11-5-1972

I.U.'s Law Dean Criticizes Report

Follow this and additional works at: http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/boshkoff

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

Recommended Citation

http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/boshkoff/40
I.U.'s Law Dean Criticizes Report

Bloomington, Ind. — Dean Douglas G. Boshkoff of the Indiana University Law School here agrees changes should be made in legal education, but not as drastic as suggested by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

The Carnegie Commission report says law schools must begin training lawyers as specialists instead of general practitioners.

RELEASED yesterday by the Carnegie Commission, the report says trends that will change legal education include growing enrollment, increasing education costs and a demand for detailed special knowledge.

"These trends will create a need for paraprofessionals and subprofessional persons to aid specialists," the report said.

"The report was one of some specialists could complete their degree in one or two years instead of the three-year curriculum most schools use," he said.

"Enrollment in American law schools will be nearly 600,000 in 1977, more than double the current number of practicing attorneys in the United States." The report said.

In 1967, more than three-fourths of the legal profession was made up of practicing individuals but by 1969, the private practice constituted only about half of the lawyers in the U.S., the report said.

Instead of the all-purpose lawyer, the report said the "Wall Street" style of several hundred lawyers will become more common and offer specialized legal minds.

CRITICAL of law schools, the report said, "these changes in the nature of legal practice have not been made in law schools or in the American Bar Association which continues to force the students into a common mold and deserving of study than offering two-year degrees.

"Before we consider dropping the third year for some students, the schools should try to make it a little more valuable," the report said.

"In the past, if a student was a specialist in a certain area of the law, it happened by accident, by following a personal interest or because he sought the best-paying job.

"Schools now would be courting danger by telling students to concentrate on a certain area, real estate for example, because we might not be able to get those students jobs."

"I think, until the demand for paraprofessionals and specialists becomes greater, we would suggest students return for postgraduate courses if they want to specialize.

"The Bloomington school could do little in training paraprofessionals where practical opportunities for paratime work are needed. The Indiana school could do much better."

"Revision in law schools is a slow process because it is a shared responsibility between the university and practicing bar associations and, in Indiana, the State Supreme Court. "Educators' decisions must reflect some of this professional advice," he concluded.