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## Hastings Law News Vol.6 No.1

UC Hastings College of the Law

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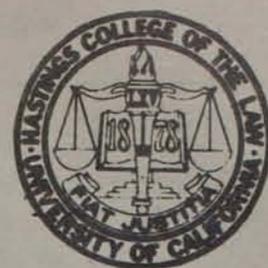
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# HASTINGS LAW NEWS



Vol. 6, No. 1

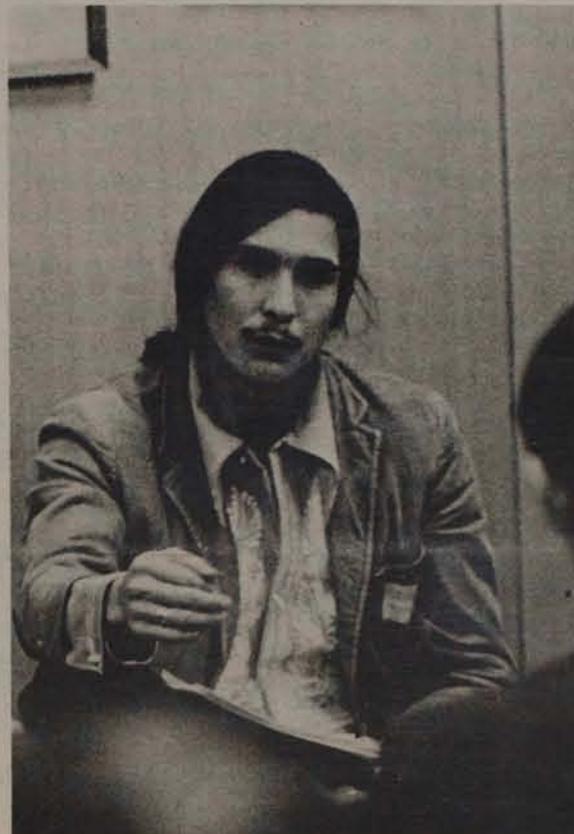
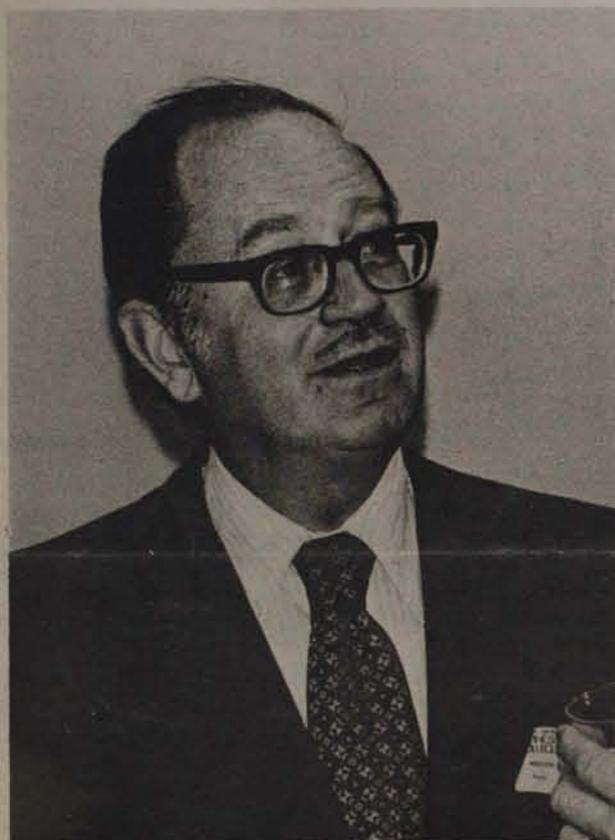
198 McAllister Street, S.F., Calif.

August 13, 1973

## WELCOME TO HASTINGS STUDENTS FROM

**DEAN ANDERSON**

**ASH PRESIDENT JESS GARCIA**



As Dean of the College it is my pleasure to welcome each of you as a member of this fall's entering class. The extraordinary surge of interest in law study continues unabated as witness to the fact that over 5,000 extraordinarily qualified people have applied for admission. The Admissions Office has faced the happy (or unhappy) task of selecting from this outstanding group the constituency of this class. Without being too truly precise about, we can say that something like the lower half of an entering class of five years ago would not be admitted today.

As a member of the graduating class of '76, we look upon you as a resource, not a problem. Whatever vision of a rewarding life career you have brought with you to the study of law, we have an obligation to see that it will not soon fade away. I urge you to look upon your legal education as not one merely utilitarian, but as one that invites a deeper understanding of the complexities and varieties of the law--an education concerned with causes and effects, that searches for the values law serves and the means by which they may be realized, and that may lay a foundation for wisdom as well as technique. The law is a special commitment that brings its own forces and values to the vectors that shape society. It is primarily neither an instrument of change, nor a bulwark against change, but a commitment to "develop concepts and maintain and operate procedures which enable a sovereign community to be governed by rules for the common good--and to make such rules effective."

cont'd on p. 4

On behalf of the Hastings student body, I extend a welcome to the Class of 1976. This year's class again is a large group of entering law students, but we are fortunate to have a school newspaper, The Hastings Law News, with an excellent staff that can assist us and can be used for communicating ideas throughout the academic year.

