

"Law Review" Examines Rights To Information

Legislation, constitutional issues and legal cases dealing with the question of public access to government information, and the countervailing question of individual privacy have been examined in a detailed, 369-page study in the *Michigan Law Review*, a publication of The University of Michigan Law School.

Titled "Project: Government Information and the Rights of Citizens," the study was begun last year in an effort to provide comprehensive background material for use by lawyers, journalists, and others involved in the privacy question.

"The study is basically descriptive and meant to serve as a research tool," noted Robin Neuman, editor-in-chief of the *Michigan Law Review*. Serving as editor of the project was Erica Ward, who has graduated from the U-M Law School and now works with a law firm in Washington, D.C. About 15 other law students participated in the project as researchers and editors.

Among other things, the *Law Review* examined the government classification system; the issue of executive privilege; the Freedom of Information Act which was amended last February; state and proposed federal "open meeting" laws; constitutional right to privacy; and the Privacy Act of 1974.

In general, said the study, "few aspects of government-citizen relations are more central to the responsible operation of a representative democracy than the citizen's ability to monitor governmental operations."

Regarding the government the government's system of classifying certain information, the *Law Review* study recommended a number of changes, including elimination of needless classifications and establishment of an independent review authority to oversee classification procedures.

It also warned that, until Congress enacts a comprehensive open-meeting act, federal administrative agencies can continue to conduct a significant part of their activities in private.

On the issue of personal privacy, the *Law Review* noted that broad constitutional protections were supplemented by the federal Privacy Act of 1974, which restricts information gathering activities of federal agencies. Among other things, the act authorizes agencies to collect only relevant and necessary information; permits individuals to have access to personal records; and requires publication of the existence and characteristics of all personal information

systems kept by federal agencies.

Copies of the *Law Review* study may be obtained for \$5 from the Business Manager, *Michigan Law Review*, The University of Michigan Law School, Hutchins Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Harry Edwards Joins Harvard Law Faculty

Harry T. Edwards, a member of the U-M law faculty since 1970, will become a faculty member at Harvard Law School in the fall. Edwards spent the 1975-76 academic year at Harvard as visiting professor.

"Harry Edwards was one of our most outstanding classroom teachers," commented U-M law Dean Theodore J. St. Antoine. "He was an extremely thorough and productive scholar, and he was obviously in the forefront of the legal profession, most notably in the area of sex and race discrimination in employment. We are sorry to have lost him."

A 1962 graduate of Cornell University, Edwards received his law degree from Michigan in 1965, serving as assistant editor of the *Michigan Law Review*. He worked for five years with the Chicago law firm of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson before joining the U-M faculty. In 1974 he was visiting professor at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium, as part of a U-M faculty and student exchange program with that institution.

Edwards has written extensively on labor law subjects, including collective bargaining, equal employment, and labor law in the public sector.

He is a member of many organizations, including Order of the Coif, Industrial Relations and Research Association, and National Academy of Arbitrators. Among other activities, he has been active in Ford Motor Co. and United Auto Workers negotiations; has been a hearing officer for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission; and served as chairman of Ann Arbor Model Cities Legal Services.

Rivera, Borgsdorf Leave Assistant Deanships

Two assistant deans at the Law School, Rhonda K. Rivera and Charles W. Borgsdorf, will step down at the end of the school year to accept new positions.

Rivera, who has been in charge of course scheduling, academic counseling, and new student orientation, is

taking a teaching post at Ohio State University Law School. She had been on the U-M staff since 1974.

A graduate of Douglass College of Rutgers University, Rivera received a master of public administration degree from Syracuse University (1960) and a law degree from Wayne State University Law School (1967). She has taught at several institutions, including American University in Puerto Rico and Hope College, and was an assistant dean at Grand Valley State College before coming to the U-M.

Borgsdorf, a 1969 graduate of U-M Law School and assistant dean since July, 1973, will join the Ann Arbor law firm of Hooper, Hathaway, Fichera, Price & Davis. Borgsdorf has supervised the graduate program and administered the case club writing and advocacy training for first-year students.

Before joining the U-M staff Borgsdorf was associated with the New York City law firm of Shearman and Sterling and taught business law for two years at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont.