Student Organizations and Activities

The University of Chicago Law Review, founded in 1933 and published by the School, is written and managed by students. Students who submit promising work in an annual writing competition, as well as students who rank highest in scholarship upon completion of their first year, are invited to become members of the Review staff. In recent years, about 20 percent of the students in each first-year class have been invited to participate on the Review. From these groups, the managing board and associate editors are chosen. Students who are not invited at the end of the first year but who later write comments that are accepted for publication in the Review may be asked to join the staff.

The Hinton Moot Court Competition, founded in 1954, and named for Judge Edward W. Hinton (Professor of Law, 1913–36), is open to all second- and third-year students. Each year participants refine the skills gained in the first-year tutorial program in the arts of brief writing and oral argument before mock appellate tribunals. Competitors argue individually before panels of faculty and Chicago attorneys in the fall and winter rounds; the climax of the best final arguments comes in the spring with the Hinton Argument between the top two teams, traditionally presided over by a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Actual cases, often pending decision, are used, and the program is conducted by third-year students who comprise the Hinton Moot Court Committee.

The Mandel Legal Aid Association is the student organization associated with the work of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. The Mandel Clinic, housed in the Law School, operates as an office of the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago. It is directed by Gary H. Palm, Associate Professor in the Law School. The attorneys are Clinical Fellows in the Law School. The clinical program is described more fully elsewhere in these Announcements.

The Law Student Association is the student government organization. Its president and five representatives from each class are elected annually by the student body. The Association organizes social and other extracurricular activities during the academic year and, through its officers and committees, serves as a means of communicating student opinion on academic and other matters. The Association sponsors the weekly Wine Mess for students and faculty, a traditional feature of social life in the School, and arranges for faculty-student lunches, speaker programs, and athletic events. Other student activities at the Law School include BALSA, a local chapter of a national organization concerned with the interests of black students in law schools; the Law Women's Caucus, a group concerned with the role of women in the legal profession; Phi Delta Phi, a national legal fraternity; the Law School Film Society; a local chapter of the National Lawyers Guild; The Phoenix, a student newspaper; and the Chicago Law Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides funds for law school students to work on public interest legal projects; and the Federalist Society, organized to promote discussion of political issues from a conservative perspective.

Research and Special Programs

The Law School publishes five professional journals, The University of Chicago Law Review, The Supreme Court Review, The Journal of Law and Economics, The Journal of Legal Studies, and Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research. The Law Review is a quarterly published under the management of a board of student editors. The Supreme Court Review is an annual volume devoted to responsible professional criticism of the current decisions of the Supreme Court. The Journal of Law and Economics provides a forum for the publication of writings by economists and lawyers on problems that are both economic and legal and seeks to stimulate scholarly investigation of such problems. The Journal of Legal Studies provides a forum for basic theoretical and empirical research into the operation of legal systems and institutions.

The School's long-standing concern with the relationships between law and economics is reflected in the Law and Economics Program. The aim of the Law and Economics Program is to advance understanding of the effects of laws, and hence to enlighten both economic theory and proposals for law reform, by systematic investigation of aspects of the legal system in a framework of economic analysis. A continuing series of studies has focused on antitrust, public regulation of economic enterprise, and economic analysis of the common law. Recent studies examined the welfare effects of inflation, predatory pricing, the market for corporate control, antitrust sanctions, the role of "social" investing in the management of pension trusts, and the economics of torts law. Professor William M. Landes is Director of the Program.

The Center for Studies in Criminal Justice, established in 1965 under a grant from the Ford Foundation, is concerned with enlarging knowledge of behavior defined as criminal; with studying the operation and assisting in the development of the agencies of criminal justice and other agencies of social control; and with providing graduate training in the methodology and practice of research in these areas. The Center maintains close working relationships with other disciplines in the behavioral sciences relevant to the prevention and treatment of crime, and with the operating agencies of criminal justice at the
local, state, and federal levels. Research projects have included an evaluation of an experiment in probation utilizing nonprofessionals and ex-offenders as probation officer assistants; an analysis of the operation of deterrent processes in the criminal law; the current status of American jails and prospects for alternative measures; the relationship of weapons to homicide rates and gun-control measures; alternative ways of dealing with the competency to plead question; several aspects of the administration of justice in juvenile and family courts; various prison studies; a field experiment testing effects of Pre-Trial Settlement Conferences; a criminal justice textbook; and two on-going series, Studies in Crime and Justice and Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research. Professor Franklin Zimring is Director of the Center.

The School has embarked on the development of a formal Program in Legal History. It regularly offers courses in American, English and European legal history, and it seeks both to stimulate research in this growing field and to train prospective law teachers and historians. Professor R. H. Helmholz currently serves as its director. Significant research projects under way cover the history of criminal procedure, the rise of legal realism, the historical role of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and the legal framework of the institution of slavery. The Program sponsors special lectures and conferences each year, and a Workshop in Legal History meets regularly once or twice each quarter. Members of the History Department of the University also participate in all aspects of the Program.

The Committee on Public Policy Studies is a separate academic unit within the University, authorized to recommend students for graduate degrees in Public Policy Studies. The Committee offers a one-year specialized program for students who wish to retain a primary academic and professional affiliation with one of the other academic or professional schools in the University, but who wish to spend a year focusing on public policy. The Committee provides a year-long Policy Seminar which explores, in depth and in an interdisciplinary manner, a particular problem in public policy (for example, the federal budgetary process). In addition, the Committee offers a variety of experiences for students with public policy interests, including research seminars, directed client-oriented projects, and field internships. The Committee’s faculty come from almost all areas of the University, including the Law School, the Graduate School of Business, the School of Social Service Administration, the School of Medicine, the Divinity School, and the graduate departments of Chemistry, Economics, Education, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Statistics. Law students interested in the one-year Master’s Degree program in Public Policy Studies should contact the Chairman in the offices of the Committee, Wieboldt 301.

Placement

A Placement Office, under the supervision of the Director of Placement, is maintained by the Law School. Its primary function is to keep students aware of career opportunities as they become available and to help students take advantage of these opportunities. To facilitate this, the Placement Office maintains an extensive library of material concerning potential employers in all areas of practice. In addition to law firm employment information, the placement library contains material on judicial clerkships, government departments and agencies, public interest and legal services, and teaching positions. Information concerning fellowships, internships, essay competitions, and bar admissions may also be found in the placement library.

As part of its operations, the Placement Office maintains contact with employers throughout the year, and there is a regular flow of inquiries concerning student job opportunities. In addition, employers are invited to come to the Law School in the fall to interview second-year students for summer positions and third-year students for permanent employment. Facilities and scheduling of interviews are provided by the Law School, and about 600 employers will be interviewing at the School this fall. They come from all over the United States, as far away as Hawaii, and afford students a wide range of location and type of employment from which to choose. During the 1981-82 academic year the cities with the largest number of interviewers were Chicago (99), New York (68), Washington, D.C. (66), Los Angeles (43), and San Francisco (22), with substantial representation from such cities as Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Cleveland, Minneapolis–St. Paul, Phoenix, and Seattle. The greatest percentage of interviewing employers represent law firms of all sizes, but other fields of interest, including corporate law departments, government departments and agencies, public interest, and legal services are also represented.

Since all the concentration of effort by the Placement Office staff in the fall “interview season” is directed toward second- and third-year students, the Placement Office remains the exclusive domain of these classes during this period of time. First-year students are welcome in the Placement Office after November 9th. Job opportunities do become available to first-year students as the school year proceeds, particularly in the Winter and Spring Quarters. In recent years, more than two-thirds of the first-year class have obtained law-