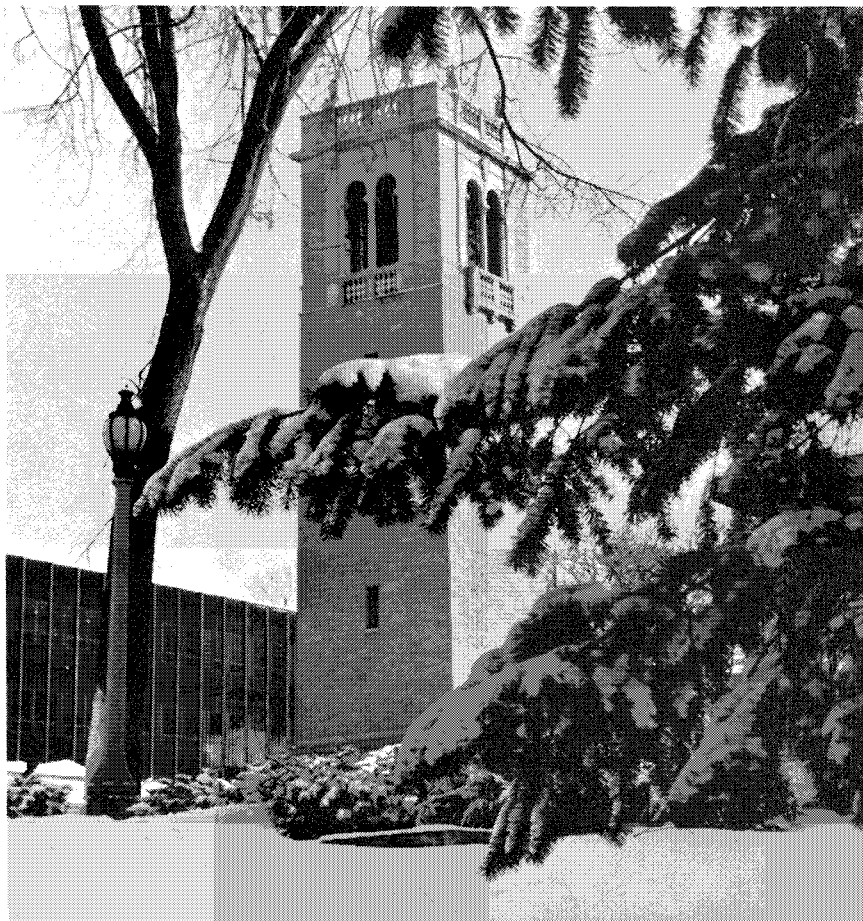


Spring Program

A detailed announcement and program will be mailed to all alums in March. Highlights include ...

- ... Special activities and reunions for the Classes of 1938, 1953 and 1968
- ... Recognition at the Annual Luncheon and Association Meeting for the other reuning classes: 1928, 1933, 1943, 1948, 1958, 1963 and 1973
- ... Saturday events:
 - Moot Court final arguments
 - Luncheon
 - Awards Convocation
 - Special musical performance
 - Cocktail Party
 - Dinner and Dance
- ... Friday events:
 - Bencher Society Dinner
 - Law Student Satire
 - Watch for an announcement from Law Extension concerning a continuing legal education program to be held in conjunction with the Spring Program.
 - This year's Distinguished Service Awards are to be presented during the Saturday luncheon. Election of Directors and Officers will also be held.



Winter Scene

Report of Annual Visit

The annual visit by the Board of Visitors of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association on October 31, 1977. What follows is the report submitted by the Chairman, Robert B. Murphy, Madison.

The Board of Visitors of the U.W. Law School was established in 1958 by the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association for the stated purpose:

“of assisting in the development of a close and helpful relationship between the Law School and the University of Wisconsin Law School alumni on all matters of mutual interest including Law School facilities, cur-
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Visitors *cont'd.*

riculum, placement, admission and public relations of the school and the Bar."

The Board is made up of 12 Visitors, who are alumni of the U.W. Law School. They are elected to office by the Directors of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association for terms of three years and are limited to two full consecutive terms. The Board of Visitors elects its own Chairman, Vice Chairman and a Secretary for one year terms.

Typically, the Board meets three times a year. The major meeting and visitation of the Law School typically occurs in late October. The second meeting is held at the time of the Midwinter Meeting of the State Bar. The third is held at the time of the Spring Program of the Law School, typically in April.

