107 prospective lawyers, this year the William W. Cook Law Quadrangle is accommodating 1057 future members of the bar. The beginning class of 426 students, together with 279 second year students, 339 seniors, 10 candidates for the graduate degrees, and 3 special students all add up to 1057 total. In the total are included 24 future Portias of the bar. These figures should be compared and contrasted with pre-war enrollments approximating 600-650 stu-

dents. The demand for legal education seems to be almost insatiable. Indeed, the number is kept within the bounds indicated only by careful selection from a very large number of applicants for admission. The 426 members of the first year class are selected from approximately 1200 applicants.

An interesting innovation of last year is the use of moving pictures in connection with the work of the Practice Court. Alumni of twenty-five years ago will recall that at one time it was customary for law students to enact the litigious scenes that were made the subject of Practice Court trials. However, the time consumed, not to mention the disrupting effect of occasional misplaced humor of senior law students, finally resulted in the abandonment of the enacted scenes, and thereafter jury trials were no longer a part of the Practice Court program. But modern science suggests a new technique. Last year under the supervision of Assistant Professor Charles W. Joiner, who is in charge of the work of the Practice Court, moving pictures were for the first time used as the basis of moot court jury trials. Through co-operation of the Departments of Play Production and Visual Education of the University, skilled and properly coached students of dramatics enacted before movie cameras the scenes that constituted the facts of the law suit. A young laboring man with his dinner bucket in his hand was crossing Monroe Street on the way to work on a murky and slippery winter morning. Seeing a girl friend down the street he withdrew his attention from the crossway to wave an affectionate greeting. This young man became the plaintiff in the trial. Unfortunately, at the same moment that the plaintiff entered the crossway, the defendant, driving his car at a high rate of speed, with a chatting companion in the front seat was travelling along Monroe Street, and he too, at the same critical moment, waved to a friend on the sidewalk. The car and the plaintiff collided. The ambulance took the injured man to the hospital. The police measured the skid tracks and interviewed witnesses. All the while cameras recorded the events from various convenient locations, and the negligence case was set up. The attorneys were senior law students, two on each side. The film was shown to the witnesses only. Each witness saw only the portion of the film he would have seen had he been actually at the location of the camera taking the picture. Each witness, therefore, had a definite point of view. The attorneys obtained statements of facts from their clients and from witnesses. The trial proceeded in a most realistic fashion, but also, realistically, the jury disagreed. All in all it was a valuable and illuminating experiment that promises a significant addition to the work of the Practice Court. It comes fairly close to reproducing the atmosphere of a real trial. During the current year we shall not only use last year's film again but we shall make at least one and possibly two additional films. So far we have used only silent films. Next year if all goes well

we shall experiment with "sound track" which will, of course, introduce the possibility of using conversation as evidence. Gradually, a film library will be accumulated. In a word the Law School is "going modern" and is taking advantage of the Hollywood idea, without, however, emulating some of its more notorious practices.

This year we can report two new additions to the law faculty. William W. Bishop, Jr. has been appointed Professor of Law. He was graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1931. His father is William W. Bishop, of Ann Arbor, long associated with the University as Director of the General Library. From 1931 to 1935 Mr. Bishop served as research assistant and teaching fellow in International Law in the Law School, thereafter he practiced law in New York in the firm of Root, Clark, Buckner and Ballantine, then he taught international law at Princeton University in the Department of Political Science. Next he pursued graduate studies in international law at Columbia University, and in 1939 he accepted an appointment on the legal staff in the office of Legal Adviser of the State Department in Washington, D.C. There he remained until March, 1946, at which time he became Professor of International Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. During his seven years in the State Department Mr. Bishop became a master of treaty law, and, as a consequence of his familiarity with this field, he was selected to serve as the chief legal adviser of the American Delegation in the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Paris in 1945 for the purpose of drafting the Italian, Bulgarian and Rumanian peace treaties. His service in this connection has given him a commanding position in his field of specialty. Through his teaching and scholarship we expect the University of Michigan Law School to make an unusual contribution in International Law.

The other new addition to the teaching staff is Assistant Professor Samuel D. Estep who takes the place left vacant by the resignation of Assistant Professor Kenneth A. Cox. Mr. Estep was graduated from the Law School in June, 1946, standing at the top of his class, with an outstanding performance on the Law Review and in the Law School Case Club. After graduation he became associated with the firm of Cook, Smith, Jacobs and Beake of Detroit, where he practiced law until he was called to the law faculty this year.

In addition to these two new appointments, Professor John P. Dawson has returned to duty after spending a year in Greece working with the American Aid Commission as Director of Foreign Trade Administration, in charge of imports and exports from that troubled country, and Professor Hessel E. Yntema has returned after a year at Yale University Law School. The return of these older staff members and the addition of the two new appointees greatly strengthens the teaching and research staff of the School.

A few remarks concerning the Law School research program will be of interest. The second volume of Dr. Ernest Rabel's notable study *Conflict of Laws: A Comparative Study* is now off the press. The first volume was published in 1945, and the third volume will be in the hands of the printer within two or three months. These three volumes will be a monumental study which may well become one of the classics of Anglo-American legal literature. In addition, the annotated and documented translation of the Soviet Civil Code in two volumes which has been under preparation since 1943 is practically ready for the bookshelves. Publication has been delayed by printing difficulties but the volumes will be available by the beginning of 1949. This project has been carried on under the supervision of Professor Hessel E. Yntema, but the principal portion of the translation and annotation has been performed by Mr. Vladimir Gsovski, a pre-revolutionary member of the Russian Bar, who left Russia as a result of the revolution and who is now a member of the staff of the Library of Congress. As the only English translation of the Soviet Civil Code, this publication should prove of substantial utilitarian as well as scholarly value especially to the United States Government and to the individuals and corporations who need information and understanding concerning the Soviet Civil Code. The treatment includes such subjects as property, tort, contract, and corporation law, laws of inheritance, labor law, agrarian legislation and judicial procedure. It deals with private civil law and does not deal with political questions or policies as found "behind the Iron Curtain."

The William W. Cook lectures on American Institutions were delivered in April of this year by Hon. Arthur T. Vanderbilt, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, former president of the American Bar Association, former Dean of the New York University Law School and eminent member of the New Jersey bar. The lectures were entitled "Men and Measures in the Law." They were a remarkably interesting discussion of the leading figures and movements that have contributed to the development of Anglo-American law. Mansfield, Bentham, Kent, Story, Marshall and others were portrayed. The notable efforts of recent years of the organized bar in this country to improve the administration of justice were evaluated. The lectures will soon be available in published form, and they should be of interest to every member of the bar who is genuinely interested in his profession.

These are only a few of the concrete results of the program of legal scholarship and research made possible through the generosity of the late William W. Cook, '82 Law, who built the University of Michigan Law Quadrangle and endowed legal research at his alma mater.

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