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University of Michigan Law School

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JOBS

Recent University of Michigan law graduates, experiencing a slight decline in job placements, are among law students across the country feeling the pinch of the depressed job market.

Employment figures for newly-graduated U-M law students are down about five percent from previous levels, according to the Law School placement office.

As of early June, the office reported that 70 per cent of the graduating U-M law class listed "definite plans" for the future--meaning plans for employment, military service or further graduate study. At this time last year, the figure was 75 per cent; in 1973 it was 72 percent; and the year before, 75 per cent.

"U-M Law school has not done too badly, considering the depressed job market and the increased number of law graduates looking for jobs nationally," says Nancy Krieger, the Law School's director of job placement. "Still, our figures have declined from past levels."

She believes that "generally, national law schools like Michigan have come close to previous placement levels, while some other schools have seen their job placement figures decline more sharply."

Surprisingly, Ms. Krieger notes a substantial increase this year in the number of job interviewers coming to the U-M Law School, the number of interviews scheduled, and the number of firms contacting the Law School by mail about job vacancies.

During the fall and winter terms 436 interviewers saw a total of 8,668 students at U-M Law School, according to Ms. Krieger.

con law

STEWART: FREE PRESS

The constitutional guarantee of a free press goes beyond freedom of expression, and "the publishing business is, in short, the only organized private business that is given explicit constitutional protection," according to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

In a bylined article in Barrister magazine, Justice Stewart said the court, in a series of recent rulings, "uniformly reflected its understanding that the free press guarantee is, in essence, a structural provision of the Constitution." Barrister is a quarterly publication of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

"Most of the other provisions of the Bill of Rights protect specific liberties or specific rights of individuals: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, the right to counsel, the privilege against compulsory self-incrimination," the Justice argued. "In contrast, the free press clause extends protection to an institution."

"This basic understanding is essential, I think, to avoid an elementary error of constitutional law," he said. "It is tempting to suggest that freedom of the press means only that newspaper publishers are guaranteed freedom of expression.

"They are guaranteed that freedom, to be sure, but so are we all, because of the free speech clause." But, "if the free press guarantee meant no more than freedom of expression, it would be a constitutional redundancy," he said.

Justice Stewart pointed out that before the Constitution was drafted many state constitutions protected free press but had no general freedom of speech. "By including both guarantees in the first amendment, the founders quite clearly recognized the distinction between the two," he said.

Justice Stewart also criticized theories that the only purpose of the free press guarantee is to ensure that a newspaper will serve as a neutral forum for debate, a "market place of ideas," or that the press is a neutral conduit of information between the people and their elected leaders.
**SUMMER STARTERS**

By Stan M. Ford

Summer starters who want to be prosecutors, income freaks, corporate herds, or heavy duty Bailey-Bellis pass this by. This is for those of you like myself (a summer starter two years ago) who came here for reasons in that great countercultural sphere somewhere in between the Ellsburg Trial, Perry Mason and the Spanish Civil War.


Summer is a hard time to do the law. It's hot, humid and hurried. There is little time to find yourself and even less to find others. But be of good cheer-hope worms its way even through granite walls. Discontent, both radical and reform has been on the rise over the past two years. While rarely broached in the classroom issues of minority admissions, the strangehold of white male professors, and a stodgy capitalist curriculum surfaced last year and promise to emerge more fully in the fall. So hold on to your perceptions-there is a place for them even here in the Dean's legal beagle pound.

Case in point—last year first year students unhappy with the alienating and overly competitive atmosphere of the law school joined together to form Section 5, a loose knit group of men and women who both talked about and acted on their feelings about the law school.

Section 5 culminated their efforts last year with an Alternative Practice Conference in which lawyers from across the country came to the U. and spoke about their struggles in living outside the traditional legal structure. It was a aspect of the law left untreated within the law school.

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**PRESIDENT FORD CONTEMPLATES THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

By Larry Elder

Because of the seriousness of Justice Douglas' recent stroke, President Ford has doubtless begun thinking about Supreme Court appointees. And to appease the dissent on the right, Ford might well be considering "strict constructionists". Consider the following:

President: Rumsfield, get in here.

(Presidential assistant Donald Rumsfield enters the oval office)

Rumsfield: Yes, Mr. President?

President: Are you finished with those profiles for my appointment of the ninth justice?

Rumsfield: Yes, sir. We've got it narrowed down to one judge that just might fit the bill.

President: Well, c'mon. Give me a rundown.

Rumsfield: Certainly. He's Judge Stricton Backlash—a strict constructionist, a Hoover appointee, and it's said in private circles, he'd give "Sound of Music" a restricted rating.

President: Sounds good.

Rumsfield: Oh, one other thing sir.

President: Yes?

Rumsfield: He's generally considered to be undistinguished, ah actually kind of mediocre... frankly, sir, down right stupid.