We as law students are very much aware that the proper use of the law can have tremendous impact on our lives and the community. In a recent article by Charles McCabe, he stated, "... the law is far less an honorable profession these days than it is a rather tawdry trade. For each Holmes, each Cardozo, each Learned Hand, each Brandeis, there are a thousand practitioners to whom the law is like a wagon load of potatoes--something to be peddled for what the traffic will bear."

The singleminded devotion to personal financial gain among routine lawyers is unmatched in any other profession. I am ashamed to say that most lawyers I know would gladly run over their client if they could get more money by doing so. We are even at the moment presented with testimony that the top lawyer in this country, while Attorney General, approved a series of illegal acts; and with characteristic lofty-minded self-deception, persuaded himself that he was doing nothing wrong!

I believe this loss of respect for lawyers can still be remedied by addressing wrongs within the law school and the legal profession.

cont'd on p. 4



Letters



Open Letter to Dean Anderson, Dean Riegger, Mrs. Albright, Administration, and Faculty:

As you all know, one of the most crucial problems at Hastings is the lack of communication. It is not unusual for a student to discover after a deadline that a decision was necessary. It also occurs from time to time that certain policy decisions are made and publicized and then rescinded or changed and, because of time pressures, not publicized. It is of course impossible to run a major publicity campaign for each decision the administration makes concerning student welfare, but it is possible to make a concerted effort to obtain maximum student input for all major decisions and it is possible to notify students in advance of deadlines that a decision is necessary.

Perhaps the first step, and the most important step, is the realization that a few notices posted on a few boards is hardly the most effective means of communication. The problem is that there are few readily available and reliable avenues of communication. But there are means available that could be used more effectively. First is the Hastings Community Weekly; many deadlines are known well in advance and yet never make this publication, and with a bit of effort could easily be included. Second is the Hastings Law News. For those who do not have time to write a short notice themselves, I ask them to submit the information to me at the ASH office and I will see that it gets published. The third avenue, which is rarely used even when there is extreme time pressure, is the ASH Council. If there is urgent information that must be disseminated as quickly as possible, contact any ASH officer or representative and he or she will see to it that the information is given to all of the ASH representatives and they in turn to their sections.

Communication is a problem, but unless these three avenues, in addition to posting, are used, no one in the administration, faculty, or for that matter, the student body, can claim to have "notified" everyone. It may take a little effort but there is no reason why the communication gap at Hastings cannot be at least narrowed.

Philip Welch  
ASH Secretary

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## HASTINGS LAW NEWS

Editors: Christine Beck  
Rob Lawlor  
Mike Freed

Reporters: Duane Reno  
Mike Phelps  
Ron Walker

Photography: Mark Rennie



### NEW STUDENT DENTAL INSURANCE

Our Hastings Supplemental Health Insurance Plan, underwritten by the Continental Casualty Company and administered through the brokerage firm of Davenport Associates, has been improved to include a new dental benefit. It provides for 80% coverage of all dental service bills after an initial deductible of \$50. The maximum benefit payable is \$300. Both the deductible and plan maximum amounts apply to each covered person for the entire policy year (August 13, 1973 through August 12, 1974).

Students who have enrolled in the plan will receive a new policy in late October or early November. The slow process involved with the filing of this year's benefit improvements with the State Insurance Commissioner is the cause of the delay.

Additional information, enrollment cards and claim forms may be obtained from the Registrar's Office, the Student Health Service office, or by calling Ms. Donna Coro at the San Francisco office of Continental Casualty at 982-3420.

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## Hastings Law News OPEN HOUSE

FRI., AUG. 24, 3 - 6 PM  
ROOM 108, 55 HYDE

All students interested in writing,  
editing, photography, beer, or wine  
are cordially invited.

# FACES - AND PLACES - TO KNOW AT HASTINGS



Associate Dean and Registrar  
William J. Riegger  
Room 1104



Financial Aid Staff  
Abbie Kenyon  
Gwen McCormick  
Booker T. Williams  
305 Golden Gate, Room 255



Assistant Dean  
Wyanne Bunyan  
Room 110



Hastings Childcare Center  
55 Hyde St.  
Room 113



Student Medical Services  
305 Golden Gate  
Room 200



Assistant to Registrar  
Leonora Albright  
Room 111



Housing Director  
Jonathan Davis  
305 Golden Gate  
Room 255



Placement Director, Christine Merkle, 305 Golden Gate, Room 255

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Anyone who did not receive fall interviewing material from the Placement Office should drop by 305 Golden Gate
- Childcare Center still has vacancies. Drop by 55 Hyde St. for information, or call 964-7444.
- There have been recent thefts at Hastings. Please watch personal belongings carefully.

