

1972

Interdisciplinary Courses and Programs in Law and Social Work—A Survey

Geoffrey C. Hazard Jr.

UC Hastings College of the Law, hazardg@uchastings.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.uchastings.edu/faculty_scholarship

Recommended Citation

Geoffrey C. Hazard Jr., *Interdisciplinary Courses and Programs in Law and Social Work—A Survey*, 6 *Fam. L. Q.* 423 (1972).

Available at: http://repository.uchastings.edu/faculty_scholarship/952

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact marcus@uchastings.edu.



Faculty Publications
UC Hastings College of the Law Library

Author: Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr.
Source: Family Law Quarterly
Citation: 6 Fam. L.Q. 423 (1972).
Title: *Interdisciplinary Courses and Programs in Law and Social Work – A Survey*

Originally published in FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY. This information or any portion thereof may not be copied or disseminated in any form or by any means or downloaded or stored in an electronic database or retrieval system without the express written consent of the American Bar Association.

Interdisciplinary Courses and Programs in Law and Social Work—A Survey

GEOFFREY C. HAZARD, JR.*

I. Introduction

The National Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers¹ is an interprofessional organization whose aims are to clarify and improve working relationships between the professions of law and social work. In pursuit of these objectives, the Conference has a joint committee which holds regular semi-annual meetings, formulates and issues statements concerning various aspects of professional relationships between the two groups and seeks to foster better informed appreciation of each profession among the membership of the other.

An important aspect of promoting better relationships and wider dissemination of information between the two groups concerns the basic professional training in each of the two disciplines. In particular, it is a matter of importance whether at the professional school level there is an informed and accurate picture of social work on the part of law students, and vice versa. It seems evident that, generally speaking, information and appreciation in this regard could be greatly improved. This shortcoming should be most susceptible to remedy at those institutions that have both schools of law and graduate schools of social work. Such institutions could develop interdisciplinary courses and seminars and perhaps joint degree programs, if indeed the relationships between the two professions are as potentially congenial as has been assumed.

*Professor of Law, Yale Law School.

1. The Conference office is at 2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

With these considerations in mind, the National Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers in 1969 issued a joint statement encouraging the development of such courses, seminars and degree programs. The principal recommendations in the statement are as follows:

A. Law schools are urged to have material and personnel from the field of social work introduced at all relevant points in the law school curriculum. . . .

It is urged that highly qualified social workers be included within those social scientists who are new members of law school faculties. Conversely, schools of social work should have on their faculties attorneys who are knowledgeable about laws which affect those persons or groups which social workers are being trained to assist.

B. It is recommended to the faculties of law schools and of schools of social work that by dialogue and other methods, they become ever more aware of their mutuality of interests and the increasing number of matters of common concern to both professions. If a feeling of mutual understanding and trust is to exist between members of the legal profession and members of the social work profession, it would seem that the best way of creating this feeling would be to have it start at the heart of the educational work.

C. Several methods may be explored to achieve that dialogue which is desirable between students of law and students of social work. Among such methods is a joint enrollment of students in courses of interest to both professions, . . . a working collaboration between students of both professions in a clinical experience in which both groups are exposed to the complexities surrounding the legal rights, responsibilities and possibilities of those living in poverty.

The statement has been in effect for over three years now and reflects sentiment that had taken shape even before that. Wide circulation was given to the statement in both disciplines, its significance being particularly pertinent in those universities that then had professional schools in both disciplines. It remained to be seen, however, whether any significant steps followed in the way of actually establishing the interdisciplinary programs that were contemplated. If such programs were indeed established on a widespread basis, it would auger well for further and more intensive development of professional relationships between the two fields of endeavor. On the other hand, if interdisciplinary work at the graduate school level were halting or minimal, it would suggest that relationships between the two professions might require even more fundamental reassessment than they have thus far received.

