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THE GAVEL

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Position Wanted

An Interview with the Colonel

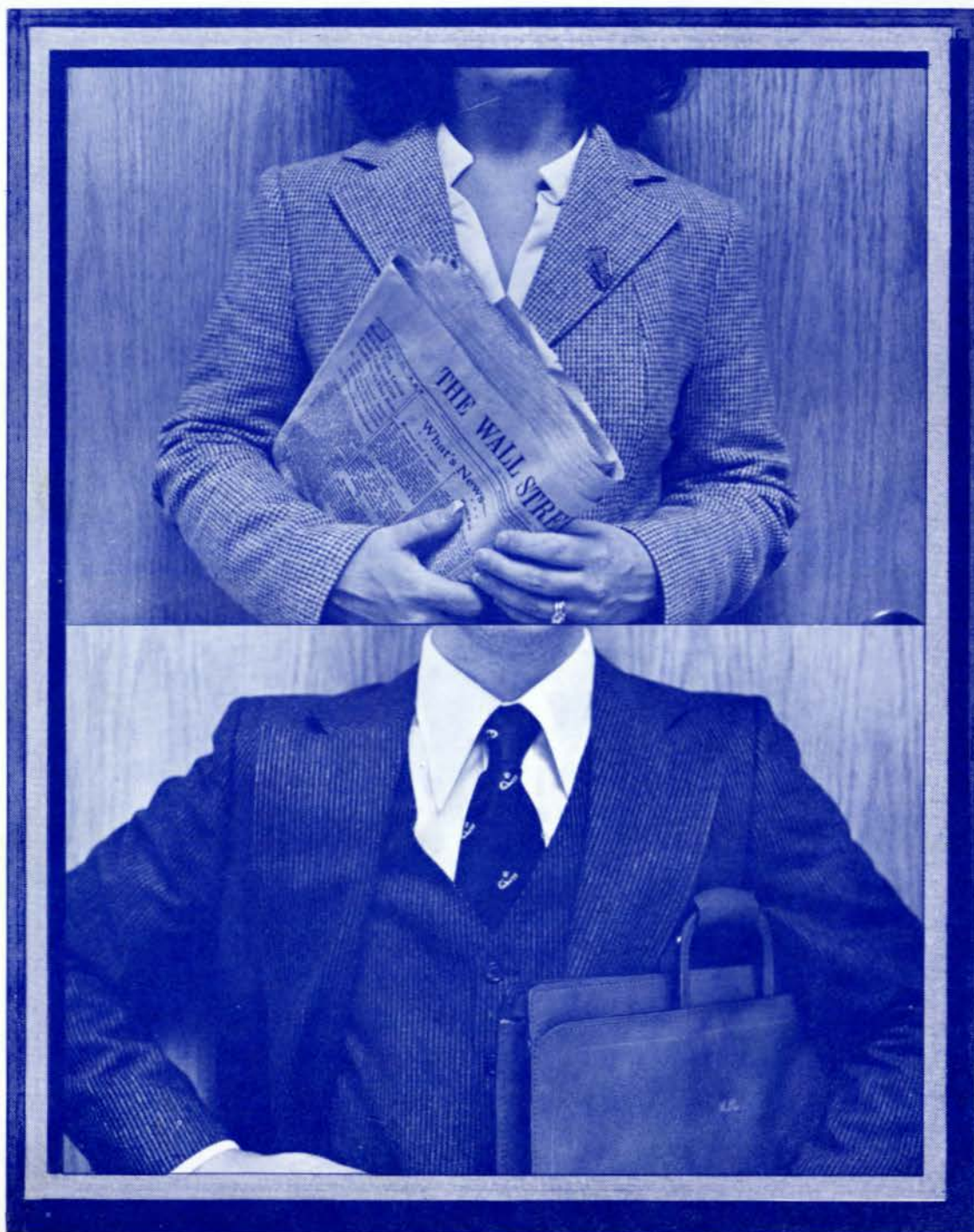
Federal Practice

Salary Survey

Rural Jobs

Alumni Help Needed

Going Solo



EDITORIAL

Why Be a Wallflower?

"We interview all over the country, why should we hire someone from Cleveland-Marshall—familiar ditty

Placement, for C-M students is the bottom line. It is the area where we are reminded that our school's reputation has not caught up with our aspirations. We noted in the last issue that the administration has taken steps to boost Marshall's image. Not coincidentally, a new placement officer, Nancy Goldman, will take over for Walter Greenwood on November 20. We think it is worthwhile to review what has been done in the area of placement and to begin considering what we as individuals and as a school could do to make the search for jobs a positive experience.

In *What Color Is Your Parachute: A Practical Manual for Job Hunters and Career Changers*, author Richard Nelson Bowles writes about the fatal assumptions commonly taught by job counselors. Fatal assumption one is that employers have the upper hand in the job process. Under this assumption the employment market "is a high school prom, where job hunters are sitting around the dance floor like some shy wallflower, while the employers are whirling around the center of the floor, enjoying all the initiative." Bowles advises job seekers to take the initiative from the employers. Creative job seekers, he says, should determine what they want to do, research the organizations where they would like to work, and then approach the one person in an organization in a position to hire them.

The second fatal assumption is the belief that individuals should remain "loose" about what they want to do. Allowing employers to decide where to place you only encourages them to make safe choices, causing, says Bowles, a high percentage of underemployment in this country.

Judging from our interview with Mr. Greenwood, he has sold both fatal assumptions. Either because of his definition of his role as counselor rather than job developer, or because he was burdened by extraneous chores, he has been willing to let employers take the initiative. Who has come to our door? Squire, Sanders and Dempsey; Jones Day; Baker, Hostetler & Patterson; and government agencies; employers who interview all over the country and who will only look at a minority of our students. C-M has become a wallflower in the placement area and has undersold itself and its students.

In the future C-M should take the initiative in the area of placement by researching the needs of the market and then selling the school to potential employers. Initially, several areas of need come to mind.

