Future Appears Bright to IU Law School Dean

Robert Rhoades
Herald Times

Follow this and additional works at: http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager
Part of the Legal Biography Commons, Legal Education Commons, and the Legal Profession Commons

Recommended Citation
http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager/10

This Writing about Dean Sheldon Plager is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Deans at Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sheldon Plager (1977-1984) by an authorized administrator of Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. For more information, please contact wattn@indiana.edu.
Upswing

Future appears bright to IU law school dean

By Robert Rhoades
Staff Writer

The IU School of Law could soon become one of the finest in the country, according to Sheldon Plager, dean of the law school.

"If you ask me where the IU Law School is going, I would say we are on an upswing. We're building on a 150-year tradition. We have the resources or are about to obtain them to make this school one of the best in the country and I'm very optimistic," Plager said.

Plager, appointed dean in 1977, attributes the school's favorable position to its administrators.

"There has been a recognition by the University that if they want to have a first-rate law school, they have to provide the resources to make it possible for us to recruit and retain an excellent faculty," Plager said.

Sheldon Plager
IU Law School dean

American Association of Law Schools found the school in violation of space requirements in the Law Library. Inadequate library facilities also contributed to faculty dissatisfaction.

"They said we did not have sufficient seating capacity but the reason for that is that we kept moving tables and chairs out to put books in," Plager said.

Plager said this is why the proposed addition to the Law School building on Indiana Avenue is vital to the school.

"The library is our laboratory," he said.

The $1 million first phase of the addition awaits a choice of sites adjoining the school, Plager said. Construction should begin in 1982. After the first-phase construction is completed, money will be requested for completion of the building's interior and remodeling of the existing building, he said.

In four years, the faculty has been remodeled also, Plager said.

"We've seen a number of major changes in the faculty," Plager said. "Almost half of the faculty in 1981 was not here four years ago."

The rebuilding of staff included the addition of several professional administrators to the school, Plager said.

He credits these administrators with designing programs and organizations to educate students in practical legal situations.

Naming a multitude of research centers and student legal organizations, Plager demonstrated that the school has broadened its educational programming beyond the covers of its case books.