Class of 1957 Fifteen Year Report Preface

University of Michigan Law School

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.law.umich.edu/alumni_survey_reports

Part of the Legal Education Commons, and the Legal Profession Commons

Recommended Citation

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Michigan Law School Alumni Survey Project at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in UMLS Alumni Survey Class Reports by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.
In 1954, when the Class of 1957 entered law school, the physical plant was much as it is today. The stack addition to the Legal Research Building was completed in 1955 so that the Class became familiar before graduation with the only expansion of the buildings making up the Law Quadrangle that has occurred since the original construction was completed in 1933. While the external structure has remained the same, there have been many changes within the buildings.

In Hutchins Hall the fourth floor is occupied by the offices of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education as well as the Michigan Law Review. The Institute is a joint venture of the University of Michigan Law School, Wayne State University Law School, and the State Bar of Michigan. Its primary responsibility is the formulation and administration of a program to facilitate the transition from law school to active practice, to improve the general professional competence of the members of the bar, and to provide advanced specialty courses for the practitioner. The Placement Office now occupies space on the second floor of Hutchins with 2 full-time permanent staff including the supervisor and 2 additional staff during fall recruiting and interviewing. Room 200 was remodeled some years ago to provide 14 small offices along the sides which are used as interview offices by the Placement Office and as study carrels. The bulk of this large room is still a study hall. There is also a closed circuit TV system on the second floor of Hutchins which is connected with the court room in the county building in downtown Ann Arbor. A balcony area providing additional carrels for use by Law Review staff has been built into the Faculty Library on the third floor of Hutchins. There is now an all-student lounge in the basement of Hutchins as well as a lounge for women students.

There have been many changes in the Legal Research Building as well. Possibly the most notable are the newly constructed meeting rooms for various student organizations, a faculty lounge, a copy center, and a Law School Fund Office, all in the basement. On the ninth floor a large area, formerly used by the Legislative Research Center and later as a secretarial pool, has been remodeled into several offices, including five for professors and two for secretaries. New elevators have been installed in both Hutchins and Legal Research.

The Law School Fund mentioned above was an outgrowth of the Law School Centennial Fund which was promoted in 1959 as a part of the University Sesquicentennial Celebration. From 1961, the date of its beginning, through 1971, the Law School Fund has been
responsible for the collection of $2,160,245.85 in gifts. It was also in 1961 that the Lawyers' Club was reorganized to include the entire student body of the Law School, past and present. Prior to this time membership was limited to those students living in the two dormitory buildings of the Law Quadrangle. A Committee of Visitors was also formed in 1961. This is composed of interested alumni who, serving a two-year term, visit the school at least once a year to confer with the faculty and students and to make recommendations to the School for the continuing improvement of its programs and services to legal education and to the bar.

The following student organizations have been formed since 1957: Black Law Students' Alliance, Law Wives Association, Women Law Students' Organization, International Law Society, Legal Aid Society, Environmental Law Society, Milan-Jackson Prison Program, Legislative Aid Bureau, and Civil Rights Research Council.

A Journal of Law Reform and Res Gestae, a student newspaper, have been added to the publications.

The changes in the law library have been considerable. As of July 1, 1957 the library contained 276,468 bound volumes in addition to large numbers of pamphlets, reprints and documents. As of October 4, 1971 the library contains 421,000 bound volumes in addition to pamphlets, reprints and documents. The staff has increased proportionately with 19 professional members and 18 full-time non-professional staff; in addition there are 31 desk assistants and hourly employees.

Faculty: The active faculty as of September 1954 included 21 full-time professors, 3 associate professors, and 4 assistant professors. In addition, there were 2 part-time professors and a lecturer. The total full-time faculty numbered 28, and the full teaching staff totaled 31.