The Board of Visitors met jointly with the Directors of the Law Alumni Association on October 30, 1977, for a rather extended meeting on raising funds from alumni of the Law School, the inadequacies of the funds presently available, the rising volume of unpaid loans and other matters. In the evening a dinner meeting was held at which the speaker was Professor Willard Hurst. He made a thoughtful and stimulating presentation of U.S. Supreme Court trends in the emerging law of privacy and other areas involving individual rights.

The Board of Visitors met briefly the morning of October 31, after which the members fanned out to classrooms of their choice for the balance of the morning. At noon, most of the Directors stayed at the Law School for a box lunch and a chance to meet with the students and faculty. In the afternoon three forums were held on Developments in Legal Education, Law Teaching, and CLE and the Law School. A discussion followed

which was open to the Board of Visitors, Directors of the Law Alumni Association, faculty, students and guests.

By intention, this report has offered a sketch of the structure of the Board of Visitors and the way a visitation is conducted because inquiries on those subjects are made from time to time by interested alumni.

A variety of subjects and of problems associated with them were addressed by the Board and others during the course of a full and stimulating day. The balance of this report will be limited to an enumeration of those which aroused special interest or received principal attention by the Board members. It should be kept in mind that the Board of Visitors does not feel called on to take formal positions or to make specific recommendations unless it deems such action essential or appropriate. It conceives of its functions primarily as auditing and evaluating. If it concludes a matter has gone as well as can be expected, it can commend or it may say nothing.

The following subjects aroused special interest:

1. "Operational" Report. For purposes of summary reporting, the Board of Visitors observed the primary "product" which was being turned out by the Law School, namely, students, and those who were turning out the "product," the faculty. The impressions of the Directors of both the Board of Visitors and the Law Alumni Association were consistently favorable as to the quality of teaching and the general alertness exhibited on the part of the students. In the minds of many alumni the quality of instruction and the adequacy of selection of the student body are perhaps the most important single criteria by which to judge a successful law school "operation."



Murphy

2. Non-Teaching Faculty Functions. Also of great importance, although receiving lesser emphasis, are two other functions of law faculties. One is research and writing; the other public service. Time did not permit the Board of Visitors to receive a detailed report of these additional functions. Dean Helstad has been kind enough to furnish the Chairman such a report in preliminary form. It is the view of the Chairman that the "productivity" of the law faculty in areas other than direct instruction is of sufficient significance to warrant a rather detailed presentation at another meeting of the Board of Visitors. Overall excellence in all three areas is the mark of a distinguished faculty.

3. Plant. As might be expected, after considering that the new Law Building was designed for a maximum of 750 students and that it has approximately 900,

cont'd. on page 4

the space is crowded at some class periods and for study purposes. Some classes are already being held outside the Law Building. Some students find that there is not sufficient study space when they wish or need to study there. It is hoped that this space shortage may be substantially improved within the next two years.

4. Admissions. Applications for first year admissions still run close to 2,000 a year, with the greater majority anywhere from adequately to highly qualified, to the extent that qualifications can be measured in advance of actual performance. These applicants are competing for slightly under 300 places. Of those admitted in the fall of 1977, approximately 40 percent were women. This poses a series of interesting questions. Some women believe that an adequate recognition of the qualifications of female applicants and of their total numbers in the general population would warrant even a higher percentage of female admissions. Some of the unsuccessful male applicants and some of the practicing bar, on the other hand, inquire whether this may not result long range in an unfair disadvantage to male candidates and the possibility in time of an insufficient number of male lawyers. These questions are sufficiently complex and even emotional in nature to make their objective consideration or proof difficult.

5. Evening Classes; Part-Time Students. The Legislature in 1977 provided in its Budget Act that:

"the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System shall report to the Joint Committee on Finance by December 1, 1978, the extent to which it is possible for students to obtain an undergraduate degree or graduate degree by attending courses offered during evening hours or weekends and make recommendations directed at extending such opportunities."

Pending in the Legislature is Assembly Bill 490, the substitute amendment to which provides in substance that the Law School be required to establish evening classes and to allow up to 10 years for completion of the course work required for a J.D. Degree.

The Budget Act intimates a legislative policy favorable to evening and weekend classes. The above bill allows a student up to a decade to complete his law studies. It also mandates the faculty to offer on weekends and evenings at least every three years all courses required by the Law School for graduation and by the Supreme Court for admission to the Bar.