These considerations led the National Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers to undertake a modest survey, in the nature of a pilot inquiry, concerning the existence and extent of interdisciplinary programs in law and social work at the university level. The survey was devised and organized by Dean W. L. Kindelsperger of the School of Social Work of Tulane University, assisted by Earl J. Beatt, A. C. S. W. Both Dean Kindelsperger and Mr. Beatt are members of the Conference. Additional assistance was provided by Dean Ralph Garber of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work of Washington University, St. Louis. Mr. Nelson C. Jackson, Assistant Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers tabulated the returns.

The method of survey was a written questionnaire, a copy of which appears as an Appendix, hereto. The questionnaire was sent to all universities having both Schools of Law and Schools of Social Work, with a cover letter signed by Co-Chairmen Bernard Fisher and Judge Howard Brown in May 1971. Fifty questionnaires were sent out. Returns were received from 36 Schools of Law and 38 Schools of Social Work during the summer of 1971. The universities circulated are listed at the end of the report.

The questionnaire sought to establish in a straightforward way whether there were interdisciplinary courses, whether there were joint appointments of faculty between schools of law and social work, whether there were practice courses across the two disciplines, and, where there were such programs, in which school they were centered. In addition, general comments on interdisciplinary relationships were received that convey significant qualitative character to the returns from the survey.

Analysis of the returns to the questionnaire follows. Thereafter, a number of the comments that were received are set forth. The picture that emerges is one of great variety. A few universities have quite close interdisciplinary relationships. A considerable number have few or merely nominal relationships, and indeed seem to experience considerable distance between the two professions. Some institutions have virtually no interdisciplinary contact at all.

II. Returns from the Questionnaires

A. Schools of Law Responses

1. DOES THE LAW SCHOOL OFFER SPECIAL COURSE(S) FOR SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS?

Thirty-two schools of law stated that they did not offer special courses for social work students. Two indicated that they did, and two did not report.

Twenty-six schools of law indicated that they did not provide special courses for social work students and others; nine did not report on this item and only one university indicated that special courses were given.

Without designating titles of courses, one school reported "On special permission, students in other parts of the university have been permitted to take law school courses, usually on audit. We are unaware of any case in which social work students have done this."

Another school reports: "Students from other divisions of the university may register for law school courses with the instructors' permission on a showing of genuine interest."

Still another school stated that there have been special courses in the school of social work taught by law school professors, without suggesting course titles.

Three courses were noted as follows, as offered: Seminar in Urban problems; Seminar in Urban Housing and Renewal; and Legal Problems of the Poor.

2. DOES THE LAW SCHOOL OFFER COURSES WHICH PERMIT SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS TO ENROLL WITH LAW STUDENTS?

Twenty schools of law permit social work students to enroll with law students, while 14 do not. Two schools did not report.

The courses offered are:

- Family Law (5 schools)
- Social Legislation (2 schools)
- Public Welfare & Urban Problems
- Seminar in Urban Problems
- Seminar in Urban Housing & Renewal
- Urban Affairs
- Urban Legal Problems

**Legal Problems of the Poor
Consumer Protection
Law and Psychiatry**

All of these, except otherwise designated, are titles of individual courses offered. There are one or two explanatory notes under this section which suggest that any course to be taken by any student is subject to the approval of the Dean.

In another instance, it is indicated that a few social work students have taken domestic relations courses or a seminar in Family Problems.

3. DOES THE LAW SCHOOL RESTRICT ANY OF ITS COURSES TO LAW STUDENTS?

Twenty-two of the law schools report in the affirmative; 13 indicate that they do not restrict courses, and one does not report.

Several explanations are given, as follows:

1. Law students have first priority;
2. There is concern to allow registration in the crowded first year
3. Students are not permitted to enroll without special permission
4. Where prior legal knowledge is required, entrance is subject to the space available

4. DO THE LAW SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK HAVE ANY JOINT APPOINTMENTS OF FACULTY?

IF YES, WHAT ARE THE TITLES OF THE COURSES OFFERED?