In addition to teaching responsibilities, E. Elythe Stason was the school’s only dean, Hobart Coffey was director of the law library, Lewis M. Simes was director of Legal Research, Russell A. Smith was secretary of the law school, Samuel D. Estep was director of the Legislative Research Center, William B. Harvey was Admissions Officer, and William J. Pierce was assistant director of Legislative Research Center. Other members of the faculty were: Ralph W. Aigler (on retirement furlough), Burke Sharpe, John P. Dawson, William W. Blume, Laylin K. James, Hessel E. Yntema, Paul G. Kauper, William W. Bishop, Jr., George E. Palmer, S. Cheshiefeld Oppenheim, Frank Cooper, Marcus L. Plant, Charles W. Joiner, L. Hart Wright, Allan F. Smith, John W. Reed, Olin L. Browder, Jr., Roy L. Steinheimer, Edmund F.
DeVine, Luke K. Cooperrider, B. James George, Jr., Alfred F. Conard, Richard V. Wellman, and Arthur M. Smith. Marvin Niehuss, a long time member of the law faculty, was serving as an executive officer of the University. Miss Katherine C. Murray was the recorder.

The 1972-73 Faculty is composed of 42 full-time professors including two (President Fleming and Vice President Allan F. Smith) who are on a full-time assignment to executive posts in the University. In addition, there are 1 visiting professor, 4 associate professors, 6 assistant professors, 1 adjunct assistant professor (part-time), 1 visiting assistant professor, 7 instructors, and 4 lecturers. Thus the teaching staff has expanded from 31 to 66. The dean and an associate dean, both of whom are also professors, are included in the count. Other key administrative personnel include 2 assistant deans, 2 assistants to the dean, a registrar and supervisor of law school records, a supervisor of the Placement Office, a supervisor of the Admissions Office, a supervisor of the Law School Fund, and a director of secretarial services.

Those members of the 1954-55 faculty still on the active staff are William W. Bishop, Jr., Olin L. Browder, Jr., Alfred F. Conard, Luke K. Cooperrider, Edmund F. DeVine, Samuel D. Estep, Paul G. Kauper, George E. Palmer, William J. Pierce, Marcus L. Plant, John W. Reed, Richard V. Wellman, and L. Hart Wright. Professors Aigler, Coffey, Cooper, James, Shartel, Arthur M. Smith, and Yntema are deceased. Dean Stason and Professors Blume, Oppenheim, and Simes are retired. Professor Dawson has been a member of the Harvard Law School staff since 1955. Professor George resigned to join the Practicing Law Institute in New York and more recently to return to Michigan to head a program at Wayne State University Law School on administration of justice. Professors Joiner and Steinheimer have become law deans at Wayne State and Washington and Lee respectively. Until recently Professor Harvey was dean at Indiana University Law School. Professor Allan F. Smith is now vice president for academic affairs for the University. Professor Marvin Niehuss, who served the University for many years in various high administrative posts, rejoined the teaching faculty in 1969 and begins his retirement furlough in 1972. Professor Russell Smith retires as of May 1972.

Enrollment: The total enrollment for 1954-55 regular session was 708*. This included 299 members in the freshman class of which 19 were women.

The total enrollment for 1971-72 regular session is 1,244*. Of this number 353 are listed as members of the freshman class, and 56 of the 353 are women.

Admission: In 1954 those eligible for the first degrees in law were *Summer sessions not included.
(1) graduates of approved colleges, including engineering colleges, whose scholastic records and other evidences of ability indicated, in the judgment of the Committee on Admissions, a reasonable probability of success in the law school, and (2) students who had been admitted to the integrated program. In addition to the above, each applicant was expected to take the Law School Admission Test unless, because of special circumstances, the test was waived.

The requirements for admission as listed in the 1972-73 official publication for the first degree in law are as follows: (1) must be a graduate of an accredited college, and (2) have a scholastic record, score on the Law School Admission Test, and other evidences of ability to indicate substantial probability of success in the law school. The integrated program is no longer in effect.

Curriculum & Degree: In 1954 graduation requirements included six semesters or the equivalent in full-time residence and the completion of 50 credit hours of work in addition to the 30 hours of required course work in the first year. Those participating in the integrated program followed a special course of study. The first year courses were Civil Procedure I (3 hours), Contracts (8 hours), Criminal Law (3 hours), Introduction to Law & Equity (3 hours), Property (8 hours), and Torts (5 hours). The required courses for the second year were Civil Procedure II (3 hours), Constitutional Law (4 hours), and Trusts & Estates I (3 hours). During the third year Evidence (3 hours) and Practice Court or Civil Procedure III (1 hour) were required. In addition each student had to elect at least 3 courses from the Public Law Group and at least 1 from the Jurisprudence Group. While joining a Case Club was not required, students were encouraged to do so as a means of gaining additional court experience and to supplement and augment the work in Practice Court. During the years 1954-57 the members of the Michigan Law Review editorial staff were chosen from the third year class on the basis of scholarship and evidence of aptitude for editorial work.