The matter is under current study by the law faculty, which must report to the Board of Regents late in 1978. Comments by the Board of Visitors would appear premature before the faculty reports its findings and any recommendations. The policies of the Legislature taken together raise many questions, however, which University administration, the Law faculty and the Legislature, as appropriate, should address before any final legislative policy is established. They include whether:

(a) Our society has continuing need for the very substantial increase in the numbers of those desirous of studying law and of those who are being graduated in law.

(b) The Legislature is prepared to fund the cost of such continuing increases.

(c) The present Law School Building can accommodate for instruction, library space and faculty offices, the increased numbers involved.

(d) A faculty willing to teach evenings and weekends will be of the same quality as the present one.

(e) The part-time students will be of the same quality as the present student body.

(f) The proposals will favor part-time over full-time and less qualified over better qualified applicants.

(g) Such legislative preference is fair to qualified but rejected applicants who would have taken a full course of study.

(h) There is a danger of two grades of training and of graduates.

(i) A law student who takes 10 years of part-time study will really be qualified to practice in basic areas of the law a decade after he studied them.

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ADVERTISING by Lawyers

Professor Gerald Thain recently addressed the Dane County Medical Society on the impact on the medical profession of the recent decisions which held that prohibition of advertising of professional services is unconstitutional. He also discussed the pending action by the Federal Trade Commission against the American Medical Association.

In November, 1977, Professor Thain appeared before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, urging rejection of proposed guidelines for advertising by lawyers. He urged establishment of an interim period during which all advertising allowed in general be allowed for lawyers. This position, urged by many others, was adopted by the Court, effective January 1, 1978.

* * *

Professor Thain has served as reporter for the Joint Committee of the State Bar and the Wisconsin Judicial Council established to recommend revised Provisional Remedies and Exemptions statutes. He explained the joint committee's recommendations to the Judiciary Committee of the State Senate on January 19.

* * *

An article describing the work of a Ford Foundation project called *Selling to Children: Is There a Need for Public Intervention?* by Professor Thain appeared in the December issue of the Newsletter of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry. Professor Thain is the director of the project.

On February 28, the Federal Trade Commission issued a proposed rule for governing TV advertising aimed at children. The proposal relied heavily on material produced by Ford Foundation seminars.



Thain

Visitors cont'd.

6. The inadequacy of the scholarship and loan funds. Although it is not possible to designate a specific figure, because an unknown number of needy law students probably assume in advance of asking that they could not get funds, it is the estimate of those who administer loan and scholarship funds that the total available falls far short of those needed. Older law alumni, in particular, would do well to consider that the present cost of Law School fees is more than the cost 40 years ago for fees, books and living expenses for those who then had to operate on a modest budget. The number of credits required for graduation has risen measurably, the kind of instruction has changed, competition is keen, and it is probable that the average law school student of today has less time and energy available for work on the side than was true in earlier decades.

In addition to the need for additional scholarship and loan funds, two other developments

were reported which bear on that subject. One is the indication of non-growth or even a slight decline in the number of alumni donors. There appears also to be an actual decline in the average gift during the past five years.

Second, there is a substantial rise in unpaid loans or loan installments. The Board of Visitors wishes to work closely with the Directors of the Law Alumni Association in improving the giving and reducing the delinquency pattern. Success in these endeavors will mean both fresh funds and the freeing up of currently frozen loan funds.

7. The Law School and CLE. The history of continuing legal education in this state has at one time or other, over a period of more than two decades, involved the two law schools, U.W. Extension Service and the State Bar in varying degrees of cooperation and contribution. In 1976 the U.W. Law School faculty voted to lend greater support to the continuing education of the profession. It recommended the creation of an Associate Deanship for Continuing Education and Outreach Services. The position was authorized and Professor Arnon Allen, earlier the Chairman of Extension Law, was appointed to the position in January, 1977. It is hoped that this new Law School program will serve to enlarge and enrich the continuing education programs available to Wisconsin practitioners.

* * *

As is true in most human endeavors, the U.W. Law School presents an admixture of achievements, headaches and planning. The mix changes from time to time, but not the ingredients. Considered over all, the faculty and student body seem clearly to merit the category of achievers.

Submitted on behalf of the Board of Visitors.

Robert B. Murphy, Chairman

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