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Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

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Students have expressed their eagerness to offer their volunteer services under the auspices of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council of CSU with nine years of experience in civil liberties problems.

Counter the never-ending onslaught of law school teaching and administrative work-study program for the CSU law administration, six at St. Mary's, Professor Sierk served as assistant dean and associate professor of law. He also served as associate professor and faculty advisor to the law review at Mercer.

As a member of the law college faculty, Professor Sierk has taught a number of courses in the area of taxation, and public interest law. Under the administration of the successful Federal Work-study Program for the CSU law students, many articles on tax law have been written by Dean Sierk, who is also a certified public accountant.

Dean Carroll H. Sierk held an interview last week which centered on the standards for changes that will you make in the policy of the current administration in the planning of activities.

WHERE TO GO & WHAT TO DO

A.C.L.U. O.P.I.A.G.

Approximately twenty first year students have expressed their eagerness to offer their volunteer assistance to the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Two meetings were held where the three ACLU student research assistants, Terry Gilbert, Barry Laine, and Alan Rom, who work under the auspices of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, outlined a program to guide the first year students as they encounter the never-ending onslaught of civil liberties problems.

In addition to the constant inflow of prison mail, which requires daily attention, the students volunteered to devote some of their time to research current ACLU projects; in court appeals, the constitutionality of civil service employment bars on former felons, local ordinances imposing “roomer” fees, fees for the use of political and rental signs, the citizenship requirement for permission to take the Ohio Bar exam. (See ACLU p. 4)

The Cleveland office of O.P.I.A.G. is directed by Suzanne Spitz. Suzanne, a native of Washington, D.C., attended law school at the University of Colorado, where she edited The Law Review. After graduation, she returned to Cleveland and has been with the office of O.P.I.A.G. as an outlet for their talents and interests.

The Cleveland office of O.P.I.A.G. is directed by Suzanne Spitz, who is a member of the faculty appointment committee at the Cleveland State College of Law.

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DEAN CARROLL H. SIERK

ministration? Dean Sierk answered:

"There are four administrators, and the dean is still in charge. No matter how much pressure we put on him, the ultimate decision rests with Dean Christensen."

"As I see it, my position is like that of a cabinet officer in a U.S. President's administration. I expect to be making policy on my own only to the extent that Dean Christensen delegates policy making authority to me. Of course I expect to have some persuasive influence on the Dean in helping him formulate policies."

Q: "What type of administrative policy will you hold as assistant dean?"

A: "I plan to have an open door policy, but more importantly I would like to see progress made in the communications gap area. I would like to emphasize the fact that we need stability in our law school and I will work toward that ultimate goal."

"Most of all I would like to look ahead and concentrate on the future goals of this law school. I will analyze decisions that I make, and I will recommend that all decisions that come from the administration be disclosed before they become irrevocable and unchangeable. In this way, we can have a system that will prevent the excessive difficulty called a communications gap."

"In lieu of that problem, we can concentrate on the goals and then plan our activities in advance, so that a final form can be presented to all concerned. Therefore, we will allow for sufficient input and feedback that will work toward that ultimate goal."

DEAN CARROLL H. SIERK

Those only are equal whom the law has elected to equality.

- Edmund Cahn
At the “Open Forum” of the administration the Dean was asked: “Why are we continuing to hold to a one-hour hopscotch method of scheduling classes?”

The Dean explained it in this way: “First, full time legal education demands the full time attention, work and preparation on course that the individual student is taking. Second, the technique of class time should have a preparation time of 3, 4, or 5 hours. You cannot study 6, 8, or 10 hours before a two hour class. Also a faculty member cannot prepare adequately for two hours of class or cover twice the material with the same efficiency.”

It is apparent to most students that the Open Door is open. The administration is willing to hear our grievances but they don’t seem to be listening. The Dean is not all that aware of individual student complaints, nor is he cognizant of all the far reaching ramifications of these problems that he is causing.