In his interview, Mr. Greenwood indicated that the smaller firms in Cleveland are a major source of jobs. We agree, but feel that it is the responsibility of the law school to contact firms rather than wait for firms to call. As Greenwood suggested,

fulfilling the part time needs of the smaller firms will allow students the opportunity to work their way into full time positions. The Continuing Education Seminars could also be utilized for placement purposes. Once firms have received helpful information here, it will be easier to persuade them to interview at the school.

The legal interests of those in rural Ohio are underrepresented. Rumor has it that there are three members of the Chillicothe Bar Association. After the needs of rural Ohio have been researched, an aggressive promotional effort could be launched by the Placement Office to show students the benefits of rural practice. Seminars on "how to hang out your shingle" could be offered as part of this campaign. No campaign could be successful, however, if it is announced only by Xeroxed flyers posted haphazardly on the walls of the school.

The needs of the banks and corporations not only in Cleveland, but in outlying areas should be assessed. Pittsburgh, Akron, Toledo, and Detroit are all part of this industrial region. With the increase in federal regulations many companies are interested in creating their own legal staffs.

Law related jobs could be researched. Politicians need administrative assistants, corporations need managers, and the public sector needs sound administrators. There are students here who could

fill these jobs.

The SBA leadership has long talked up the alumni as a job source. Alumni should be personally approached.

Taking the initiative in the area of placement would require adding job development to the job description along with the role of counselor, a job performed well by Mr. Greenwood. But maintaining the status quo with students facing a tight labor market would be immoral, and it would also continue to sell the law school short. To be sure under any plan students will have to sell themselves; the school is not in a position to guarantee jobs. Aggressiveness, on the school's part however would surely rub off on students.

A new Marshall placement plan would require research and selling. There are plenty of students available at low cost to help with the research. Selling, in turn, is one of this administration's strong points. In sum, if the will is there, a lot could be accomplished.

Of course we could always refrain from doing anything new, and merely gloat over our improved record in placing students with high powered law firms. We could focus our attention solely on what those firms want. And as one interviewer suggested, we could encourage our students to get LL.M.'s as a way of competing with the J.D.'s of Harvard students for jobs in those firms.

I think however that it would be more profitable to take the initiative and seek out employers who could hire our students. Why be a wallflower when you can pick your partner.

THE GAVEL

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There's something infectious about a genuine smile. That and a cup of freshly brewed coffee can team up to launch as effective attack on any morning.

Fran Borucki knows that well. She ladles out generous portions of each. At 25¢ per cup - 35¢ for a large cup—her coffee is a bargain. Her good humor is priceless.

Monday through Friday, Fran sets up shop in a little cubical off the corridor running due south of the student lounge. Coffee, cookies, donuts, fruit, pop, sandwiches, yogurt and chili or soup await. But "the munchies" are not the only maladies that Fran administers to.

Law school has a tendency to induce within its inhabitants a single-minded obsession with the study of law. These inhabitants have a tendency to become boring conversationalists. Enter Fran. She can, and does, talk



Fran the Coffee Lady

By Lawrence G. Sheehey

about anything and everything. But then, she's done a lot to talk about.

"I've been in the food business for 42 years," said Fran. "I've worked Musicarnival, the Stadium, the Airshows; anyplace where they sell hot dogs."

On weekends-off and on for the last 20 years - she's dealt in popcorn and custard at Thistledown. And she knows a thing or two about the ponies as well.

"I make my side money playing bingo," she added for the record.

As for her association with Cleveland-Marshall, Fran said, "I've been here five years and I love my job. If it wasn't for the law students I wouldn't stay. I could use a new coffee maker, though."

"I've worked with kids all my life," she mused contentedly. "There were always young kids around."

After working the Airshow during the Labor Day weekend, Fran gathered her Thistledown and bingo earnings and flew out to California to visit one of her own kids, her son John and his wife Pegi.

Another son, Dave is in a band called "Public Enemy" in the Cleveland area. She also has two daughters who live in Greater Cleveland: Pat, an RN; and Barbara, a billing clerk. Both are married. There are also five grandchildren.

"My husband John - bless him - used to call me 'the hot dog queen,'" she chuckled.

Just call her Fran. She's special.

BALSA NEWS

The Black American Law Student Association (BALSA) of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, held its first meeting of the 1978-79 school year on Saturday, October 14, at noon. President Joyce Sandy presented the annual prospectus of BALSA activities. The current goals focus upon three major areas of concern: first, the retention of 100% of the minority students enrolled in the law school, through seminars and workshops on study skills and test taking techniques, as well as the institution of a data bank of study aids; second, the establishment of a working relationship with minority members of the legal profession, through the scheduling of prominent speakers, as well as the participation of students in various legally related community endeavors; third, the planning of activities geared towards ensuring substantial placement of Cleveland-Marshall minorities in the legal profession, including workshops on interview techniques and

effective resume preparation.

Highlighting the meeting was a guest presentation by attorney Daisy Collins, a candidate for judge in Domestic Relations Court. Attorney Collins shared her insights into the legal profession with the BALSA membership, through a Black perspective, and some personal experiences, that were both enlightening and shocking.

Along with the many students in attendance at the meeting were Cleveland-Marshall's new Black professor, attorney Fred White, and attorney Ronald Adrine, a member of Congressman Louis Stokes' House Assassination Committee. A coffee and doughnut reception followed the meeting, where informal discussions took place and everyone had a chance to fraternize.

BALSA will be holding its annual awards banquet on Saturday, December 2, in the law school atrium. Ticket information may be obtained by calling Ext. 2329 (BALSA) or Ext. 2067 (Everett Bellamy) or in room 13 of the law school.

