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Plager to Head Law School

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A new dean has been selected for the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington. He is Sheldon J. Plager who presently is professor of law at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and is a specialist in environmental law.

President John W. Ryan announced the decision Friday following consultation with the IU Board of Trustees. Formal action is scheduled for the next board meeting on Feb. 4.

IU Bloomington Vice President Robert M. O’Neil said, “We are extremely fortunate to have attracted from a sister Big Ten institution an outstanding scholar-teacher to head our School of Law. In addition to his extensive experience in legal education, his record of professional service in Illinois and elsewhere is exemplary; he has generously shared his expertise in legal aspects of the environment with many groups who have sought his counsel, and in this way has made a mark on the field through his service as well as through his writings. He has also given much of his time and leadership to his university, having chaired the faculty Senate Council during a most critical period, and having continued to be a most active participant in university governance in quieter times.”

Plager will replace Douglass G. Boshkoff who resigned last January. Since that time the position has been filled on an acting basis. Prof. Harry Pratter, who currently holds the acting appointment, will continue in that capacity until June 30. The new appointment becomes effective July 1.

Plager, 45, holds degrees from Columbia University, LL.M. (1961), University of Florida, J.D. (1958), and the University of North Carolina, A.B. (1952). Honorary recognitions include Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Order of the Coif. He was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow at Columbia University and editor-in-chief of the University of Florida Law Review.

He first went to the University of Illinois in 1963 as visiting associate professor of law and became associate professor in 1964. One year later Plager advanced to the rank of full professor. He was visiting research professor of law at the University of Wisconsin in 1967-68. Plager also was assistant professor of law (1958-62) and associate professor of law (1962-64) at the University of Florida.

A native of Long Branch, N.J., Plager attended public schools in that community before entering the University of North Carolina in 1948. He was on active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1952-55 and holds the rank of commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

He and his wife, Frankie, have three children, Anna, a graduate student at the University of Washington in Seattle; David, a sophomore at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.; and Daniel, a senior at Urbana High School.