Chambers, Vining Join Law Faculty

One of the professors new to the University of Michigan Law School faculty this fall is G. Joseph Vining, who will teach criminal law and the law of corporations.

Vining likens his decision to enter law to a sudden conversion on the road to Damascus. At the time, he was doing research in embryology, his Yale undergraduate major, at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

After graduating from Yale in 1959, and before entering the Harvard Law School in 1961, he attended Cambridge University in England on a Mellon Fellowship to study medieval European and modern English history for an M.A.

In his second year at Harvard, Vining and three fellow Law Review editors initiated the Second Year Writing Program, an effort to extend the intellectual experience which derives from written and editorial analysis to students who were not on the Law Review. This non-credit activity for a substantial part of the second year class chosen by lot has become a regular feature at Harvard.

Vining did considerable writing of his own as well. In 1963 his note on disclaimers of warranty in consumer sales appeared in the Law Review. In it he argued that legal recognition of the usual disclaimer of implied warranty, often signed by the consumer in the belief that he is obtaining something "free," is inconsistent with the emerging rationale of consumer protection through absolute liability.

In his third year he co-authored the chapters on "Temporary Judicial Stays Of Administrative Action Pending Judicial Review" and "Exclusive Jurisdiction and Remand" for Prof. Louis L. Jaffe's treatise, Judicial Con-
serving and sitting in on the day-to-day decision making of prisons and mental hospitals.

From February to May of this year Chambers served as a full-time consultant to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's National Institute of Mental Health. Working at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D.C., he centered his activities principally in John Howard Pavilion, which houses males accused of felonies who have been found either not guilty by reason of insanity or incompetent to stand trial. It also receives men convicted of felonies who are transferred from the District of Columbia penal system. The District of Columbia courts have been among the most active in the country in re-examining and overturning old notions about the legal aspects of mental illness. John Howard has been thrown into this controversy at every turn, with cases like Durham v. United States, Bolton v. Harris (holding unconstitutional automatic commitment after a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity) and Rouse v. Cameron (finding a judicially cognizable right to treatment), all involving John Howard patients and personnel.

The Institute hired Chambers to aid him in his own goal of learning more about the inter-relation between illness and crime and the workings of hospitals, but used him for the subsidiary purpose of providing advice on the Hospital's need for full-time legal counsel. On the basis of an unfettered run of the institution, attending countless staff sessions, and holding weekly conferences with a group of patients who had been found not guilty by reason of insanity or transferred from the prisons, Chambers concluded that the Hospital did need full-time legal services for both the Hospital and the patients but that it needed even more a massive infusion of new attitudes, new therapy staff, and new programs.

The Hospital has many problems, now often handled haphazardly or not at all, which an attorney could deal with effectively, Chambers noted. There are daily questions of whether a patient may be released by St. Elizabeths to another jurisdiction, for example, or released altogether. Each of the patients is a "living legal problem," with many of his rights suspended or jeopardized. And the doctors on the staff are constantly required to appear in court, often wasting hours away from the Hospital simply waiting to testify. But Chambers is not optimistic that Congress will authorize funds for the needs of St. Elizabeths. He fears the Congressional attitude toward the Hospital merely reflects that of most states to their counterpart institutions.

To improve his background further for teaching criminal law, Chambers spent six weeks this summer observing how the federal youth correction institution in Milan, Michigan, the Michigan state prisons in Jackson and Ionia, and San Quentin and other prisons in California handle their daily operations. He took particular interest in decisions regarding the classification of incoming prisoners into job training, educational programs, and security levels, the disposition of discipline infractions, and the determinations regarding parole.

Chambers will also use this year's experience to help coordinate an inter-faculty seminar among members of the Law School, the School of Social Work, and the Sociology and Psychology Departments to help determine national research priorities in correction for the Department of Justice. He may also offer a seminar on the correction system next spring.

Chambers has additional experience in criminal law from spending a substantial portion of his time at the Washington, D.C. firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, which he joined upon graduation from Harvard in 1965, working on appeals for criminal indigents.

While in practice, Chambers also worked on tax and antitrust problems and spent considerable time seeking with other lawyers to persuade the federal highway administrator that it would be legally impermissible to approve the proposed route of the New Orleans Riverfront (Interstate) Expressway. Disapproval was necessary in order to preserve the historic French Quarter of that city. Department of Transportation Secretary John Volpe finally rejected the proposed route this summer.

When the 1967 civil disorder erupted in Detroit, Chambers was just returning from three weeks of civil rights work in Mississippi. Chambers then left private practice and joined the staff of the newly-formed Kerner Commission on Civil Disorders as assistant to its executive director, David Ginsburg. There he participated one way or another in every stage of the Commission's life, working closely with its members. "A more engrossing, depressing, illuminating nine months would be very difficult for me to imagine," he remarked. "I wouldn't trade the experience for anything."

In April 1968, when the Commission completed its work, Chambers became counsel to President Johnson's Cabinet Committee on Price Stability. The committee, composed of the secretaries of commerce, labor, and treasury, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, was asked to advise on the impact of federal programs on inflation and to reassess federal policies regarding wages and prices.

Chambers served as a general staff administrator, editor, and "lowest-rung White House staff member churning out task force reports." The Committee issued a report in December 1968. The staff issued a second report in January of this year and dispersed with the advent of the new administration.

Shortly thereafter Mr. Chambers began his work at St. Elizabeths and moved to Ann Arbor with his wife, son, and daughter in late April.

Donald E. Shelton (left) and Frank Willis, recent Law graduates, tied for first place in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition this spring with a Rutgers University team. Willis was also cited for presenting the best oral argument.