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Number of law school applicants rises again

By Bryan E. Denham

Indiana Daily Student

After a 17 percent increase in 1987, the number of applications to the IU School of Law rose another 11 percent in 1988.

"If you talk to people who know something about law schools, I think we would be on nearly everyone's list about law schools on the move," said Bryant Garth, dean of the School of Law.

The 1,342 applications were the third highest in history, next to 1972 and 1973 when the baby boomers began to apply in large numbers.

Garth, also a professor of law, said there has been a small nationwide increase in applications throughout the 1980s, but the percentage growth IU has experienced is significantly higher than the national average.

"It says something about the law school here and its national reputation," he said.

IU accepted 30 fewer students in

1988 than in 1987, but a higher number of those who were accepted actually enrolled this year. The entering class of 1987 had 196 people, while 215 enrolled this year.

Minority enrollment, which has been disappointing throughout the 1980s, is also on the rise. An increase in minority applications has raised minority enrollment from 12 in 1987 to 26 in 1988.

The increase in applications has meant stricter acceptance criteria and better qualified students.

"One of our challenges is to come up with enough financial aid to get the students with top credentials to come to IU," Garth said.

The undergraduate grade point average of enrolling law students has increased from 3.26 in 1987 to 3.33 in 1988. The average score on the Law School Admissions Test has stayed the same at 37 points out of a possible 48.

"We expect applications to remain high this year," Garth said.