Legal Education

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INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Association of Student International Law Societies and the American Society of International Law are jointly sponsoring the 9th Annual Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition named in honor of Judge Philip C. Jessup of the International Court of Justice. Invitations to participate have been extended to law schools outside the United States. This year, for the first time, law schools in Canada and the United Kingdom are participating, and the feasibility of inviting law schools in South and Central America is being reviewed.

In the past, the principal issues involved in the hypothetical problems have included: space law (jurisdiction over crimes in outer space and responsibility for wrongful acts of nationals in outer space); the effect of expropriation decrees on the title of property located in another state; recognition of new states; the status of members of the United Nations peace-keeping forces; space law (claims of sovereignty over a portion of the moon's surface); and, rights of the United Arab Republic to selectively close the Straits of Tiran to shipping destined for the State of Israel.

The Jessup Competition will be judged on the basis of both written memorials and oral argument. Teams are composed of between two to five students studying for the LL.B. degree or its equivalent.

Regional rounds will be held in late March, 1969, in various law schools throughout the United States and abroad. The Semi-final and Final Rounds are to be held April 24-26, 1969, in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law.

LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

An often-discussed proposal that American law school education should include the equivalent of medical education's internship has been incorporated in Northeastern University law school's recent reform of its curriculum.
The Boston school has revised the requirements for the initial legal degree by lengthening its undergraduate course to four years and coupling it with fifteen months of work in a law office.

Both of these features represent major changes in the usual American law school format, although a few other schools in recent years have begun to offer four instead of three year courses for their students.

The new program will enable Northeastern law students to alternate between an academic quarter of full-time instruction in class and a similar period of compensated full-time work in a law office.

According to Northeastern law dean Thomas J. O'Toole, the school hopes to be able, as the plan develops, to assign two students to the same law office job. Thus, one would hold down the position during the time the other is attending class, and the two would alternate for the next quarter. As these students graduate, two more students will take their place.

Dean O'Toole has described the Northeastern plan in an article, "Realistic Legal Education," which appeared in the August issue of the American Bar Journal.

Jobs for the program have been offered in private-law firms, corporate law offices, public prosecutors' offices and government agencies.

AIDS TO EDUCATION

A Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility has been established in the United States to encourage the integration of action oriented programs into law school curricula. The objective is to involve the students in problems of justice and law arising in the courts, governmental agencies, police stations, and legal aid offices. Participating law schools will receive grants with priority given to criminal and juvenile law projects, but civil law problems such as landlord-tenant and creditor-debtor relationship will also be included.

The U.S. Congress has completed action on legislation expanding the use of government-owned foreign currencies for overseas programs of U.S. educational institutions. Reserving at least 2% of the funds received from U.S. farm commodity sales abroad, it is estimated that approximately $18 million in foreign currencies will be available annually for the overseas educational programs of U.S. institutions.

The Mexican Government offered scholarships to qualified Latin American law students to attend a seminar on Human Rights at the University of Mexico, November 1968-January 31, 1969. The offer included tuition, transportation and a per diem which varied between $120 and $160 monthly depending on the classification of the student.

The University of Kansas has received a grant from the Ford Foundation for research in Central America with emphasis on the problems of development.
STUDENT DISTURBANCES

Campus unrest continues in the United States, thus accentuating a problem practically unknown in the past in this country. To date the North American law schools have not been involved deeply in campus disturbances and it is expected that given the maturity of the students and their role as embryo defenders of law and order no such involvement will take place. A few activists, however, will no doubt take positive action here and there.

The general malaise of the students, however, should not be ignored. Their expressed dissatisfaction — when sincere — are symptoms of deep seated disillusionment and it behooves legal educators to act, not only for the sake of the law schools, but of higher education in general. Law students, because of their commitment to the rule of law are in a favored position to promulgate the concept that the required changes to the present social structure must be made within the context of law and order. To enlist them in this undertaking it is essential that they be given a sense of belonging, that their opinions be heeded, their concerns sympathetically heard; in short, that they be made part of the team. The need for increased communications between law students and the faculties and administrators is imperative.

New York University tackled the problem head on and promulgated a code of conduct to define the limits of administrative authority and guarantee specific rights to the students. The new code, which was drafted during a fourteen week seminar by fifteen students and four faculty members, has been printed and distributed to North American law schools. At the University of Miami a system is in effect which channels student complaints and suggestions through the Student Bar Association. The president of the association has the right to present the student’s viewpoint to all the faculty committees and to the faculty en banc.

It appears that efforts to communicate with the students should proceed on a broad front with sincerity, understanding and patience. Rules of conduct should be clearly promulgated at the beginning of each academic year and as often thereafter as necessary. These rules should be unequivocal regarding the action that will be taken in the case of those who instigate and precipitate unrest and violence for the purpose of destroying the existing order.

Student unrest is a world wide problem causing world wide concern and anxieties. In the United States, the Ford Foundation made a grant of $315,000 to the National Student Association to coordinate and assist student initiated educational reform movements. Ford will also make a grant of $15,000 to the University of Chicago to study the legal
complications of student protest activity. During this summer, thirty U.S. college presidents and other education leaders participated in a Seminar on Student Power in New York, while in Mexico City presidents of a number of Latin American universities met to consider student unrest.