“Dean, are you aware that we will have to take between 26 and 27 credit hours of finals in the final exam schedule which is now scheduled June 5-9. This is a problem for over 70 percent of the student body.” Answer: “No.” “Dean are you aware that a final exam schedule for the winter is not posted?” Answer: “No, but I’ll get it out for you tomorrow.”

But the bottom-line to all of this is that the administration, has predetermined, steadfast, unchangeable attitudes on how this school will be run. Despite what the administration says, their actions speak much louder than words.

I, Jane S. Christensen, president of the student assembly line education is realistic. Punch your clock every hour and play the hopscotch game. The only other alternative is to transfer.

The Gavel offers you, the students, the opportunity to air your grievances through your newspaper. All articles, and letters should be typed and submitted to The Gavel by February 20. We will publish petitions.

Letters To The Editor

In Retrospect

1) While undoubtedly Dean Christensen is an intelligent and able young attorney and comes to us most highly recommended, it remains that in the short span of his administration, the faculty has been isolated into highly antagonistic factions.

2) Comparing the roster of names allied to each faction, it is interesting to note that both factions consist of a blend of faculty members representing the better and lesser of the teaching staff.

3) The Dean has appointed an administrative staff consisting of two young, able and sincere men. Unfortunately, he has not seen to it that any management experience is available to the administration. Whatever is thought of the policies of the previous administration, Professor Flaherty was efficient in their implementation.

4) This administration’s new policy, denying professors their outside law and management experience to the school’s most valuable assets, is a balance between theory and technique. The practitioner-professor can impart to the student skills and tactics from his experience. Although shunned by the legal scholar, the would-be practitioner must learn this somewhere, why not the class room.

I sincerely hope Dean Christensen will attempt to resolve this schism, employing the attorney’s historic tools; negotiation and compromise. If he is unable, he could consider whether administration would be his chosen career.

Robert C. Finke ’72

(See LETTERS p. 3)

CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS

ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY

The “Open Door Policy” at the law school is finally off the drawing board and is in its infancy stages. If anything can be extracted from the events of last month, the school has finally gotten its foot in the door.

The Resolution of January 20th changing the faculty steering committee to a faculty advisory committee has been unanimously accepted by the faculty and administration without exception. The six members of the committee were appointed by Dean Christensen January 23rd. The six members, Professors Buckley, Chilick, Lesier, Moody, Oleck and Sonfenfeld, met twice last week and have not been able to agree upon a committee chairman. Once a chairman is elected their primary function will be to act as the mechanism through which the school board acts upon the input from the students. The roles of the faculty and administration have been reversed.

One week later Paul T. Kirner, Senator 4-N submitted the following motion which was approved by two-thirds of the senators present and voting:

“Let it be resolved that the SBA recommend the adoption of a system whereby the SBA would provide the input for administrative decisions that affect the students of CSU Cleveland-Marshall, and whereby the dean would consult before taking action on such matters that affect the students.”

The first meeting of the committee is a meeting of the full committee, one from each class, plus the President of the SBA, to meet with Dean Christensen to discuss problems concerning the school and to get SBA motions before the faculty for a subsequent vote.

The members of this committee were selected by the senators at the SBA meeting February 1st. The members are Senators Kirner, Pokorny, Elfinw, Cumberland, Zawaly, Hunter & Fisbein.

The first meeting with the Dean will be Feb. 15, at 5:00. The student advisory committee is on that night. Two topics submitted to the SBA Feb. 9th will be the topics of the discussion at this meeting. The topics are the planning of a final exam schedule that is longer than June 5-9, possibly May 30 – June 9. The committee will also discuss the establishment of an Honor Code.

GRADING EXAMS

A SEVEN STEP PLAN

YEAH! Due to the new seven step plan for recording grades the administration has prevented the following:

First, No longer can a professor know whose paper he is grading until after the paper is turned into the office with the exam book.

Second, The “secret exam number” and the grades are recorded.

Third, The “secret exam number” is given student names, and for the first time the name of the student, the number of the exam, and the grade are given to the professor for the adjustments or corrections.

Fourth, The adjusted grades are turned in to the main office.

Fifth, The adjusted grades and initial grades are compared.

Sixth, The student’s social security number is substituted for the exam number and the student’s name, and then they are put in a random order.

Seventh, Grades are posted.

It may be a longer process, but we believe the merits of this procedure are excellent. Unless, of course, an initial phases, or trial run of this system have failed miserably due to a lack of communication.

To date 20 percent of the grades have not been turned into the office. All other grades have gone through the seven step plan and have been posted. Mr. Greenwood stated that, “The seven step plan has a few bugs in it, but the real problem is getting step one going.” The professors are just taking too long in grading the exams.

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THE CAGE OF SAN QUENTIN

(From p. 1)

in Cleveland.

Suzanne believes law students can perform two valuable services. The first is to provide input; to discuss with law schools the situation around Cleveland and to direct her to conditions that come within O.P.I.A.G.'s boundaries. The second type of service is to provide research and investigation after a project has been undertaken. She hopes that eventually a program can be worked out with the school whereby students will be able to earn credit for such research projects.

While a list of specific endeavors has not been worked out, Suzanne Spitz listed some general areas of concern for the environment, consumer rights, and difficulties with government agencies. Since the Cleveland area is new to Suzanne, she is busyly engaged in testing the waters (both figuratively and literally), to determine what projects to undertake.

THE CAGE DIRECT FROM SAN QUENTIN!

OLIGAR (From p. 1)

Revolutionary Theatre Direct from San Quentin!

RICK CLUCHEY

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Ohio Public Interest Action Group

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The curriculum committee consisting of Chairman Moody, Prof. Oleck, Prof. Werber, and Melvin Wolovits, has unanimously agreed to a proposal which would catapult the Cleveland State University College of Law into the mainstream of twentieth century legal education. The committee has not completed the preparation of this group of new courses. In addition a three credit hour "skills course" requirement would require a course in Selected Writing, Appellate Adversary, Trial Practice or Legal Interviewing and Counseling. Courses currently required, such as Trusts, Corporations, Sales, etc., but deleted by the proposal, would still be offered regularly and as elective courses. The net result would be the shifting from the faculty and administration to the individual students the responsibility of selecting those courses he deems to be most relevant to his legal education.

The new curriculum requirements would go into effect on or about September 1, 1972. The proposal will apply to present first and second year day classes and first, second, and third year night classes. For example, a present second year day student who has not taken Agency would have to be required to take the course or any substitute for it to qualify for graduation.

In the past the faculty has tabled motions dealing with curriculum reform. The present committee believes, that the time is ripe for addressing this important issue and that is to hope that objections and criticisms of the proposal can be readily reconciled. The resolution was presented at the faculty meeting that was held Feb. 11, 1972, at 3:00 p.m.

(A NEW DEAN)

Dean Carroll Sierk is now located on the third floor of the law school but he will be moving into Walter Greenwood's office. If you have any questions or comments on the Spring Schedule (for or against HOP SCOTCH PHASE 1 & II) feel free to talk to the newest member of our growing school and administration, Carroll H. Sierk.

SENIORS

Measurements for caps and gowns will be Feb. 29 and March 1 at the Law School near our bookstore. Measurements will be from 4-8:30 p.m. The fee is $15.00 due at this time.

(A.C.L.U.)

The students will be able to present the results of their research to the A.C.L.U. and make recommendations as to the course of action that should be taken. They will have the opportunity to get involved with the issues of the day.

Frank Wilkinson, the Executive Director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation spoke at the CRU on Wednesday evening, February 3.

After analyzing the effect the Rehnquist-Powell appointments will have on the Burger Court, he directed his attention to the work of NCAARL to abolish the Subversive Activities Control Board. The thrust of his remarks concluded that civil liberties issues can best be promoted with lobbying efforts in the Congress and state legislatures, not in the current U.S. Supreme Court.