In only two schools of law are there joint appointments of faculty with the school of social work. One of these schools is the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where there is a joint program previously mentioned, leading to degrees both in law and social work.

5. DO THE LAW SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OFFER COURSES UNDER JOINT AUSPICES?

IF YES, WHAT ARE THE TITLE(S) OF THE COURSE(S)?

Six schools of law offer courses under joint auspices. There are a few students who have taken courses in the other school. One school of law reports that there is presently under active

discussion with the school of social work, a plan for the establishment of a joint degree program in which students would work toward a law degree and a master's degree in social welfare in a four-year program.

There are two reports of courses; they are Lawyer and the Social Worker, and Legal Aid Program.

6. DOES THE SCHOOL OF LAW HAVE A PRACTICUM OR PRACTICE COURSE?

IF SO, WHAT KIND OF PRACTICUM IS REQUIRED? PLEASE DESCRIBE

Twenty-eight of the schools of law have a practicum or practice course; five do not, and three did not report.

Locations:

- Legal aid Offices (7)
- Public Defender (5)
- Legal Clinic (2)
- Law Offices (2)
- Neighborhood Law office conducted by the Law School Faculty (2)
- Overall Funded Neighborhood Services
- Courts
- District Attorney's Office
- States Attorney's Office
- County Attorney's Office
- Clinical Trial Practice
- The College of Law
- Juvenile Court
- Public Law Office
- Community Organizations which render legal service

Thus a variety of locations are utilized in the practice course for law students.

Time Requirements:

A variety of time requirements were noted among law schools reporting this characteristic. There are many diverse time spans noted. For example:

- Approximately ten hours
- Approximately eight hours a week
- Four days a week for one semester
- Six to eight hours weekly

Sixty hours per semester

Ten hours a week

Very few of the schools gave information on credits earned which indicated a trend.

Professional Supervision Required?

Twenty-eight of the law schools require professional supervision. In the same vein, 28 schools require professional evaluation of performance.

If there is a Practicum (by whatever name) have Social Work Students Participated in the Same Organization (agency)?

Twenty of the law schools reported in the negative on this question, while ten indicated there was participation of social work students in the same agency. Six schools reported practica in cooperation with law students. Seventeen law schools stated that there was no cooperation, while eight schools did have cooperation between social work students and law students. The remaining schools did not report on this item.

B. Schools of Social Work Returns

1. DOES THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OFFER LAW COURSES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS TAUGHT BY AN ATTORNEY?

Twenty-five schools of social work do so, while thirteen do not. In a review of auspices, eleven schools of social work report that the person who teaches the courses in from the law school, while twenty-one state that the person is not from the law school. This, no doubt, indicates the possibility of greater communication and cooperation between the two schools in the university in this area.

A variety of titles of courses were reported. This study does not provide an opportunity to determine course content as a basis for indicating similarity or differences in courses. By and large, there was wide variation in titles. They are:

Law and Social Work (7 schools)

Law and Social Welfare (3 schools)

Family Law (2 schools)

Legal Problems of the Poor (2 schools)

Legal Rights of the Poor

Psychological, Sociological and Legal Perspective of Deviance

Forensic Social Work
Social Welfare Law – Legislative Process
Special Problems in Social Work Practice
Law and Community Practice
Special Studies
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Administration
Welfare Law Administration
Social Reform Movement and the Law
Poverty Law
Legal Functions of Social Welfare
Legal Rights of Social Welfare Beneficiaries

2. HOW MANY FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK HOLD LAW AND SOCIAL WORK DEGREES?

A total of sixteen social work faculty members hold both degrees.

3. DOES THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OFFER COURSES FOR LAW STUDENTS EXCLUSIVELY?

There is no instance where the school of social work offers courses for law students exclusively. However, in eight instances schools of social work offer courses for law students and others; twenty-two reported in the negative. One school reports that this is not a prohibition and that other students can register for social work courses.