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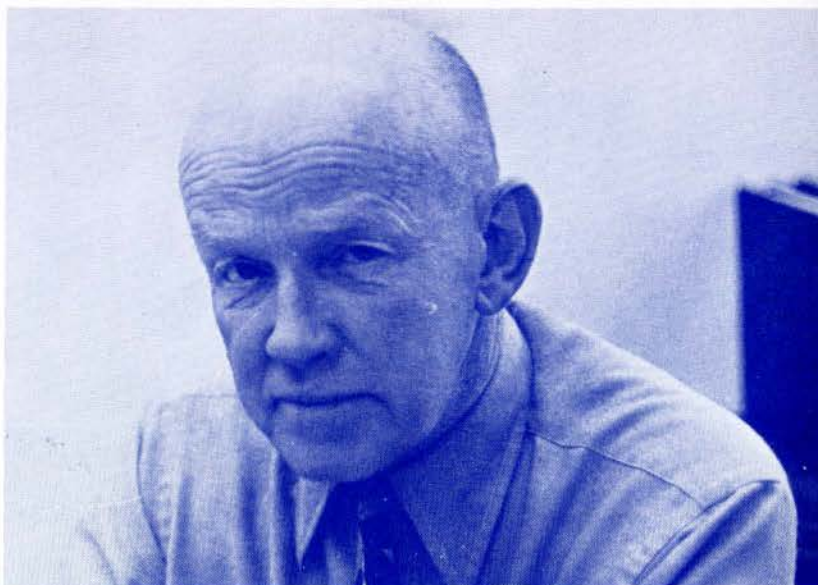
Entertainment nightly

COVER STORIES

"I can only open doors... I can't guarantee anybody a job..."

An Interview with Colonel Greenwood

by Alan Fisher



Gavel: Students here expect you (the Placement Office) to get them jobs. What do you think of their expectations?

Colonel: Their expectations are totally wrong. I can only open doors and expose them. Once these doors are open, he or she is on his own. I can help and assist in that person's organization to go job hunting but I can't guarantee anybody a job. That decision is the employers!

Gavel: What is the function of the Placement Office in your eyes?

Colonel: My job is to assist students. Some students feel no need for my assistance. I'm sure there is a combination of reasons why people don't use this office. Perhaps, some people are sufficiently independent to go elsewhere for help.

Let it be known that students must take the initiative.

Gavel: How do you approach firms to get them to interview at CSU?

Colonel: Direct personal contacts, letters, phone calls, etc.

Gavel: How have you tapped our alumni?

Colonel: Our alumni contact us. We have a very loyal group of alumni and I am confident that they think 'C-M first'. This is particularly true of smaller firms in the Cleveland area.

Gavel: Do you contact the corporations in the Cleveland community? For example, Cleveland Trust.

Colonel: Cleveland Trust has not been contacted. If a person is interested in working for them, I would suggest they come in and talk to me and then contact the bank directly. Together, we could work out a strategy.

I would like to mention that one major corporation in Cleveland has a legal department of mostly C-M graduates. Contacts are made with the law school or the individual to be hired before the personnel department is notified of the opening in the legal department.

Gavel: What is the legal community's view of C-M?

Colonel: Our image is improving steadily. Recruiters have expressed continued interest in C-M graduates. Recruiters have commented that students are no longer defensive when asked why they chose C-M.

There is no reason for an inferiority complex which some students seem to carry.

Gavel: Would you have done anything different if you had been able to devote all of your time to placement instead of having to devote your time to various administrative matters?

Colonel: Last year I moved the law school into the new

building and I oversaw the staff responsibility for the shakedown operation after the move was completed. This year, in July, I was appointed the Dean's Assistant for Academic Administration. Unfortunately, night work or weekends were out for both jobs.

I would like to see that the new director will not be burdened with extraneous, unrelated responsibilities. This will enable the Placement Director to develop programs and expand on the base that has been built.

I think it is appropriate for me to cite a few disappointments that I have experienced during the time that I directed the Placement Office. Many times there was little or no response to the various seminars, briefings and roundtables that I held for the students concerning resume writing, judicial clerkships, opportunities for the sole practitioner, etc.

Another example is the Placement Bulletin that I put out every year. Most people come and ask the same questions that are answered in the Bulletin. If people would use the resources available, they would save time and grief.

Gavel: How many people are hired by the firms that interview here?

Colonel: Firms that interview here do not hire droves of people and C-M is doing well in placing people with these firms. One hundred percent of the people who had summer associate positions with the major Cleveland firms were offered jobs upon graduation. In fact, C-M placed 2 graduates with one of THE prestigious firms in the city last year. That firm hired 10 graduates total.

Gavel: That's great for the top people in the class. What are the best options for students who are not in the top 10% of the class?

Colonel: The best options depend on the individual. I would suggest that that person begin looking for a job early. This could be in the way of working for a small firm while still in school. If the employer is satisfied, chances are the student will be offered a job upon graduation. Most small firms can't afford to spend an attorney-day recruiting.

Gavel: Is it necessary for the student to develop and rely on "contacts?"

Colonel: There is no real need for contacts to find a job. The Cleveland Bar Association publishes a booklet on most firms in the Cleveland area and there is Martindale-Hubbell to assist the student in finding a firm for possible employment.

Gavel: Do you contact the smaller firms to come and interview students?

Colonel: I get the impression that these firms do not want to be bothered by the placement office on a regular basis. Their demands are not constant like the major firms. If they want to be approached, it is more likely that they will be impressed if approached directly by the student.

Gavel: Colonel, would it not be better if you took a direct interest and, for example, contact the student personally about a possible job opportunity?

Colonel: I must be objective. I've got to give everyone a chance to take a swing. Once a job is announced, students must take the initiative.

Faculty should be given credit for assisting the Placement Office and students. They have had wide contacts in the legal community and they have been instrumental in placing students upon graduation.

I would like to add that alumni are given the individual attention that may be necessary. I once sent a graduate to 25 different interviews but that person

never was offered a job. I will admit that that person did have a personality problem.

If the person will come into my office, I will help them. My role is more of a counselling role versus that of direct placement.

Gavel: How does our placement office compare to that of other law schools?

Colonel: To the best of my knowledge, C-M is competitive. With the resources available, we do fairly well.

Gavel: What is your operating budget?

Colonel: The operating budget is very modest. It is \$2,500.

Gavel: We have heard that you told people looking for summer jobs that you couldn't do anything for them if they weren't law review or work study?

