If our nation’s law schools are to meet their responsibilities, they must prepare the next generation of lawyers for an increasingly internationalized legal culture.

In light of recent events, I am often asked how developments in the European Community, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe have affected legal education and legal scholarship at the University of Chicago Law School. This question is of considerable importance, for the dramatic changes we are now witnessing in the world political and economic order will inevitably affect American legal institutions, as well. If our nation’s law schools are to meet their responsibilities, they must prepare the next generation of lawyers for an increasingly internationalized legal culture.

From the days of Max Rheinstein, our faculty has had a deep and abiding interest in both international and comparative law. Indeed, of the twenty-eight current members of the faculty, no less than eleven do at least part of their teaching and writing in these fields. Gerhard Casper has, of course, maintained a long-standing interest in comparative law, as have David Currie, who spe-
specializes in comparative constitutional law, Cass Sunstein, who has developed an interest in constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, Richard Helmholz, who is one of the world's foremost historians of Canon Law, and Geoffrey Miller and Jonathan Macey, who have strong interests in Japanese legal institutions. Gidon Gottlieb and Anne-Marie Burley specialize in public international law, Diane Wood and Alan Sykes work extensively in the area of international business transactions, and Joseph Isenbergh recently published a two-volume treatise on international taxation.

This, of course, is not all, for we have had many foreign visiting professors in recent years to enrich our comparative and international law offerings, including (among others) Hideki Kanda from Tokyo University, Nils Mattsson from Uppsala University in Sweden, Knut Nervoir from the University of Tübingen, Wulf-Henning Roth from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, and Peter Stein from Cambridge University.

As a result of the depth and breadth of faculty interest in these fields, our curriculum is rich in comparative and international law offerings. Indeed, in the past two years we have offered courses or seminars in International Taxation; International Law; International Trade Regulation; The Modern Welfare State in Comparative Perspective; Legal Developments in Germany since 1900; International Sales and Investment; Current Issues in International Trade Law; The Constitution of West Germany; Protectionism in U.S. Trade Policy; The Law of the European Community; American Foreign Relations Law; International Arbitration and Litigation; The Arab-Israeli Conflict; Comparative Law, Politics, and Policy; History of the Canon Law; Roman Law; Greek Law; Comparative Japanese and American Business Law; and Law & Diplomacy.

The stimulus of such courses has not been lost on our students, who in 1987 established their own International and Comparative Law Society, which regularly supplements the curriculum with speakers, debates and panel discussions. The Society has recently hosted discussions of such diverse topics as The International Debt, The Crisis in South Africa, The Future of the European Welfare State, Transboundary Pollution in Europe, and Comparative Perspectives on Legal Education and Practice.

At the very core of our international law program are, of course, our foreign graduate students. In 1984, then-Dean Gerhard Casper reinstituted our foreign graduate student program, a program that had flourished at the Law School in the 1950s and '60s under the direction of Max Rheinstein. Since this reinvigoration of the program, more than 100 foreign students from more than 20 nations have received graduate degrees from the Law School, and our current class includes 28 foreign students from virtually every corner of the globe. Through this program, we hope both to stimulate interest among American students in international and comparative law and to provide foreign lawyers and scholars with a deeper, a more profound and a more lasting understanding of the American system.

We have ambitious plans for the future. In cooperation with the University's Program on International Economics, Politics and Security, and its Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, the Law School has been selected by the European Commission to host a European Community Fellow during the 1991-92 academic year. Our Law Review will devote its Spring 1991 issue to "Constitutionalism, Capitalism, and the Changes in Eastern Europe," and the University of Chicago Legal Forum will devote its 1992 symposium to "Europe 1992: The Legal Restructuring of the European Community." Moreover, members of the Law and Political Science faculty, including Cass Sunstein, Stephen Holmes, and Jan Elster, are now in the process of establishing a formal Institute of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe. This Institute, which will operate out of the Law School under the auspices of our Program in Law and Government, will focus on such issues as emerging economic regulation, electoral reform and the formation of political parties in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Finally, we are at this very moment seeking funds for a range of other activities, including a formal workshop in International Law, summer internships abroad for our students, and special scholarship support for students who pursue a joint graduate degree in Law and International Relations.

This is, indeed, an exciting and challenging time in the realm of international law, and we are actively engaged in the process of designing a program in international and comparative law that reflects the excellence of aspiration and execution that has traditionally been the hallmark of the University of Chicago Law School.

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