A list of 30 electives and 19 seminars and special courses was offered from which students elected hours to add to the 44 hours of required courses to meet the requirements of a minimum total of 80 hours for the LL.B. or J.D. degree.

The degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) was awarded on the fulfillment of the above requirements. A degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.) was conferred upon those students who had met the course and academic requirements prescribed for the Bachelor of Law degree, had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent, and had maintained an average grade of B or better in all work carried after entering law school.

At present the degree of Juris Doctor is conferred upon all
students who have met the entrance requirements and have satisfactorily completed the program of law study prescribed by the regulations of the school. This includes six terms or its equivalent in full-time residence, and the satisfactory completion of 82 hours of work. If a student maintains a cumulative average of 3.2 or better on all work carried, the degree is awarded with honors.

The awarding of a J.D. degree has been made retroactive for the benefit of all graduates who request it. If desired a new diploma will be issued for a modest fee. To date some 3,000 graduates have requested the change from LL.B. to J.D.

The current list of required courses is as follows: first year - Writing & Advocacy Program (1 hour), Civil Procedure (6 hours), Constitutional Law I (2 hours), Contracts (6 hours), Criminal Law (4 hours), Property (6 hours), and Torts (5 hours). The only other requirement is the election and completion of at least one seminar during either the second or third year. All other course and group requirements were eliminated a few years ago.

In addition to the required courses, 50 courses and 36 seminars are listed in the current catalogue. In addition to these, students may elect up to 6 hours of approved non-law school courses and also may gain up to 6 hours of credit toward graduation through approved, independent research and writing projects.

The law school is now offering the opportunity for students to do voluntary legal aid work. Also available are two opportunities to do clinical work for credit: (1) Clinical Law I in which students are expected to work at least 20 hours per week, under the supervision of two faculty members, handling a variety of cases coming from the Washtenaw County Legal Aid Clinic. Participants are also required to attend an evening seminar. Seven hours credit is earned. (2) Center for Law & Social Policy Each semester a small group of students takes up residence in Washington, D.C. for six months where they work with the Center's staff on various cases. This experience is limited to juniors and first semester seniors. Twelve hours credit is given.

If desired, qualified students, after successful completion of the first year of law study and after consultation with the Assistant Dean of the Law School, may apply for permission to work on a master's degree program concurrently with the study of law. Such a program requires a minimum of seven and a half terms.

Participation in work for the Michigan Law Review and the new journal entitled Journal of Law Reform carries no academic credit. The editorial board of the Michigan Law Review is chosen from the
The elective courses as listed in the current catalogue are:

Accounting for Law Students (1 hour)
Administrative Law (2 or 3 hours)
Admiralty (2 hours)
Business Planning (3 hours)
Commercial Transactions (4 hours)
Communist Law (2 hours)
Conflict of Laws (3 hours)
Constitutional Law II (3 hours)
Consumer Credit Transactions (2 hrs.)
Criminal Appellate Practice (3 hours)
Criminal Justice, Admin. of: Police Practices & Courts (3 hours)
Criminal Procedure: From Bail to Post-Conviction Review (3 hrs.)
Debtors' & Creditors' Rights (3 hrs.)
Economics of Public Policy Analysis (3 hours)
Enterprise Organization (4 hours)
Equitable Remedies (2 or 3 hours)
European Legal Systems (2 hours)
Evidence (3 hours)
Family Law (3 hours)
Federal Antitrust Laws (3 hours)
Federal Courts & the Federal System (3 hours)
International Law (3 hours)
International Trade & Economic Relations, Law (3 hours)
Investment Securities (2 hours)
Labor Arbitration & Collective Bargaining (2 or 3 hours)
Labor Law (3 hours)
Land Finance Law (3 hours)
Law & Institutions of the Atlantic Area (3 hours)
Law & Psychiatry (2 hours)
Law Office Problems & Professional Responsibility (1 hr.)
Legal Philosophy (2 or 3 hrs.)
Legal Problems of Environmental Quality (2 hours)
Legislation (3 hours)
Local Government Law (3 hrs.)
Municipal Corporations (3 hrs.)
Patent Law (2 hours)
Professional Responsibility & the Legal Profession (2 hrs.)
Public Control of Land Use (2 hrs.)
Regulated Industries (2 or 3 hrs.)
Restitution (3 hours)
Security (3 hours)
Taxation I (4 hours)
Taxation II (5 hours)
Taxation, Estate & Gift (2 hrs.)
The Welfare System (2 hours)
Trusts & Estates I (3 hours)
Trusts & Estates II (3 hours)
Unfair Trade Practices (3 hrs.)
Water Law, Planning & Policy (3 hours)
Workmen's Compensation (2 hrs.)

