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A Message from the Dean: Recapping 1978-79 at the Law School, and a Look at 1979-80

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
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A Message From the Dean:

Recapping 1978-79 at the Law School, and a Look at 1979-80

In my annual report submitted last year to Robert O'Neil, Vice President of the Bloomington campus, I described my first year at the Law School (1977-78) as a "year of beginnings." Some of these beginnings were brought to fruition during 1978-79, and we are now enjoying the benefits. Other beginnings have progressed well, and show good probability of successful accomplishment within a reasonable time. Yet another group

for Academic Affairs to succeed Professor William D. Popkin. Arthur M. Lotz, a 1965 graduate of this school, was named Assistant Dean for Placement and Bar Relations. Leonard D. Fromm, Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison assumed the position of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in mid-September. With these appointments I have made substantial progress in the task of reshaping the

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of our beginnings are still beginning. Thus my sense of pride at having had a productive year at the Law School is sobered by the realization that, while substantial progress was made, some of the tougher and more intractable challenges still lay ahead. I thought the alumni of the school might enjoy reading my description in my most recent report to the Vice President of the progress and current status of a number of these beginnings, and some comments on our plans and expectations for the future.

A major accomplishment of the School of Law during 1978-79 was the appointment of five outstanding persons to the depleted ranks of our faculty. Among the five are two former Supreme Court law clerks and two graduates of this school. The recruiting efforts which culminated in this accomplishment were enormous and involved a heavy commitment of faculty and staff resources throughout the year. The appointment of these new faculty members, along with the three new members added in 1977-78, brings the total number of full time law faculty up to twenty-seven. While the task of faculty recruiting has not ended with the appointment of these new members, the strain on the current faculty has been eased considerably and our ability to enrich our curricular offerings enhanced.

Successful recruiting also took place at the administration level. Three replacements at decanal rank were made this year. Professor John T. Baker was appointed Associate Dean

administrative structure of the School and, in my opinion, brought to this institution some of the brightest and most able Law School administrators anywhere.

The success of these recruiting efforts was not accomplished without costs to the School. One of these costs was that despite the momentum gained from a faculty conclave on curriculum held at McCormick's Creek in the Fall, a detailed evaluation of the School's second and third year curriculum and clinical skills training program did not materialize. The latter has been a particular concern since my arrival two years ago. My concern is in no wise lessened by the national attention which has been focused recently on the issue of skills training in law schools by Chief Justice Burger and by the recommendations of the Devitt Committee. The subject is one that is of great interest to the bench and bar of Indiana as well, and is certainly a matter to which any major law school must give attention.

I have made the completion of the clinical program evaluation a top priority for the 1979-80 academic year. In the interim, the school will continue, as it did in 1978-79, to offer its students expanded opportunities to participate in clinical programs, some supervised by our own faculty, and others — Student Legal Services, the Legal Services Organization, and the Inmate Legal Assistance Clinic — supervised by attorneys outside the School. I am also specially charging a reconstituted



Educational Policy Committee with continued effort at evaluation of our total curriculum.

In regard to other areas of the curriculum, the new first-year curriculum adopted by the faculty in 1977-78 has been placed into effect with the Fall semester 1979-80. Property, that queen of subjects, has been restored to its rightful place as a first year required course. It is now offered for 5 credit hours in the first semester of the first year, along with 5 hours of contracts and 5 hours of torts. Two courses were approved by the faculty in 1978-79 to fill out the perspectives requirement. In one of these courses social science methodology and its relationship to law will be examined. In the other, the usefulness and appropriateness of history and historical methods to law will be explored. First year students will be required to choose one of these have experience in these non-legal disciplines. I have charged the Educational Policy Committee with the responsibility of closely monitoring the new first year curriculum during the coming year so that we may be in a position to determine at an early time whether the changes we have made attain the goals we intended.

Student activities flourished during 1978-79. Volume 54 of the *Law Journal* contained four issues including a symposium issue on terrorism and articles from 17 first-rate legal scholars, and 17 student notes. The Moot Court entered two teams in the

There were other major gains at the School during 1978-79. The rehabilitation of a portion of the physical facility was completed; some of the newly remodeled areas have now been equipped and furnished. The University approved our plan to develop a word processing center to supplement a clerical staff shrunk in relation to the number of full time faculty. The library was granted approval for an OCLC terminal to assist in cataloging holdings, and was selected as a depository library by the U.S. Government printing office. This last item assumes special importance in light of the fact that Congressional budget cuts meant only 37 of 164 eligible applicants could be chosen. In addition, particular attention was paid to the repair or maintenance of deteriorated areas of the building.

Finally, support of the School by its alumni reached an all time high. In addition to the Carl and Eulala Gray Endowment in support of more effective training in advocacy, and an alumnus-assisted gift of several thousand dollars worth of videotape equipment, the Law School Fund attained its highest ever annual dollar total of donations from alumni and friends, exceeding one hundred thousand dollars. Unfortunately even this level of support has not kept us ahead of the ravages of inflation, and an even more vigorous effort is planned for the year ahead.

*Expanded opportunities in clinical programs,
a new first-year curriculum, and
a new high in the level of alumni support
contributed greatly this year to the strength
and vitality of the Law School.*

national competition; one team won first place in the multistate (regional) competition, beating Illinois in the final round. (I have carefully avoided gloating to my former colleagues.) The Student Bar Association organized several innovative service activities along with providing strong leadership in traditional areas. A new student effort, the Student Funded Fellowships Project, was started during 1978-79.

In sum, I continue to have great pride in the strength and continuing vitality of the Law School. We have made substantial gains in selected areas; we are still only beginning in others. The process of growth and development is sometimes slow, sometimes halting, but always challenging. With the continued support of the University and of our alumni, we in the Law School are prepared to meet that challenge.