Colonel: I never made such statements. That is BS. Feel free to quote me.

Gavel: The *Gavel* knows of one private law school in the Midwest where the Dean of that school takes an active interest in the placement of its students. The Dean contacts the alumni directly where that student would like to locate and makes every effort to

help. Does that relationship exist at C-M?

Colonel: Yes, it does. Our Dean is always helping the student.

Gavel: Do you have any idea the number of students he has helped?

Colonel: I don't know how many students he has assisted.

We have an unique problem at C-M. The majority of our graduates are in the state of Ohio. In fact, in the six northern counties. We have 4,400 alumni and approximately 4,000 are in northern Ohio. Thus, there is a great problem outside the state of Ohio in helping the student with placement.

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Going Solo

by Bruce Walis

For the third consecutive year, the Law School Liaison Committee of the Bar Association of Greater Cleveland conducted a seminar on "How to Hang Out Your Own Shingle." This year's edition was particularly pleasing. For over two hours, practicing attorneys, James Lowe, Andrew Kohn and Herb Palkovitz related their personal experiences as novice attorneys. Each stressed the emotional and intellectual satisfaction of being a sole practitioner. The panel discussed a variety of topics ranging from malpractice insurance to office management. A bibliography of books and articles about law office management and decorum was also presented; copies of which are available in *The Gavel* office.

The panel agreed that anyone with a Juris Doctorate, some savings, and the needed self-discipline can become a successful sole practitioner. The members also emphasized that the practice of law is a business. As business young attorneys must cultivate certain business skills and failure to heed basic economic principles can be fatal. The economics of solo practice demand the careful management of time and energy. Systematic filing, billing and follow-up procedures must be developed. Indeed, the sole practitioner will only be successful to the extent that he is organized.

The panel agreed that the rewards of solo practice are tremendous. The independence and satisfaction that come from one being his own master is quite exhilarating. The freedom to create one's own particular practice is unequaled in other segments of the profession. Whether one becomes a successful sole practitioner, depends upon a number of factors, but as the panel agreed, "whether you make it or not you'll never regret having tried."





Federal Practice

by Diana Miosi

The largest single employer of attorneys in this country is the federal government. Each agency of the federal government varies in size and offers diverse opportunities for attorneys in such areas of law as antitrust, taxation, labor, civil rights, patents and communications. A partial list of federal agencies which employ attorneys includes such agencies as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Communications

Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Veterans Administration and the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development and Health, Education and Welfare.

Every position for attorneys with the federal government requires bar membership and generally, membership in any state bar is sufficient. Those applicants not yet admitted to the bar may be accepted by a government agency as a law clerk trainee with the condition that the applicant gain membership to the bar within fourteen months. Legal careers with the federal government provide good benefits and a salary competitive with private practice at the entry level position. Most attorneys will start at the entry level position of GS-9 with a starting salary of approximately \$16,000. Attorneys who meet the above mentioned requirements and, in addition, have either a LL.M. degree or a superior academic standing may begin at the entry level position of GS-11.

Since 1947, government

attorneys have not been required to compete for their positions by taking the Civil Service Commission entrance examination. Each agency of the federal government has its own application procedures and requirements. Attorneys seeking positions with the federal government must file their applications with the specific agency. Generally, each agency requires the Personal Qualifications Statement, Standard Form 171, a resume, a copy of the college transcript and class standing and a writing sample.

Approximately one half of the attorneys employed by the federal government are working within the Washington, D.C. area but the remainder of the attorneys are located in regional agency offices throughout the country. While there are various governmental agencies located in the Cleveland area, applicants who are willing to relocate will have an advantage over those applicants who are unwilling or unable to relocate. Competition for entry level positions is intense

and students interested should file the necessary applications early.

Within the Cleveland area, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Labor Relations Board, the Department of Justice—Antitrust Division and the Federal Trade Commission are the federal agencies which employ the largest number of attorneys. The Internal Revenue Service offers opportunities for attorneys in positions such as the estate tax attorney, special agent and the tax law specialist. The estate tax attorney provides interpretations of federal, state and local tax laws. The special agent investigates possible tax evasions to determine if there is sufficient evidence to recommend prosecution. In addition to the J.D. degree, applicants for the position of special agent must have twenty four semester hours in accounting and take the Treasury Enforcement Agent Examination. The tax law specialist provides advisory assistance to government agencies, Congressional committees and to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Applicants with a J.D. degree or 2 years of professional tax accounting experience qualify for a GS-9 entry level position as a tax law specialist. Individuals interested in applying for any of the three above mentioned positions should submit the necessary applications directly to the Internal Revenue Service.

The list of government agencies mentioned in this article is not all inclusive. For those interested in exploring the career opportunities with the federal government, an invaluable manual for reference is the Washington Want Ads published by the Law Student Division, ABA. This manual enumerates anticipated openings, location of position, entry level & qualifications and the nature of legal work for each governmental agency. Students interested in a career with the federal government are urged to apply to the specific agencies in which they are most interested as early as possible.



THANK YOU, REVEREND ... AND NOW, IN COMPLIANCE WITH FCC ELECTION YEAR RULES, HERE TO SPEAK FOR THE OPPOSING VIEW IS ...