MINORITY GROUP LAW STUDENTS — THE CLEO PROGRAM

The Office of Economic Opportunity of the United States has made available nearly half a million dollars to assist at least 300 students from minority groups to enter and complete law school by 1973. The program's objective is to help underprivileged students who "could succeed in law school with special attention but who would fail to pass the rigorous standards and tests for admission to law school." Spanish-American students are included in the group, but an informal opinion from the Director of the program indicates that only citizens of the United States will be considered since the goal is to relieve the shortage of lawyers from the minority groups in the United States. At present only 1 to 2% of the lawyers in the United States are members of the minority groups eligible for the program.

THE AMERICAN ASSEMBLY ON LAW AND THE CHANGING SOCIETY

Early in 1968, prominent members of the legal profession (bench, bar, and law schools) met in Chicago under the auspices of the American Bar Association and the American Assembly, a national, non-partisan conference organization at Columbia University. The final report covered the subjects of: The Institutions of Society, Legal Services, Research and Technology, Justice and Respect for the Law, and Education. On the last subject, the Assembly concluded:

The changes in society's expectation for the legal profession require corresponding changes in legal education:
1. Financial sources now available to law schools are inadequate. Additional financial support is required.
2. The cost of going to law school, when added to the cost of college, makes the cost of a legal education prohibitive for many persons in our society. . . . Substantial scholarship assistance ought to be made available to students who cannot otherwise afford to go to law school.
3. The legal profession should attract to its ranks members from all segments of our society. Experience indicates that this can be accomplished only if a special effort is made to overcome barriers imposed by poverty and cultural differences.
4. The evolvement of predominantly Negro law schools must now be recognized . . . and we encourage their strengthening and expansion. We urge all law schools to facilitate admission of students from disadvantaged groups.

5. Law Schools cannot be identical in their curricula.

6. Law schools should seek closer relationships with other parts of their universities and with each other.

7. The necessary growth of continuing legal education depends upon the support of the bar, the law schools and the judiciary.

8. The value and nature of bar examinations should be reassessed.”

CENTRAL AMERICAN LAW STUDENTS

The Second Conference of Central American Law Students held in Guatemala in the Fall of 1968 discussed, inter alia, the subjects of Central American economic integration; foreign penetration into Central American universities; the rule of law; the philosophical orientation of university reform; the democratization of university education and its decentralization; and private universities.

LAW OF THE CARIBBEAN

A graduate seminar in the law of the Caribbean, initiated in 1964, was offered again last Fall at the University of Miami School of Law. Initially, instructors discussed general problems of the Caribbean, including geography, economics and society, politics and diplomacy. Consideration was next given to the common law in the B.W.I., and the civil law in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Netherlands and French Antilles. Particular emphasis was placed on constitutional developments and on the problems of political and economic integration. Seminar members discussed, among others, legal developments in Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Windward Islands, St. Lucia and particular aspects of the law of Puerto Rico (constitutional status, family, labor, criminal, tax law and agrarian reform).

LATIN AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

The University of the West Indies at Mona announced law tutorials to be held in Kingston in the Fall, 1968. Lectures on torts and contracts, and criminal and constitutional law are scheduled.
The Surinam Law School has been established in Paramaribo as a department of the Surinam University.

The Law School of Guayaquil, Ecuador celebrated its 100th Anniversary in September, 1968.

The University of Nicaragua inaugurated a new Law School building in 1968.

HAGUE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Hague Academy of International Law will hold three sessions in 1969. The first, July 7-24 will emphasize private international law and will cover the following:

General Course — Georges van Hecke
Problems Relating to the Law of the Flag — Pierre Bonassies
Constitutional Aspects of Private International Law in Canada and Australia — J. G. Castel
Succession in Private International Law — Murad Ferid
The Territorial Application of Anti-Trust Laws — Berthold Goldman
Problems of Private International River Law — Vladimir Koutikov
The Influence of Private International Law Conventions and Uniform Laws on National Conflict of Laws Problems — Edoardo Vitta
Uniform Laws and Conflicts of Laws — L. I. de Winter

The second session, July 18 - August 14, will emphasize public international law and will cover:

General Course — Wolfgang Friedmann
The Internal Law of International Organizations — Giorgio Balladore-Pallieri
Reflections on Codification by the International Law Commission and Other Agencies — Herbert W. Briggs
African Federalism — Doudou Thiam
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development — Said El-Naggar
Sea Resources and Exploitation of the Sea Bed — Shigeru Oda
Problems Related to Contracts Between a State and an Individual — Gordon L. Weil
A session on "Agreements Concluded by International Organizations" will be held August 19 - September 26 by the Academy's Research Center.

Further information is available from the Secretary General, Hague Academy of International Law, Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands.

INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR

A Regional Seminar in International Law will be held at Quito, Ecuador, January 13-25, 1969. Sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the seminar will concentrate on the following topics: (1) Regional problems arising out of treaties relating to the resources of the sea, (2) Multinational public enterprises, with particular reference to the economic integration of Latin America, and (3) Legal and institutional problems of multinational water development projects.