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New Dean Continues Family's Law Tradition

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Indiana Daily Student

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

New dean continues family's law tradition

By Brian McCoy 7/31/85
Daily Student Staff Writer

Morris Arnold's decision to study law did not take his family by complete surprise.

"My family's practiced law for 104 years," Arnold said, "I guess I just sort of caved into the genes."

While Arnold may be the 11th person in his family to pass the Ar-



ARNOLD

kansas bar, he reached a family pinnacle as the only Arnold to be named a law school dean.

Morris Sheppard Arnold was born in Texarkana, Texas, in 1941. He had already earned an engineering degree from the University of Arkansas when he decided to study law there. He received his bachelor's degree before moving on to Harvard Law School in the late 1960s.

Arnold came to Harvard at the height of the student upheavals. It was a time when law students questioned authority and the

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meaning of law, he said.

"There was a lot of talk of civil disobedience," Arnold said. The students felt that since such actions as breaking into offices and rifling through files were done "in a just cause, (the law) exonerated them for it."

As a graduate student who taught, Arnold found his loyalties divided between the beliefs of the students and their professors.

"I was neither fish nor fowl (during) those very disruptive times," Arnold said.

After Harvard, Arnold spent a year in London before coming to Bloomington. "I found it (Bloomington) so easy to live in," he said. "It's a very congenial place."

Arnold taught law at IU from 1971 to 1977 before accepting a post at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He returned this summer. "There are a lot more restaurants," he said, "and the law school has changed a lot."

Among the changes is the law school construction that has been under way for more than a year. It represents "quite a step forward for the law school," Arnold said, adding the project "should be completed in two to three weeks."

Arnold also commented on another change. This summer, John Baker, the law school's only black professor, left to accept the deanship of the Howard University School of Law.

"We hate to see John Baker go," Arnold said. "We hope we can persuade him to come back."

But one of Arnold's first priorities will include hiring as many as five professors, he said, adding, "We'll make every effort to recruit minority professors to our faculty."

Minority students constitute between 5 and 10 percent of the law school's enrollment. Arnold warned that law schools are "looking at a declining number of (minority) applications in the next few years."

This leads to decreased minority enrollment in law schools. Arnold said minority enrollment has "fallen off more than non-minority enrollment across the country."

The dean sees his role in attracting minorities as giving them "the true sense they're much welcomed, needed and wanted at our school."