Seminars and special courses offered as demand warrants:

African Law & Economic Development (2 hours)
Church & State (2 hours)
Civil Liberties (2 hours)
Communications Sciences & the Law (2 hours)
Comparative Constitutional Law (2 hrs.)
Labor Law (2 hours)
Law & Society (2 hours)
Law, History & Society (2 hrs.)
Legal Control of Land Use (2 hrs.)
Legal Norms & Corporate Policy (2 hours)
Legal Problems of Higher Education (2 hours)
Comparative Contract Law (2 hours)  
Congress, The Supreme Court & the Constitution (2 hours)  
Copyright (2 hours)  
Current Problems in Tax Policy (2 hrs.)  
Drugs & Other Current Issues in Substantive Criminal Law (3 hours)  
Environmental Quality Control, Research in (2 hours)  
Estate Planning (2 hours)  
European Business Organization (2 hrs.)  
Federal Jurisdiction (2 hours)  
Forensic Psychiatry in the Criminal Justice System (2 hours)  
International Law (2 hours)  
International Organization (United Nations & Specialized Agencies) (2 hrs.)  
International Problems of Criminal Law (2 hours)  

Legislative Problems (2 hrs.)  
Medicolegal Problems (2 hrs.)  
Probate Law (2 hours)  
Roman Law, Introduction to (2 hours)  
Science & the Law (2 hours)  
Selected Problems in the Law of Trusts (2 hours)  
Social Control & the Administrative Process (2 hrs.)  
Socio-Legal Research (2 hrs.)  
Symbolic Logic & Legal Communications (3 hours)  
Tax Affairs of American Corporations Engaged in Foreign Operations, & Comparative Tax Procedures (2 hours)  
The Lawyer as a Negotiator (3 hrs.)  
The United States Congress (2 hrs.)

Living Accommodations: In 1954 the Lawyers’ Club had accommodations for single men only. The room rental ranged from $105 to $160 per semester. The board rate was $11.50 per week for lunch and dinner six days per week and dinner on Sunday. A special cafeteria service was available for breakfast. Women students were housed in University approved housing. Married students could obtain apartments at a University owned housing project called University Terrace, but furnished apartments were available to veterans only. Other housing available to married veterans was Willow Run Village. Rentals at the Village ranged from $30 to $36 per month.

The 1972-73 official publication states that the Lawyers’ Club houses approximately 330 men and 20 women. Lawyers’ Club board and room contracts are for the full year and as of September 1971 prices range from $1,100 to $1,450. These prices include lunch and dinner six days a week and Sunday Brunch. Breakfast is à la carte. Other University housing is open to both single men and women. The University now provides married student housing on the North Campus. Rents for University owned apartments range from $106 to $172 per month.

Tuition, Fees & Books: The tuition cost to Michigan residents in 1954 was $125 per semester and to non-residents $250 per semester. These fees covered all University charges including Health Service, athletic coupon book, and Michigan Union or Michigan League privileges. Casebooks for class work averaged about $75 per year.

Fees listed in the 1972-73 announcement are $450 each term for Michigan residents and $1,150 per term for non-residents. These
fees entitle students to services of the Michigan Union or the Michigan League. An additional $10 fee is charged each term to cover preparation and issuance of special and supplemental materials; it also includes membership in the Lawyers' Club. Health Service and athletic events are extra. Casebooks for class work average $125 to $150 per year.