May I be presumptuous and give you a bit of perspective? Every law student needs certain attainments. These include: (1) skill in the comprehension and use of language; (2) a critical understanding of human institutions and values; and (3) creative power in thinking. Language will be your working tool. Whether drafting, oral argument or written briefs, you must be able to communicate ideas convincingly and forcefully. You must also be able to comprehend the language of others. Learn to write. Many students do not do as well as they should in law school because they cannot express themselves well and clearly. Hastings places great importance on its legal research and writing program. A substantial amount of time, effort and money is being expended in the legal rhetoric program, and every effort is made to provide the opportunity to develop high proficiency in this area.

May I suggest that a lawyer is essentially a combination of scholar and person of affairs. The practice of law at its best demands an intellectuality of the highest order. A large part of the work that a law-trained individual is called upon to do calls for problem-solving and sound judgment. This implies the ability to think clearly, carefully and independently in order that you may give advice concerning an almost infinite number of relationships.

This law school occupies a unique place among the state law schools of the nation. As a part of the University of California, it adheres to the high standards of the University. With its Board of Directors, headed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, the law school in its 95-year history has made a significant impact on legal education and the legal profession. Hastings is large as law schools go. With a student enrollment of over 1,500 it is one of the three largest nationally accredited day division law schools in the nation, and is in every sense of the word a major national law school.

Life is full of crossroad experiences--times when individuals confront options and must make decisions. The choice becomes more difficult when the options appear to be equally challenging and attractive. Each one of you has made a decision and has exercised an option--the result is you are now a member of the graduating class of '76.

We have a common goal--student, faculty, administrator. The Hastings community is a microcosm of the larger society. As a student, you are now a vital part of the Hastings community with its variegated patterns of attitudes, abilities, philosophies and desires.

In the next three years you will share its difficulties, its frustrations, but also its triumphs and achievements.

We are proud to have you as a member of the Hastings Community.

Marvin J. Anderson  
Dean

## **LAKE'S LAW BOOKS**

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**138 - 142 McAllister St. 863-2900**

WEEKDAYS: 8:30 to 5:30 - SATURDAYS 9 to 5

### Hastings' Instruction Method

Law as it has traditionally been taught in all major law schools has had a very passive, stupifying effect on its students, partly, I believe, because the study of law has traditionally been an academic subject in contrast to a practical approach to the subject. You should understand that the casebook approach is not the only method of teaching law. In 1921 the political hassles between the American Law School Association, and the American Bar Association resulted in the realists, who favored internships or clinical programs, losing to the academicians, who favored the casebook method.

Changes have occurred. At the present time clinical courses are offered, but these are few for the demand voiced by the students. For example, last fall a group of students presented to the Curriculum Committee a request for an immigration class for students interested in immigration law. The proposal was discussed but was eventually disapproved. If you as new students desire new courses or new teaching methods after your initial orientation in school, begin your work to achieve the objective as soon as possible.

First year students should be made immediately aware that professors teaching the same course may differ in their knowledge of the subject matter, their receptivity to new teaching theories, or to ideas posed by the students. For these reasons, although professionally frowned upon, you should acquire a set of good outlines for your respective courses.

### Legal Educational Opportunity Program

Hastings initiated an educational opportunities program in 1968. Since that time the program has haphazardly developed, mostly through push-and-shove methods by concerned students. The greatest problem has been the development of a strong program that will reassure Asians, Blacks, Chicanos and others of its continuance.

I must state that as a Chicano Law Student, I object to the LSAT and GPA as a sole selection criterion for admission to the school. In fairness to the general student body, I am empathetic to problems that confront us all, but I am convinced that we minority students have the potential and motivation to succeed in school as well, if not better, than any other student. By demonstrating to our peers what our President has written, "the hardest steel comes from the hottest fire," we can begin to honestly question the purportedly objective criteria used for student selection and in turn give greater credence to the minority program.

### Student Reorganization Plan

Early last semester, the ASH Council voted that an ad hoc committee be formed to propose a restructuring of the process by which students were selected to the student faculty committees. The ASH Council member who did the most 'candle burning' in the project was Terry Redmond. Terry and I, representing ASH Council, introduced a plan that will hopefully expand the number of persons sitting on the student faculty committees. We have introduced the proposal to the Student Faculty Advisory Committee, but since students were to sit on the above-mentioned committees on an 18-month experimental basis, a full faculty vote on the proposal could not take place until this semester. The student body approved a referendum by which elected ASH Council members would be elected by ASH to serve on the student faculty committees.

### Conclusion

I wish the entering student a successful three years. Plan to use these years the best way possible. If you have any ideas you would like to share with students for the betterment of Hastings, please contact ASH Council or any organization that interests you. All student organizations are located at 55 Hyde Street, corner of McAllister and Hyde.

Jess H. Garcia  
ASH President