President: What's wrong with that? They said the same thing about me. But, now what are they saying? ... Don't answer that.

Rumsfield: I wasn't going to sir. I'll send Judge Backlash in.
"THE SUMMER STARTER SATURATION BLUES"

By Andrea Sachs ('78)

My Dearest Poindexter;

I must tearfully inform you that your behavior has been absolutely criminal. The tender sensibilities which I thought I detected in you were, in truth, only camouflage for your depraved heart. There is no defense for the emotional assault which you have so heinously inflicted upon me. My innocence, something which I have valued, was a definite liability in dealing with an emotional blackmailer of your magnitude.

Despite your unusual protestations and incessant pleadings, I remain wounded in spirit, your inconsideration being the direct and proximate cause of my pain and suffering. Who cares if your motives were good? Everyone knows that a man is presumed to intend the natural consequences of his actions! In spite of the deadly force of your charm, your trespasses on my human dignity have murdered any love for you on my part.

And still you resist my argument, insisting that you did not premeditate this chain of events. For goodness sake—be a reasonable man! Though there may have been no malice in your forethoughts, still you are guilty of the worst sort of woman-slaughter. Your immaturity...may, infancy...provokes me to comment that any responsible adult would soon realize that he cannot, with impunity, just wantonly and recklessly toy with another's heart. I find that sort of behavior gross, to an intolerable degree.

Take your punishment like a man. I am through with you, and realize finally that I must have been insane to imprison myself in this relationship for so long. Though I have little hope of rehabilitating you, I still hope that the pain which you may suffer will serve to deter another from such wrongful, wilful acts. Call it vengeance, but you deserve it. No one would ever describe that amount of retribution as cruel and unusual!

Don't call...don't write: no appeal will change my mind.

Your Onetime Victim,

Clarissa Darrow

P.S. If there is any negligent omission of fact in this brief letter, just realize that it is not my duty to totally reeducate you. Besides, I have to finish my homework.

---Prof. Y. Kamiscram
The founders deliberately created an internally competitive system when they set up the three branches of the federal government, Justice Stewart noted. "The primary purpose of the constitutional guarantee of free press is a similar one: to create a fourth institution outside the government as an additional check on the three official branches," he said.

"It is this constitutional understanding, I think, that provides the unifying principle underlying the Supreme Court's recent decisions dealing with the organized press," the Justice said.

"It ETHIC STUDENT EVER HAD!"

His article, called "The Free Press: The Great American Risk," also touches on immunity from libel and slander, reporters' claims of privilege to protect sources, the so-called right to access, and government secrecy.

The article was based on a speech the Justice made before the Yale Law School Sesquicentennial Convocation in November, 1974.
President: I see. What are your views on amnesia?

Backlash: You mean amnesty?

President: No, I mean amnesia. I can't remember what I did with your questions. Oh yes, here they are. In all your years on the bench which nine men, in your opinion, were the most effective?

Backlash: That's a toughie. Let's see. Mays in center, Ruth in right, Koufax--

President: No, no. I meant which Supreme Court nine?

Backlash: Sorry, I thought that it was a strange question.

President: Oh, forget it. Now then, do you have any skeletons rattling around in your closet?

Backlash: That's hard to say. My hall closet's stuffier than hell. It's not the same as skeletons, but there may be a party hat or two in there. Why do you ask?

President: Rumsfield! Rumsfield! Escort the judge out please.

Rumsfield (returning): I trust everything went well?

President: Sign him up. That's our boy.

FORD (cont.)

Indoctrination at the pound is both subtle and one-sided. But if you look up from your books you'll find there is more to law than comes down the classroom pike. Consumer law, legal aid, political trials, it's all there. The liberal bullshit myth of law school sellout notwithstanding, it's possible to do three years of law, do it well and retain your values. Look around, say a few words. There's nothing like a little solidarity to quiet the first year bullshitters, and to make life in a tough place a little bit easier.

In 1973-74 there were 419 interviewers and 6,806 interviews conducted.

"Many students were alarmed by rumors of a depressed job market this year and scheduled an unusually large number of interviews," Ms. Krieger explains. "Potential employers were very cooperative about conducting so many on-campus interviews. Many students sought interviews with as many as 25 firms, while in the past 10 or 15 would have been the usual amount."

The placement director also reports that the number of law firms contacting the Law School by mail about job openings jumped from 633 last year to 788 this year.

Among other job-related statistics, Ms. Krieger reports that, although many U-M law students sought jobs in Michigan, fewer were hired than last year, while Detroit area firms came close to previous hiring levels.

This year 36 students received jobs in Detroit law firms, compared to 41 last year. All told, 78 students received jobs with Michigan firms this year, compared to 95 last year, according to the placement office.

write for the R.G.