The titles of courses offered are as follows:

**Problem Areas – Corrections, Health, Poverty, Racism,
and Mental Health**

Social Policy and Health Programs

Government and Social Welfare

Social Work Seminar

**Organizational and Administrative Theory
for Social Workers**

Social Work and Community Planning

Social Planning and Development

Community Organization and Principles of Planning

Housing

Urban Renewal and Planning

Urban Policy Analysis

**Social Welfare Analysis and Evaluation
Law and Poverty**

It will be noted that many of the courses mentioned here are in the community organization or planning arena and seem to follow a trend expressed two or three years ago by the American Bar Association toward developing some interest in urban problems.

4. DOES A SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK RESTRICT ANY OF ITS REGULAR COURSES TO SOCIAL WORKERS?

Twenty-four schools do so, while fourteen do not.

5. DO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW SCHOOL OFFER COURSES UNDER JOINT AUSPICES?

IF SO, WHAT ARE THE TITLE(S) OF THE COURSE(S)?

Thirty-one out of the thirty-eight schools reported that they did not offer courses under joint auspices. Where there are joint auspices for courses, the titles of the courses are as follows:

Legal Problems of the Poor

Seminar in Criminal Justice

Law and Social Work

Field Instruction and Related Seminars in Legal Aid Services.

Interdisciplinary Project

Legal and Social Problems of Juveniles

Social Work and the Law

6. DO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW SCHOOL HAVE ANY JOINT APPOINTMENTS OF FACULTY?

Thirty-four of the social work schools do not, while four do. In reporting the title of courses, there was not sufficient information presented to be of significance. There were such courses as Sociology and Criminology and Social Welfare and the Law mentioned.

7. DO STUDENTS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL HAVE PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES IN THE SAME ORGANIZATION (AGENCY) WHERE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS ARE PLACED?

This condition exists in twenty-four of the schools reporting, while in twelve it does not. Two schools did not report. Un-

fortunately, the questionnaire did not provide for the receipt of information which would give the location or auspices of agencies where this occurs.

It is interesting to report that an equal number of schools (seventeen) stated that law students and social work students have cooperative learning experiences, and seventeen do not. There were four schools which did not report.

IV. General Commentaries

As noted earlier, the questionnaire invited general commentaries in addition to the responses to specific questions. In certain respects, the general commentaries are perhaps more important than the bare figures themselves. Each commentary has its own character, which can be most effectively revealed by simply presenting it. Accordingly, the commentaries are set forth below, the inferences to be drawn from them being left to the reader himself.

I am not returning the questionnaire because it would simply furnish you the information that the answers to all questions would be 'no'. The only exception to this would be question 6 as to which the answer would be that we do have students engaging in an extern program which puts them into various community organizations which render legal service.

The failure of our university to develop any joint programs between law and social work does not indicate an unwillingness to do so. On the contrary, I believe that some efforts in this direction will soon be made, and we are very anxious to be kept informed of the work of your organization and the efforts of other schools to develop some joint programs between law and social work.²

After looking over the questionnaire, I conclude that a more accurate statement of information can be presented by letter than by responding to the inquiries on the questionnaire. The college of law does not offer any special course for non-law students. Our courses are, however, open to graduate students entitled to take them with the permission of the law course instructor. It is planned for 1971-72 that the "Poverty Law" course which I teach in the law school shall be made especially available to social work students in the University's College of Social Professions as well as to law students. The Law School and the College of Social Professions do not offer any courses under joint auspices.³

For almost six years this college has cooperated closely with the

2. Letter from Charles R. Purcell, Dean, Loyola University of Chicago, School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, May 4, 1971.

3. Letter from Robert M. Viles, Associate Professor of Law and Social Professions, University of Kentucky, College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, May 10, 1971.