Alumni Help Suggested

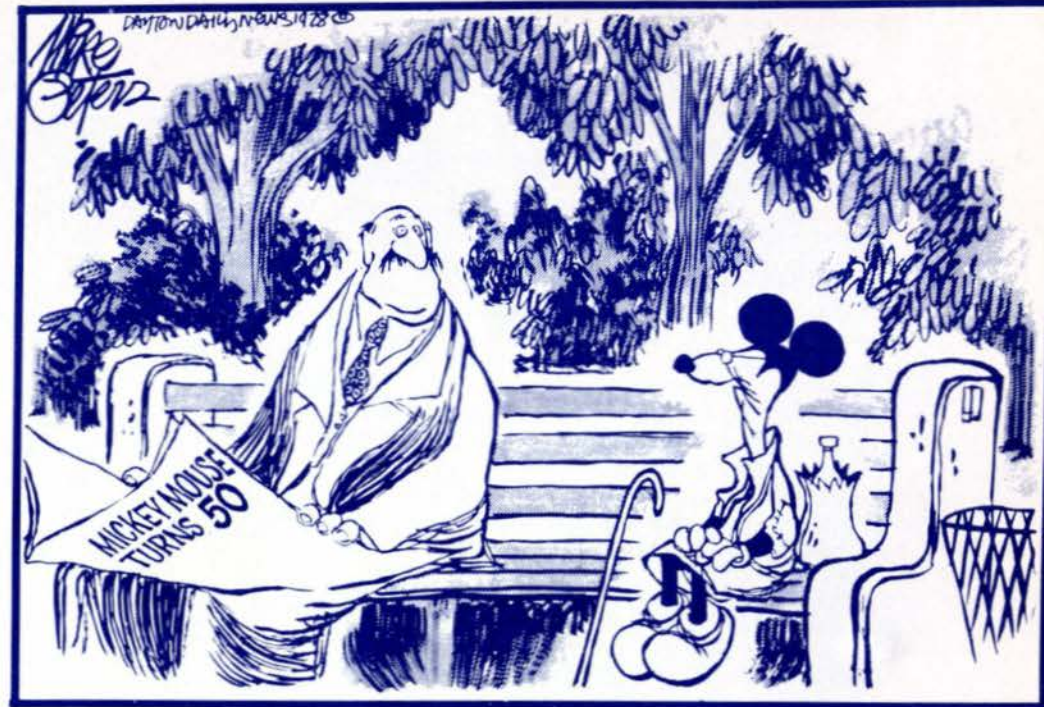
by Mike O'Malley

In what area of law do you want to specialize? During your stay in law school, you may hear this question asked time and time again. The answer to such a question may be influenced by the employment opportunities which exist in the different areas, such as corporate law, criminal law, labor law, etc. An effort to uncover statistics which might reflect the opportunities as they exist today was met with little, if any, success.

The Cuyahoga County Bar Association informed the *Gavel* that information, statistics, or studies which might measure projected employment needs in the different areas of the law, for Cuyahoga County, are not made.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, keeps statistics reflecting only the nationwide employment needs for the field of law as a whole. In a story printed in one of Cleveland's daily newspapers last week, there will be approximately 31,000 graduating law students competing for 26,000 jobs. A Labor Department employee said that it is doubtful that information, which breaks down the opportunities as to different areas of the law, is kept by the Bureau of Statistics. An attempt to find out was made by the *Gavel* to the Chicago office of the Dept. of Labor, and as yet no reply has been received.

Mr. Greenwood, Assistant Dean and former Placement Director, knows of no such information being available. "Companies and law firms find it difficult to forecast what their employment needs will be. The large firms such as Squire, Sanders & Dempsey can make such a forecast. They know how many law students will be used as clerks throughout the upcoming year, and they know, for example, that 10 new lawyers will be hired this year. The large firms can make such a prediction because the



THEN, AFTER FANTASIA, THE BIG MONEY WENT TO LIVE ACTION...MY ROYALTY CHECKS STOPPED COMING IN...MINNIE LEFT ME...I HAD TO HAVE PLUTO PUT TO SLEEP...HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE BECAME MOONIES...BUT, I HEAR THE DUCK'S DOING WELL, HE'S A BIG SHOT AT THE GAO.

amount of business they generate is pretty steady." Greenwood further stated, "The medium to small firms will find such a prediction difficult, if not impossible to make, because its employment needs may vary greatly throughout the year and from one year to the next."

Professor Browne also stated that he knows of no study existing which reflects employment needs in the particular areas of the law. "By the time such a study is completed, the employment

needs will probably have changed, making such a study infeasible." Browne felt that the law student today should consider gearing himself to general practice. "So often, a new lawyer will find himself working in an area of the law different from that which he concentrated on during the law school."

Professor Cohen echoed the statements of his colleagues. "To my knowledge, that type of information just isn't available," he stated. Professor Cohen

suggested that time and effort should be devoted to strengthening alumni relations. "There are approximately 3,000 Cleveland-Marshall alumni practicing law in the Greater Cleveland area. It is important that a sense of obligation to Cleveland-Marshall be developed among the alumni. A plea to the alumni should be made, so that that when hiring time comes, employers keep Cleveland-Marshall students first in mind."

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COMPARABLE FRAMING AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

Salary Survey

by Lenny Gluck

Juris Doctor, which bills itself as the "Magazine for the New Lawyer", recently published the results of a salary survey, based on reader responses to a questionnaire published last February in that magazine. The questionnaire drew responses from over 6,000 lawyers—the largest ever for a *Juris Doctor* survey.

The reader responses were tabulated and analyzed by Dr. Steven Langer of Abbott, Langer, and Associates, a Chicago based consulting firm specializing in personnel management, and industrial psychology. The five page article that appears in the August/September issue of *Juris Doctor* is only a summary of the results. Dr. Langer's complete two-part report is available for \$75. Quite a bargain huh!

However, the summary provides some quick answers to some basic questions regarding salaries:

Which specialties are the

most lucrative? Among lawyers in private practice, those specializing in taxation and administrative law had the highest income, \$62,299. The types of practice with the lowest average income were criminal law (\$35,252) and general practice (\$37,203).

Does private practice bring in more income than a corporate or governmental salary? Yes—partners in law firms had the highest average income among the positions held in private practice, business and industry, government, or education. Non-supervisory attorneys in governmental employment earned the lowest average income by position. In educational institutions, lawyers on faculty averaged \$27,122.

In what geographical areas are lawyers earning the most—and least? According to the survey, lawyers in private practice in the Washington, D.C. and Los

Angeles areas had the highest average income (approximately \$42,000). Lawyers not in private practice earned the most in the Los Angeles and New York City areas. In contrast, lawyers from the Mountain States area earned the lowest average income in both categories.

