

2-4-1977

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### Recommended Citation

"Environmental Law Strength Enhanced with Appointment of Dean Sheldon J. Plager" (1977). *Sheldon Plager (1977-1984)*. Paper 5.  
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# Environmental Law Strength Enhanced with Appointment of Dean Sheldon J. Plager

*IUCampus Rept. 2-4-77*

Indiana University will have the opportunity to join Stanford, Michigan, and UCLA as centers for the study of environmental law with the arrival of Sheldon J. Plager as dean and professor of law on July 1, according to two environmental specialists in the School of Law.

Plager, 45, currently is professor of law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Nicholas L. White, associate dean and professor of law, said that Plager's appointment will contribute significant additional expertise in the area of environmental law at IU.

A. Dan Tarlock, professor of law, noted that Plager was one of the organizers of the first conference on environmental law in 1969, out of which grew the Environmental Law Institute. Tarlock said that the conference had great impact on the teaching of environmental law and the development of the area.

Plager's early interests in water resources management paralleled his own, Tarlock said. In 1968 Plager was among the authors of *Water, Law and Administration: The Florida Experience*, which represented a decade of his work in the area.

The new dean's most recent area of interest is the adverse impact of noise, Tarlock said. Plager recently coauthored an engineering-legal study of noise control at the state level in the *Southern California Law Review*.

Though Tarlock works more at the policy level, White said, he and Plager concentrate on working with administrative agencies which have jurisdiction to control and regulate matters affecting the environment.

White said that Plager's appointment would increase opportunities for the School of Law to work with SPEA's environmental sciences and public administration programs.

Plager, Tarlock, and White work as consultants to federal agencies on environmental matters, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

White recently was named chairman of the Indiana State Bar Association's Environmental Law Committee. The committee, of which he has been a member for several years, conducts a continuing study of the field of environmental law and its implementation. It also makes recommendations for improvements of substantive and procedural provisions for environmental protection.

Tarlock said that Plager is also well respected in the area of real property law.

Plager holds degrees from Columbia University, LL.M. (1961), University of Florida, J.D. (1958), and the University of North Carolina, A.B. (1952). Honorary recognitions include Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Order of the Coif. He was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow at Columbia, and editor-in-chief of the *University of Florida Law Review*.

He first went to the University of Illinois in 1963 as visiting associate professor of law and became associate professor in



Sheldon J. Plager

1964. One year later Plager advanced to the rank of full professor. He was visiting research professor of law at the University of Wisconsin in 1967-68. Plager also was assistant professor of law (1958-62) and associate professor of law (1962-64) at the University of Florida.

A native of Long Branch, N.J., Plager attended public schools in that community before entering the University of North Carolina in 1948.

He and his wife, Frankie, have three children—Anna, a graduate student at the University of Washington in Seattle; David, a sophomore at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.; and Daniel, a senior at Urbana High School.