Frost becomes assistant director of Legal Practice Program

Clinical Assistant Professor Philip M. Frost, '73, who has taught in the Legal Practice Program since it began in 1996, has been named assistant director of the program.

In addition to teaching the Legal Practice course, Frost has taught a course for LL.M. students on research and writing in the American legal system. He also is an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Before coming to the Law School, Frost was a partner at Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman in Detroit, where he had a commercial litigation practice that included trial, appellate, and alternative dispute resolution work in antitrust law, bankruptcy, business torts, contracts, commercial transactions, and trade regulation. While at Dickinson Wright, he also chaired the firm's recruitment and pro bono service committees.

Frost also chaired the State Bar of Michigan Antitrust, Franchising and Trade Regulation Section Council and has lectured at seminars sponsored by the Michigan State Bar and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. In 1998 he delivered a paper on “The Last Execution in Michigan” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters.

He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as state and federal courts.

Frost received his B.A. in history from Yale University. At the Law School, he was awarded the Order of the Coif and graduated magna cum laude. After graduation, he clerked for the Hon. Philip Pratt of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

"Phil has been an excellent Legal Practice teacher," said Legal Practice Program Director Grace Tonner. "His talents and experience make him an ideal assistant director, and his rapport with students is exceptional."

First-year law students are required to take both terms of the Legal Practice course, which is designed to teach legal analysis by giving students hands-on experience with writing memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents. It also introduces them to other aspects of the practice of law, such as client relations, negotiation, and oral argument.

Frost replaces Carolyn R. Spencer, who has joined the Office of Career Services.

Beckerman, Hills, Lyon win L. Hart Wright Awards

Visiting Professor John Beckerman, Assistant Professor Roderick M. Hills, and Clinical Assistant Professor Andrea D. Lyon won top honors from law students in the annual vote for the L. Hart Wright Award.

The teaching award is given each year to one or more faculty members who are top vote getters in balloting sponsored by the Law School Student Senate. The awards were presented in April during the Law School Student Senate's annual talent show.

Beckerman has taught at the Law School for the past two academic years. He taught Legal Profession and Legal Ethics in fall 1998 and Civil Procedure and Enterprise Organization in winter 1999. Beckerman has a doctorate in history from the University of London and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

He clerked for the Hon. José A. Cabranes of the U.S. District Court of Connecticut and has practiced in New York City.

Hills, whose research interests include land use controls and local government, holds bachelor's and law degrees from Yale University. A former Century Fellow with the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, he was a member of the Yale Law Journal and served as co-editor in chief of the Yale Journal of Law & Humanities. He clerked for the late Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Lyon, who joined the Law School in 1995, earned her J.D. at Antioch School of Law. A specialist in capital defense cases, she founded the Capital Resource Center in Chicago in 1990 and served as its first director. She has worked with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender and became chief of that office's Homicide Task Force. She has fought more than 40 capital cases and has been involved in more than 130 homicide cases. Last fall she was one of four recipients of a Justice for All Award at the National Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty at Northwestern University School of Law.

The Wright Award is named after the late L. Hart Wright, a tax specialist and long-time member of the Law School faculty who was revered by generations of students. Wright's name also is memorialized in the endowed chair held by Professor James Boyd White.