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April 4, 1987

BRYANT GARTH IS NAMED DEAN OF BLOOMINGTON LAW SCHOOL

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--Bryant G. Garth, 37, was named dean of the Indiana University Bloomington School of Law at today's meeting (April 4) of the Trustees of Indiana University. Garth, a member of the faculty since 1979, has been acting dean since last July 1.

A 1972 magna cum laude graduate of Yale University, with highest honors in American studies, Garth has the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Stanford University Law School where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and was editor-in-chief of the Stanford Journal of International Studies.

He was the first American and the second person to receive the Ph.D. degree from European University Institute in Florence, Italy (1979). Earlier Garth was a research fellow at the Institute of Comparative Law, University of Florence (1976) and research associate (1976-78). He has been a consultant for the Ontario Law Reform Commission and the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Garth specializes in civil procedure, comparative law,
complex litigation, human rights, international law and the legal profession. While at Stanford he studied law under then dean Thomas Ehrlich, who last month was named to succeed John W. Ryan as president of Indiana University.

Garth said in an interview that his top priorities as dean will be the same as those of Bloomington Vice President Kenneth Gros Louis -- "maintaining and building on what is already here."

He continued, "I think the law school is moving closer to the rest of the campus. There is more interest in interdisciplinary work in which the law school and other academic units on the campus will collaborate. I think we will see much of this sort of thing under the umbrella of a Law and Society Center which we hope will get off the ground next year."

Most of the disciplines taught in the university can be related to the study of law, Garth pointed out. He said he has talked about the proposed center with faculty in sociology, social sciences, journalism, business, SPEA, English and other disciplines.

Shortly after he was named acting dean, Garth noted in an interview that, "A degree in English or literature can be extremely helpful for a lawyer. I think such studies educate people well for reading texts, and lawyers do a lot of that. There is a whole body of scholarship which points out that reading a statute is not so different from reading a poem."
"Some students tend to take what they think is a more practical approach to law by studying accounting or business practices. These are helpful, but I favor the broader approach of a liberal arts education."

Garth, who is fluent in Italian and can read French, Spanish and German, thinks law students should study "at least" one foreign language, especially if they plan to go into international law.

He is the author, co-author, or editor of more than two dozen books, chapters in books, and articles. He is a member of: the Board of Editors, American Journal of Comparative Law; California and Indiana State Bar Associations; Board of Trustees, Law and Society Association; State Board of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union; and Executive Committee, Association of American Law Schools Section on the Legal Profession.

Garth has been awarded a number of fellowships including those of the Kathryn B. Childs Foundation and the Thyssen Foundation and has also had a IU Summer Faculty Fellowship. He was given the 1982 Gavel Award by the Law School graduating class. In 1985, he was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Dispute Resolution for his materials on complex litigation.

Garth's wife, Wendy, is working on a doctorate in clinical psychology at IU. They have three children -- Heather, 15; Andrew, 13; and Daniela, 9.