Do male lawyers actually make more money than their female counterparts? Based on the results of this survey, most definitely yes. Male respondents in private practice (\$40,804) made 38 percent more than their female counterparts (\$25,254). Women lawyers not in private practice closed the gap, but their incomes still amounted to only 80 percent of those of male lawyers in equivalent positions. According to Dr. Langer, "while female attorneys are clearly doing better than most other women in America, they still have a long way to go to match the salaries in their profession."

Rural Jobs

by Tom Johnson

If a quiet, slow paced life is your dream, don't rule out the practice of law in a small town. A number of recent CSU law grads have chosen to give up the rat race of the big city and move to the country. Believe it or not they are still able to keep food on the table.

Of the three attorneys interviewed, John Schuler had the most difficult time. The 1959 Oberlin College grad grew up in an academic family that traveled throughout the United States. He finally settled in Cleveland Heights and became a teacher. Schuler decided to return to law school and completed the course in 1974. He and his wife did not want to raise their children in the big city. So, they moved to Wooster, Ohio in Wayne County with a population of approx. 100,000.

Wooster was chosen because the court was located there and only 80 lawyers lived in the county. Unfortunately, it was tough. Schuler had no roots, no reputation in the Wooster area. He started from scratch, opening up his own firm.

After three years he is doing better. Last year he formed a partnership with James Leedy, a highly recognized attorney in the Wayne County area. Although Schuler handles mostly domestic relations problems, he hopes that in time more business and bank work will come his way.

Schuler advises students to plan ahead. If you want to start your own firm in a rural area, save your money. Schuler claims that it takes at least three years to make ends meet. Since he spent thousands on overhead, he had to have money in the bank. Luckily, he did, and today his dream of owning a farm and enjoying the peaceful life is a reality.

Dale Markowitz had it a little easier. Markowitz grew up in South Euclid, went to O.S.U., and then to C.S.U. for law school. The 1975 grad works and lives in Chardon, Ohio. There are about 52 attorneys in the village, which has a population of about 5,000. But, Geauga County has a population of over 70,000 and the bar association is made up of 105 lawyers. Markowitz chose Chardon for two reasons - the friendly atmosphere and the lack of intense competition. He had worked for a judge in the village throughout his law school days. When he graduated he was able to secure a position in a law firm that was established and had a fine reputation in the community. This advantage took a lot of pressure off of Markowitz. Unlike Schuler, he knew he had a certain income each month. Markowitz represents a bank in the Chardon area, and industry in nearby Middlefield.

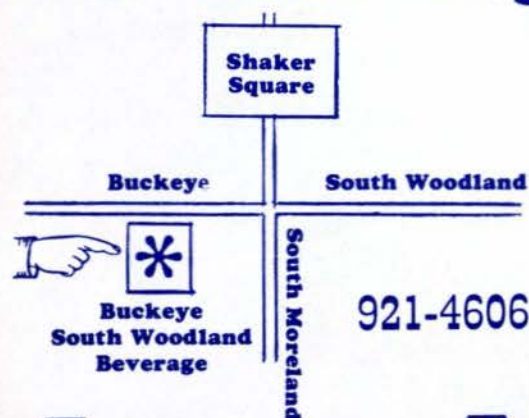
Markowitz advises law students to look ahead. If you want to work in a small rural area, look for a law related job in the community. Markowitz suggests working summers in the Prosecutor's or Public Defender's office. He feels that Northeastern Ohio is not a good place for such jobs, but thinks there are real possibilities in central Ohio and the Eastern Ohio border towns.

continued on 10

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A Visit with An Old Friend: The Grading Guidelines

by Steve La Tourette

From the above information several conclusions are possible. First, the median GPA of each class is within the old guidelines. Second, the class entering in the Fall of 1977, while having basically the same indicators of law school success, achieved a .21 lower median GPA. Third, the class entering in 1976 received a median GPA at the upper limits of the guidelines. Unfortunately, the figures don't show whether the depression in the 1977 GPA was universal, or the result of a few heavy-handed professors bringing down the whole.

Unless it is assumed that the class entering in 1977 has less of an aptitude for legal studies than its predecessor, a proposition that won't appeal to many current second-year students, it may be proposed that grades were consciously lowered to more 'appropriate levels.' It certainly can't be argued that first-year professors felt constrained by rule 2.4 in 1976, because even when operating under a system which allowed a median GPA of 2.30 they awarded a lofty 2.77.

All of the above discussion, however, leaves us far shot of a definitive conclusion. Several suggested explanations are possible, and the veracity of each can only be proven through introspection on the part of students and faculty alike:

- 1) the class entering in 1977 failed to understand the material as well as the 1976 class, and/or;
- 2) there was a concerted effort on the part of first-year faculty to test their new wings and lower grades, and/or;
- 3) different professors in were assigned to teach first-year courses in the two years, and/or;
- 4) the .21 difference in median GPA is a normal variation between any two classes entering the study of law.

Whatever your disposition on the subject may be, the important factor is that for students at one end of the spectrum the .21 difference in median GPA means probation, and it means law review for those at the other.

This quarter marks the anniversary of the removal of the grading guidelines by the faculty, (academic regulation 2.4 in your program). The discontinuation of the guidelines was heralded as a giant step forward for education at C-M, as it would allow the faculty to accurately assess a student's ability, or lack thereof, without the shackles of rule 2.4. It also was condemned as a removal of the last safeguard against arbitrary professorial action in the arena of grades. Rumors have circulated that an attempt was made to "weed-out" the first-year class of last year; rumors were denied by the Dean in the last issue of the *Gavel*. In light of these claims and denials, it seems appropriate to examine the GPA's of the last first-year class subject to the guidelines (1976), with those of the first non-guideline class (1977).

Below are the figures pertinent to an examination of the tale of the guidelines:

GRADING GUIDELINES	
Recommended Median GPA	2.565
Lowest Permissible Median GPA	2.30
Highest Permissible Median GPA	2.82

MEDIAN GPA OF ENTERING CLASSES AT THE END OF THEIR FIRST YEAR

1976	2.77
1977	2.56

(It should be noted that the median legal eagle indicators, LSAT and undergrad GPA, were essentially the same for the two classes. The median LSAT differed by two points, and the GPA by .06)

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I am in favor of retaining the 4 quarter system. ☐

Please return to Ken Reinhard c/o The Gavel, Room 23.

