


12-5-1991

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Recommended Citation

Ellison, Evelyn, "Dean Brings New Ideas to Law School" (1991). *Alfred Aman Jr. (1991-2002)*. Paper 27.
<http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/aman/27>

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Dean brings new ideas to law school

By Evelyn Ellison

Indiana Daily Student

The dean of the School of Law, Alfredo Aman Jr., has brought new ideas as well as a new face to the law school.

Aman, with almost a semester of experience to back his opinions, said the school needs to increase placement efforts, start a new law journal and recruit more international scholars.

Students should be directed toward different geographical areas and jobs that traditionally might not be considered legal professions, he said.

"It's important that our students have as wide an array of job opportunities as possible," Aman said. "In a tight market, this will give our students more choice."

Aman became dean in February after working as a law professor at Cornell University since 1977.

He said students should consider being court administrators, counsels for corporations or private investigators — in addition to the traditional jobs of defense and

prosecution attorneys.

Law student Shannan Bedgood said getting students to think about non-traditional jobs is a good idea because there is increasing competition for more traditional jobs.

"There are jobs for lawyers that aren't well-known," she said. "Now that people are scrambling for jobs, it's a good idea to keep an open mind."

But law student David LeBeau said most students who go to IU's law school want to have traditional jobs.

"To tell somebody who's wanted to work in a New York law firm to go be a private investigator: Excuse me, but you don't need a college degree to be a private investigator," he said.

To augment job opportunities, Aman personally will keep in contact with alumni of the school, he said.

For example, he was scheduled to meet Wednesday with Chicago-area alumni, and today he is set to meet with Indianapolis-area alumni.

"We need to let them know that we have students and what they're doing . . . and that we can match them up," he said.

Aman also said the school should publish a second law journal as an additional outlet for the writing and research of students.



Alfredo Aman Jr. wants to create a second law journal and increase placement efforts as the new dean of the School of Law.

Forty of about 600 students of the school now are selected to publish the *Indiana Law Journal*, a quarterly magazine read by approximately 1,000 academics and legal professionals around the country, Aman said.

A second journal would examine international law questions related to the environment and human rights, among other issues, he said.

"Only a small minority of the

people get to work on the *Indiana Law Journal*," said law student Peggy Bass. "For those of us who don't quite achieve that, we would still like the opportunity to work on another journal."

But Bedgood said the school's money could be better spent to support student fellowships.

Aman also would like to increase the school's international ties to promote the exchange of students, scholars and research among institutions, he said.

When the IU Board of Trustees hired Aman, he replaced Bryant Garth, who became director of the American Bar Foundation in Chicago.

In addition to having published several texts on international and administrative law, Aman was a law clerk in the 5th Circuit Court of the U.S. Court of Appeals when many civil-rights cases were heard during the 1970s.

In his spare time, Aman is a jazz percussionist.