Department of Sociology. In fact, the law faculty contains in its ranks 24 sociologists. To date, however, there have not been similar arrangements with the Graduate School of Social Work. We will be gaining a new Dean of our Graduate School of Social Work in the next month who would like to promote cooperation. We are beginning discussions to that end, thus, I believe in a year the answers to your questionnaire might be quite different.⁴

General Comments—Schools of Social Work

As indicated in the responses to the questionnaire, we are engaged in a major curriculum examination with the purpose of developing a program of training that is more consistent with our new commitment and mission of serving more adequately the needs of Black and other oppressed groups.

As Chairman of our Curriculum Committee, I am particularly aware of gaps in the legal aspects of social welfare in our curriculum. Furthermore, it is evident that if we are to make a significant contribution in the direction of realization of our mission, our training and practice must incorporate a multi-discipline approach to the complex problems facing Minority groups.

Unfortunately, our curriculum building efforts have been impeded by many changes in personnel. However, we shall have a new Dean in September and we hope to be moving steadily in the new direction.⁵

It is difficult for me to respond to your communication of May 4, through the simple response to the questionnaire which you enclosed because the relationships between the Law School and the School of Social Service at Catholic University is under development but has not reached the point that we have identified and developed the courses to which you refer.

We do have students from the School of Social Service taking courses in the School of Law. We do not yet admit law students to the Graduate School of Social Service courses except for a few elective courses, and these are not in areas which would be of particular interest to law students as yet. We have, however, several plans under development which we will have in effect possibly by September, 1971, certainly by September, 1972.

We are currently seeking funding for a project that combines the field experience of law students and social work students in an interdisciplinary approach to the resolution of major social problems in the inner City of Baltimore, in conjunction with a community action program of the Catholic Social Services of that city. . . . As we move to implement this design, we will be working toward the development of substantive courses in the curriculum of both the Law School and the School of Social Services to support this endeavor.

We have given some thought to the development of a joint degree

4. Letter from Robert B. Yegge, Dean, University of Denver, College of Law, Denver, Colorado, May 12, 1971.

5. Letter from J. Emory Smith, Associate Dean, Howard University, School of Social Work, Washington, D.C., May 18, 1971.

program but this would be a later step after we had some experience in the joint education of students for the separate degrees.⁶

. . . Up until the current year, we have offered a course entitled 'Law and Social Welfare' as an elective for our MSW students . . . The course has not been offered during 1970-1971.

We have, however, noted an increasing interest in law and legal processes among our students. In response to this we are now discussing with the School of Law the possibility of establishing a joint JD-MSW program. Though we have not worked out the details, faculty of both schools have expressed an interest in establishing such a program.

If it is approved by both faculties, the program would probably begin in the fall of 1972. . . . Many additional matters remain to be worked out including the core requirements, the amount of reciprocal credit allowed, what special courses need to be developed in each school, etc. . . .⁷

V. Conclusion

This simple inquiry suggests the opportunity for much closer cooperation between schools of law and schools of social work. In very few instances has the data revealed much cooperation presently existing between the two fields of endeavor. In a few instances, views were expressed regarding the possibility of a joint degree program, and one such program does already exist. Both schools of law and schools of social work may want to examine further the opportunities of closer collaboration in the practicum areas of their programs.

6. Letter from Dorothy Bird Daly, Dean, National Catholic School of Social Service, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., May 14, 1971.

7. Letter from Milton Chernin, Dean, University of California, School of Social Welfare, Berkeley, California, May 27, 1971.

APPENDIX A

Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers
For Schools of Law

1. Does the Law School offer special course(s) for Social Work students? Yes ___ No ___
For Social Work students and others? Yes ___ No ___
If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

2. Does the Law School offer courses which permit Social Work students to enroll with Law students?
Yes ___ No ___
If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

3. Does the Law School restrict any of its courses to Law students? Yes ___ No ___

4. Do the Law School and the School of Social Work have any joint appointments of faculty? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, what are the title(s) of the course(s) offered?

