Law School Dean Enjoys Challenges

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager

Part of the Legal Biography Commons, Legal Education Commons, and the Legal Profession Commons

Recommended Citation
https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/plager/21

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 rvaughan@indiana.edu.
Law school dean enjoys challenges

by Mark Kestigian
Ids Staff Writer

Sheldon Plager has written books on water law and property, chaired a state task force on noise and has been on federal environmental committees. Becoming dean of the I.U.-Bloomington Law School is another challenge.

"I enjoy challenges," Sheldon Plager, new dean of the law school said. "I've never done it before and one only keeps vigorous by doing new things."

One of Plager's first challenges is to solve the law school's space problems. At present, the library and classroom space have become so overcrowded that the law school has overflowed into two old houses nearby, he said. "You can't have a school operating like that, so I've been going over plans with engineers and we're working on solutions."

Plager's other major priority is to work with the law faculty to hire first-rate people to replace some professors who have recently left I.U.

Plager's career before coming to I.U. included research in environmental law.

"I became an environmentalist in the late 50s before it was very sexy," he said, "and did some research for a professor who was interested in water law."

Out of this work came several articles by Plager dealing with topics such as the law of water allocation as a consideration in industrial site location and studying regulation patterns for consumption use of water in the eastern United States.

Plager moved to the University of Illinois in 1964 where he began doing research in air pollution.

His work on air pollution led to chairing the Illinois Task Force on Noise, which was responsible for preparing the background studies and regulatory proposals which led to the adoption by the Illinois Pollution Control Board in 1973 of the state's property line noise regulations.

The Task Force's recommendations were also responsible for the state's motor vehicle emissions regulations which were adopted this year.

But Plager is the first to admit how difficult it is to get environmental programs adopted.

"It's hard to pass environmental programs by big business," he said, "but even harder is trying to get your friends to understand what you are doing."

"Everyone forgets that every program must coordinate local, state and federal governments, as well as write into law technological specifications that anticipate what technology will be doing in five years," he added.

Even though Plager's available time to pursue his research interests will be minimized in the upcoming months, Dean Plager is looking forward to working with the law school faculty, the Indiana State Bar and the students of the law school.

"I'm pleased with the first two weeks. I'm optimistic for the third week. I won't speculate beyond that," he added jokingly.