Professor becomes federal magistrate

In December, Professor Steven D. Pepe, a Law School alumnus and director of the Clinical Law Program for the past 10 years, was sworn in as United States Magistrate for the Eastern District of Michigan. He was chosen for the newly created position through a merit selection process that involved judges of the Federal Court for the Eastern District and a committee composed of federal bar members and lay individuals. There were two hundred applicants for the position.

With the passage of the Federal Magistrate Act of 1979, magistrates' duties were considerably enlarged, and Pepe's tasks go well beyond the issuing of warrants and the setting of bond. Magistrates are the judicial officers involved in all the preliminary proceedings in both civil and criminal cases. They review Social Security cases on appeal from administrative law judges and hear prisoners' petitions—primarily the escalating number of civil rights petitions. Under the amended court rules, they will also be actively engaged in pretrial case management and discovery.

Upon receiving his J.D. in 1968, Pepe clerked for the Honorable Harold Leventhal of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and spent a year as a staff attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services in Washington, D.C. Before joining the Michigan faculty, he pursued graduate studies at the London School of Economics and at Harvard, which awarded him the LL.M. in 1977.

Speaking at Pepe's swearing-in ceremony, Professor of Law and former Dean Theodore St. Antoine hailed his colleague as a pioneer in the area of clinical legal education who had acted as "a bridge between the academic level of legal inquiry and the more practical level of practice one encounters in the courts."

Pepe's appointment as a magistrate will allow him to continue his involvement with legal issues affecting the poor while offering him a much fuller involvement in a broad range of federal litigation. He will continue to teach at the Law School as his schedule permits. Next winter his "docket" includes Lawyers and Clients.

The nicest guests

A number of outstanding visiting faculty have enriched the Law School's curriculum and intellectual life this year.

Five visiting faculty members spent the fall and winter semesters on campus:

- Francis X. Beytagh, Jr. visited from the University of Toledo College of Law, of which he is dean. He taught administrative law, constitutional law, and two sections of lawyers and clients. A graduate of Notre Dame and of our Law School (J.D. '63), where he was editor in chief of the Law Review, Beytagh is also co-author, with Thomas Kauper, of a textbook on constitutional law. He has, in addition, written numerous scholarly articles on the Warren and Burger Courts, as well as on freedom of the press, legal education, and judicial review in selective service cases. After graduation from the Law School, Beytagh served as senior law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren. Subsequently, he was assistant to the solicitor general in the Department of Justice.