5. Do the Law School and the School of Social Work offer courses under joint auspice? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

6. Does the Law School have a practicum or practice course?
Yes ___ No ___
If so, what kind of practicum is required? Please describe:

Locations _____

Time Requirements _____

(Auspice) _____

Credits Earned _____

Professional supervision required? Yes ___ No ___

Professional evaluation of performance required?

Yes ___ No ___

If there is a practicum (by whatever name), have Social Work students participated in the same organization (agency?) Yes ___ No ___

In cooperation with Law students? Yes ___ No ___

Please return to:

National Conference of Lawyers
and Social Workers
Room 2310
2 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

(Self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed)

APPENDIX B

Conference of Lawyers and Social Workers

For Schools of Social Work

1. Does the School of Social Work offer Law courses for social workers taught by an attorney?

If so, is the instructor from the Law School?

Yes ___ No ___

If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

2. How many faculty members in the School of Social Work hold Law and Social Work degrees? Number ___

3. Does the School of Social Work offer courses for Law students exclusively? Yes ___ No ___

For Law students and others? Yes ___ No ___

If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

4. Does the School of Social Work restrict any of its regular courses to social workers? Yes ____ No ____
5. Do the School of Social Work and the Law School offer courses under joint auspice? Yes ____ No ____
If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s)?

6. Do the School of Social Work and the Law School have any joint appointments of faculty? Yes ____ No ____
If so, what are the title(s) of the course(s) offered?

7. Do students from the Law School have experiences in the same organization (agency) where social work students are placed? Yes ____ No ____
Do Law Students and Social Work students have cooperative learning experiences? Yes ____ No ____

Please return to:
National Conference of Lawyers
and Social Workers
Room 2310
2 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

(Self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed)

TABLE I

**Thirty-six Schools of Law Characterized According To
Relationships with Schools of Social Work**

Relationships	Yes	No	N.A.
Special Courses for Social Work Students	2	32	2
For Social Work Students and Others	1	26	9
Courses which Permit Social Work Students To Enroll with Law Students	20	14	2
Restriction of Courses to Law Students	22	13	1
Joint Appointments of Faculty – Law and Social Work	2	34	–
Courses Offered under Joint Auspices	6	28	2
Practicum Course Offered	28	5	3
Professional Supervision Required	28	8	–
Professional Evaluation Required	28	2	6
Have Social Work Students Participated	10	20	6
In Cooperation with Law Students	8	17	11

TABLE II

Thirty-eight Schools of Social Work Characterized According to Relationships with School of Law

Relationships	Yes	No	N.A.
Law Courses Taught by an Attorney	25	13	—
Instructor from Law School	11	21	6
Faculty Members in School of Social Work Holding Both Law and Social Work Degrees	16	22	—
Courses in Schools of Social Work Offered Exclusively for Law Students	—	38	—
For Law Students and Others	8	22	8
Regular Courses Restricted to Social Workers	24	14	—
Courses Offered Under Joint Auspices — Law and Social Work	7	31	—
Joint Appointments of Faculty — Law and Social Work	4	34	—
Students from Law School with Practicum in Same Agency where Social Work Students Placed	24	12	2
Cooperative Learning Experiences Law and Social Work Students	17	17	4

SCHOOLS OF LAW AND SOCIAL WORK

University of Alabama
Arizona State University
Boston College Law School
Boston University
University of California
The Catholic University
of America
University of Chicago
Columbia University
University of Denver
Florida State University
Fordham University
University of Georgia
University of Houston
Howard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
Louisiana State University
University of Louisville
Loyola University
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri

University of Nebraska
State University of New York
New York University
University of North Carolina
Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puerto Rico
St. Louis University
Seton Hall University
University of Southern
California
Syracuse University
Temple University
University of Tennessee
University of Texas
University of Utah
University of Washington
Washington University
Wayne State University
Case Western Reserve
University
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin