Hills, a constitutional law specialist, often has focused in his writings on "cooperative federalism" and the relationship between the federal government and state and local governments. He argues that state autonomy should be seen in functional terms that promote efficiency rather than in conventional terms of "dual sovereignty." In his pro bono activity, Hills has drafted amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in three cases: *Romer v. Evans*, *Anderson v. Roe*, and *American Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Co. v. Sullivan*.

Hills teaches Constitutional Law, Land-Use Planning & Regulation, Local Government Law, and Education Law.

**Ronald J. Mann**, who joined the Law School faculty in 1997, earned his law degree magna cum laude at the University of Texas and his bachelor's degree magna cum laude in history from Rice University. He clerked for the Hon. Joseph T. Sneed of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and then for the Hon. Lewis F. Powell Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court. He has practiced law in Houston, served as assistant to the Solicitor General in the U.S. Department of Justice, and taught law at Washington University School of Law.

Mann's journal articles on secured debt have drawn significant attention, and he also has written on payment systems and bankruptcy theory. His casebook, **Payment Systems and Other Financial Transactions**, was published by Aspen this year.

At the Law School, Mann has organized the weekly Fawley Lectures, in which faculty present preliminary versions of research reports, writings, and other works in progress and receive feedback from colleagues.

Professor Mann teaches Real Estate Transactions, Copyright, and Payment Systems.

Professor Merritt B. Fox, a member of the Law School faculty since 1988, has been named director of the Law School's Center for International and Comparative Law. Fox began his new duties in July after returning from teaching at Peking University at Beijing.

"I'm delighted to have someone of the intellectual breadth and caliber of Merritt Fox to head the center," said Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, '81, who announced the appointment in July. "He brings a depth of experience to the center that will help it to continue its significant role within the Law School and beyond."

Fox, who earned his J.D. at Yale Law School and his Ph.D. in economics from Yale University, focuses his academic work in the areas of international law, corporate and securities law, and law and economics. He is the author of *Finance and Industrial Performance in a Dynamic Economy* and (with H. Lasswell) *The Signature of Power: Buildings, Communications, and Policy*.

He has taught at Yale University, Fordham Law School, and Indiana University Law School. He practiced with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York City.

In addition to maintaining the center's role as an "umbrella" for the Law School's internationally-oriented courses and activities, Fox said that he hopes to use the center to encourage and expand contacts between faculty members here and their counterparts overseas.

"What I'm particularly interested in is facilitating interchange between members of our faculty from all kinds of orientations and their counterparts abroad," he said. "Eighty-five percent of our faculty never teach a course that has the word 'international' in it — their specialties relate to substantive or procedural areas of U.S. law.

"The issues they deal with, however, have much in common with issues in foreign legal systems as well. Our faculty thus have a lot to say to, and a lot to learn from, their counterparts in other countries who share the same interests. I would like to encourage more contact of this kind."

The Center for International and Comparative Law is the Law School's "institutional focal point for visiting foreign faculty as well as members of the permanent faculty and students with interests in international law, including international economic law and foreign and comparative law," according to a description that accompanied the center's formal opening in 1998. "The center reflects the School's longstanding commitment and proud history in these fields." Fox replaces Professor of Law José Alvarez as the director of the center.