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The Walton Report

The Student Bar Association's November meeting was held Thursday, November 2 in the Moot Court Room, and was highlighted by discussion of the ABA Spring Conference, social events, and the SBA's guest speaker, Herald Price Fahringer.

The ABA Student Division Spring Conference will be attended by representatives of the eleven law schools located within the Sixth Circuit. C-M's SBA has submitted an application with the ABA requesting that the conference be held here.

Jerry Walton, Social Committee chairman, announced upcoming events, details of which are contained in the SBA newsletter distributed to

students the week of November 6. Coming attractions include a holiday Party for Underprivileged Children scheduled for Sunday, December 17, a W.C. Fields Flick Night on Friday, November 17, the Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, January 15, a Dinner-Dance at Mather Mansion on Saturday, January 27, and an ice skating Party on Saturday, February 24 at the Cleveland Heights Skating Rink. The SBA will continue to hold Happy Hours on a regular basis, every other Friday from 3:00 until 7:00.

Other announcements made at the meeting included the formation of a Bulletin Board committee and a Student Directory Committee. The Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, at 5:30. Future SBA meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 in the Moot Court Room.

Rural Jobs

continued from 8

Kenneth Goldstein's experience is different. He graduated from law school in 1976, and moved to Lorain, Ohio. There are approximately 250 members of the county bar serving a population of over 250,000. Goldstein moved to the country for the same reasons as Schuler and Markowitz. He wanted to get away from traffic jams and the hassle of the Justice Center.

Goldstein was lucky. He is a part-time prosecutor in Lorain and this security enables him to slowly build a solid private practice. Every day he is making contacts and building a reputation. Not a bad idea.

He thinks students should begin looking for jobs in their third year. "Don't wait until the last minute," he says. "Travel to small towns and try to size up the community. Check the phone books for the number of

attorneys and send in your resumes early."

All of the attorneys interviewed agreed that small communities are hard to crack. The townspeople want the local law firm to hire sons and daughters of their friends.

It is best to find a summer job and get to know the people. Financial backing is a must. If you can land a job in an established law firm, or get a part-time prosecutor position, great - but don't count on it.

• • •

Rossen's Exam Tips

Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity will present Howard Rossen, director of the Ohio Bar Review and co-author of Smith's Review, who will deliver a lecture of "Law School Examination Technique" on Saturday, December 9 in the Moot Court Room from 10:30 A.M. until noon. The lecture is free and all students are welcome.



C-M Loses to Cross-town Rival

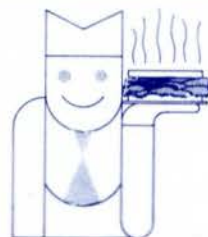
By Tom Lobe

The makeshift C-M football team lost 26-19 to CWRU Law School in the 2nd Annual Cross Town Law School rivalry. Jerry Walton, the general manager (a.k.a. SBA Social Chairman) provided plenty of spirits (a.k.a. beer) but was quite at a loss in formulating a solid game plan.

During the first half both teams were explosive on offense, but a few key interceptions by CWRU seemed to turn the tide, and by half time CWRU had a comfortable 26-12 advantage. The C-M offensive charge was led by Jerry Stachewicz, who with his Otto Graham style of play at quarterback, kept the C-M squad always within scoring range. Other offensive stalwarts were Mike and Joe Gbbons (no relation), Dan Mamrack o.w. Big Baby Boo, Mike O'Grady, and Ellen Feinberg.

The C-M defense which seemed to be non-existent in the first half made a fine showing in the second half by shutting off CWRU completely. The defense produced the only points by either team in the second half by returning an interception for a touchdown.

The game was played at the field opposite the CWRU Law School, and thus Jerry Walton was inclined to believe that it was the home field advantage which lifted CWRU to such a narrow victory. Plans are already set for the grudge match next year.



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FICTION

I was having a beer in Mickey's restaurant when I first saw Ernie.

"Barkeep, give me a large glass of whiskey. And make it 90% whiskey and 10% humidity," he said, pulling a cheroot from his mouth to allow a roar of laughter designed to get the rest of us laughing too.

Amused, I had a friend introduce us.

"Always a pleasure to meet a highly extinguished gentleman. I am at your cervix from this day onward," he exclaimed with an exaggerated bow.

This guy is some freakin' card I thought. And he was. During the following four years I ran across Ernie on many occasions, and always he had some new deal to discuss or an opinion to voice.

In time I discovered that he had been born in the early 1930's in Bridgeport, Connecticut-another of the many factory cities. Back then you were cool if you played halfback, sang in a band, or looked like Clark Gable. Ernie possessed all three attributes. Even past his fortieth birthday he had the rugged, well worn face of Gable. He once told me that after 'Gone with the Wind' played the women swarmed him like bees around honey.

He had played halfback on the worst high school team in the city. Reminiscing, he told me of one their games.

"We were playing Central high and they were BIG. I wore a helmet though some guys didn't. Anyways, this one guy calls me a queer for wearing it. Two plays later I got the ball and decided to run right at him. I went low when he did and we cracked heads. You could'a heard him in China. Getting up I asked him, 'wonder which one of us feels queer now?'"

His senior year Ernie was elected the most handsome and talented kid in the city high schools, and left with a promise from Paramount. He cut two discs for them under the name of Ernie Clark. Neither sold. His sarcasm



Martin Nadorlik

Ernie

by Ken Reinhard

masked any bitterness when he explained, "In those days they didn't hype anyone unless had a big name already." So, he took a job at Sikorsky Aircraft like everyone else in town. He settled into the work-barroom-work routine, and eventually the tavern became more important than the work. He lost his wife and his job along the way. By the time I met him he was collecting Social Security for drink-related disability. Yet, except for some wrinkles too deep for his years, he had the step of a young man. I didn't think his outlook on things would ever grow old. Ernie put complexities to rest and replaced them with simple anecdotes. He knew about government, its bureaucracy and the influence of rich folks on everything.

"Did you know that welfare was invented and made respectable by the tycoons on the Chicago Stock Exchange?

Well, it seems that during the great depression a number of executives jumped out of tall buildings and were caught by passing pedestrians. As the tycoons were being carted off to the booby-hatch, they decided that they needed someone to look after them because they had lost their fortunes. So the government

invented the social worker. It all depends on who you catch."

Once I asked him what great books he had read, and Ernie replied in barristerial fashion, "only the dictionary. All the great books are contained therein."

His billiards strategy was classic. He would deliberately shoot to block each pocket, explaining, "I never cared to win. I enjoy watching their faces, though, when they knock my balls in."

Two weeks ago I heard Ernie was ailing, so I stopped by at his rooming house. The place was one of those typical houses that had become a funeral parlor after the original occupants fled the city. Creaking up the stairs in the old brownstone I stopped outside number four and rapped. My knock brought some furtive movements from within, and soon the door pulleback an inch or so to frame one of Ernie's eyes riveted on me.

"Is everything copacetic?" he asked.

"Everything's fine," I replied, "I heard you were sick."

"Wilhelmina, was I sick last night?" he called.

"Oh, be quiet and let the gentleman in!"

She was seated near the head of the bed, fully dressed except for some makeup.

Rising gracefully she turned and headed for the bathroom. With the door shut behind her I asked, "who's she?" Ernie replied, "that's my ex-wife. She says she loves me, but can't stand to live with me."

Wilhelmina re-entered the room while we breezed through some recent gossip. She must have been about thirty-five, wore a short blond perm, and had green eyes to go with her long, lanky body. She was taller than I had first thought. I made her acquaintance and she said, "don't believe a word this bozo tells you. That reminds me. Ernie, you did say you wanted a 'balony' sandwich?"

Grinning, Ernie turned towards me and said, "you wouldn't believe the exquisite terms of endearment I have for her."

Wil smirked. "Well, I've got to go. Nice meeting you. Ern, I'll see you in an hour then, OK?"

"Fine, honey. See you later."

After she left I looked the place over. It consisted of a large bedroom with an adjoining, small anteroom connected to a sun porch. There was a dusty thickness to the air, which a shaft of sunlight pierced through off-white draperies.

"Over there is the kitchen." Ernie pointed to a hotplate on a low coffee table. "And here is my office," he said, nodding at two melon crates overflowing with mail and stale resumes situated in a corner. "And here is the game room," he said, ushering me to a seat in front of a black and white TV set.

We were just in time for Popeye Theater. Two cartoons later the conversation turned to professional schools. I asked what advice he could offer to someone just beginning law school. Ernie answered, "well, the way I see it, even if you're in the gutter and indigent they can't take that degree away from you. Someone will always pass by and say, 'See that fella? He's a lawyer.'"

BRIEFLY

Out of Order

Has anyone tested the emergency phone in the law school parking lot? One user discovered recently that nothing happens when you try to use it.

The six frequently out of order copying machines that lived in the library last year have been replaced with four frequently out of order machines.

(And we want to try typewriters?)

Noxious odors are arising from the refrigerator in the student lounge. Who's responsibility is it to see that it does not become a public nuisance?

Fahringer to Speak

Porn king Rueben Sturman's lawyer, Herald Price Fahringer, will speak on Tues, Nov. 14th, at noon in the Moot Court Room. He will meet students informally in the lounge before his speech. Fahringer's other famous clients include Larry Flynt, Al Goldstein, Buddy Rich, and he has litigated cases concerning "Deep Throat" and "The Devil in Miss Jones."

Says client Goldstein, on his choice of lawyers, "He's an inept biller. I like to ride in big cars. I like to have sex as I choose. I am not a reasonable man. Herald keeps my ass out of jail."



Tuition Rally Fizzles

The Anti-Tuition Rally had a disappointing turnout. Several speakers addressed the need for accessible and quality public education, but if students support those goals, the cold and rain kept them away. Only a dozen law students were in attendance.

World Hunger

Joseph D. Collins, political economist, will speak on "Cleveland & the Global Supermarket," Tues., Nov. 14 at noon, in UC Auditorium. Dr. Collins is the author of books and articles on world hunger, including *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*.

Former *Gavel* editors continue their record of 100% first time rate for the bar exam. Jack Kilroy and Paul Bellamy have passed the Ohio Bar Exam and Doug Wolinsky has passed the Vermont bar. Can Rossen do as well?

Guild Hosts Seminar

The NLG. Regional Conference held at C-M brought together a number of lawyers and students from Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Buffalo and Pittsburgh, to discuss ongoing Guild activity in this region.

The opening session featured Ray Santiago from the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). He spoke on the strike efforts of last summer and the organizing activity going on in Ohio's tomato fields.

Worth Remembering

Larry Wadsworth, 1930's hobo now a law professor at American University, said, "A hobo is a man who ain't got nothing, a tramp is a man who never had nothing, and a bum is a man who never will have nothing."

Nadorlik Second in CSU Golf

Gavel editor Marty Nadorlik was the runnerup in the recent CSU intramural golf tournament held at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course.

After a shaky start, he played steady golf. Standing on the 13th tee, he was only two over par for the round. Then things began to go haywire. Misplaced shots at 13 and 14 led to bogeys. Sleepy Hollow's lightning fast greens finally took their toll as he three-putted 15, 16 and 17. He stumbled in, 38-42-80, finishing two strokes behind the winner.

"I lost my concentration," he recalled later. "I was playing so well that I thought it was automatic, just stand up there and hit the ball. But golf isn't played that way, and I've been around long enough to know better."

Law Library Fund Awarded \$40,000

Cleveland State University has been awarded \$40,000 for the Cleveland-Marshall Law Library Improvement Fund of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

A grant of \$15,000 was received from the Robert Ingram Leitch and Carrie Scott Leitch Foundation, payable over a three year period. The George Gund Foundation has awarded \$25,000. The funds will be used to improve and make additions to the law college library.