U-M Law Grads Score Well in Job Placement

Despite a gloomy national employment picture, 70 per cent of the University of Michigan's 1971 Law School graduates had been placed in jobs upon graduation last spring. Another 6 per cent were listed as being committed to graduate study, fellowships or legal work in the military.

Out of 343 graduates for the 1970-71 academic year, 260 (or 76 per cent) by May 31 were listed as having "definite plans" for the future, according to Miss Ann Ransford, the Law School's placement director.

Each year, the Law School compiles its official placement statistics at the end of May, after the majority of the class has graduated.

As of Oct. 1, 1971, Miss Ransford said the placement total had reached nearly 80 per cent. The figures are expected to increase further as graduates continue to receive placement assistance throughout the year.

The 1971 totals are "surprisingly high" in light of the depressed job market for recent law graduates, Miss Ransford says. In fact, the 1971 figures are higher than those of the past several years.

In 1970, only 71 per cent of the graduate class were listed as having "definite plans"; in 1969 the figure was 72 per cent; and in 1968 the total was 73 per cent.

The placement director attributes the relatively high 1971 totals to the fact that Michigan is a "major law school" and that "students worked harder trying to obtain jobs" because of gloomy predictions.

She also notes that in previous years many Law School graduates were subject to the draft and did not actively seek employment. By contrast, with the dropping of graduate student deferments, most students now attending the Law School are either veterans or are exempt from the draft through the lottery system or for physical or other reasons.

Following are May placement figures for the 1971 class (which includes students graduating in December, 1970, and May and August, 1971):
- 144 were placed in private law firms
- 29 received government legal positions
- 10 were placed with companies
- 4 received jobs in banks
- 2 were employed by accounting firms
- 32 received judicial clerkships
- 4 received fellowships, including two foreign fellowships and two domestic internships
- 5 will pursue graduate law studies
- 2 will teach law
- 8 received positions with legal aid clinics
- 4 obtained public defender positions
- 10 are committed to entering the Judge Advocate General Corps, where they will perform legal work with the military
- 3 have received public interest law jobs
- 3 have joined VISTA, the domestic Peace Corps

Placement figures show the 1971 law graduates obtained jobs in a total of 29 states and the District of Columbia. This represents the widest geographic distribution of U-M law graduates in five years, the placement director says. Eighty-four of the graduates will take jobs in Michigan.

Also significant, according to Miss Ransford, is the fact that only 43 per cent of the 1971 graduates chose to accept jobs in their hometowns or states.

The low 1971 figure is surprising, she observed, because in times of sluggish employment students often try to take advantage of personal contacts and family associations in their home states.

Two law graduates set a precedent this year by deciding to set up their own law offices rather than joining established firms. One of the new firms will be in Ann Arbor and the other in Traverse City, Mich.

Professor William J. Pierce Named Associate Law Dean

Formulating plans for a new library at the University of Michigan Law School has high priority for Associate Dean William J. Pierce.

Appointed to the post in May, Pierce is charged with responsibility for various non-academic matters, including over-all operations of the Law School and the annual budget preparation.

Pierce succeeds Joseph R. Julin, who left the Law School in January to become dean of the University of Florida College of Law.

A member of the Law faculty since 1951, Pierce received both his BA and Juris Doctor degrees from the University.

He described a new law library as one of the school's major needs because of pressing space limitations on the present facility. Pierce says plans for the new building would take into consideration student needs for an expanded reading room and individual study areas, as well as easier access to library stacks.

In addition, he says he has his eye on a law school auditorium with audio-visual capabilities and a seating capacity of 500. The Law School lacks such a facility at present.

Commenting on Pierce's appointment, Law Dean Theodore J. St. Antoine said: "I have never known a more efficient administrator than Bill Pierce. While most persons are weighing the pro's and con's of 10 different courses of action, Bill has made a decision and gone on to the next problem."

"He realizes that in a world where time is vital, a good solution today is usually better than an ideal solution two weeks hence. Nothing could have lifted my spirits more on entering the deanship than the assurance that the Law School would continue to benefit from Bill's unique practical savvy and administrative magic."

Pierce continues as director of the Law School's Legislative Research Center, where much of his work...
focused on social legislation and included such topics as water pollution, family law, metropolitan problems, commitment of the criminal mentally ill, and consumer protection.

He is former president and currently executive director of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

U-M Students Win Law Office Competition

Two University of Michigan Law School seniors were declared winners of a national Mock Law Office competition which tested their ability to negotiate with clients and lawyers in a series of hypothetical “law office” cases.

Winners were Miss Dawn Phillips of Grand Haven, Mich., and David Harwood of Cincinnati, Ohio. They received a cash award of $150 apiece and a trophy which they presented to the Law School.

The competition, sponsored by the Emil Brown Fund, a legal foundation in Los Angeles, included teams from 12 law schools from around the country.

Hypothetical cases negotiated by the U-M team included one in which a client wished to use computer software as collateral for a bank loan. The student lawyers were required to deal with both the client and a lawyer representing the bank.

In another case, the U-M students served as house counsel for a corporation and were confronted with a corporate representative who requested advice on personal matters.

The competition, Miss Phillips notes, was basically a test of the students’ ability to relate to clients and lawyers and to maintain a sense of legal ethics in their law office dealings.

Harwood and Miss Phillips were chosen to represent the Law School by U-M Prof. James J. White, a specialist in commercial transactions. This year, however, the School plans to conduct a local competition to select the student representatives.

U-M Professor Returns From Federal Stint

Fresh from a two year tour in Washington as one of the “lawyers for the White House,” Prof. Thomas E. Kauper has returned to teaching assignments in property and antitrust at the University of Michigan Law School.

Kauper was on leave from the U-M until late this summer while serving as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC).

In the hierarchy of departmental acronyms, the OLC is hardly as well known as HEW (Department of Health, Education and Welfare) or as curious as NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). But despite its unpretentious label, the office plays a key role within the Justice Department.

One of its most important functions is fulfilling the Attorney General’s statutory duties of rendering legal opinions to the President and his executive agencies. Working in this capacity, OLC attorneys have been described as the Justice Department’s “house counsels.”

Among recent projects, the attorneys drafted opinions on executive privilege and presidential appointment power. Often they are called on to consult with administrative agencies on statutory provisions and current points of law. Kauper recalls that much of his own work was conducted under the constant pressure of time.

His two years in Washington were spent as deputy to Assistant Attorney General William H. Rehnquist and as acting head in Rehnquist’s absence. The office maintained a staff of 18 full-time lawyers.

In addition, Kauper chaired the office’s important study committee on the Freedom of Information Act.

The U-M professor returned to Ann Arbor in August. In addition to his teaching duties, he is currently serving as Executive Director of the National Institute for Consumer Justice, a non-profit organization funded by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity for the study of methods to resolve consumer disputes. Kauper is a 1960 graduate of the U-M Law School.

U-M Law Grads Receive Foreign Study Grants

Despite a drop in foreign fellowship funds available to universities, seven University of Michigan law graduates have received fellowship grants to study abroad in 1971-72 and several others received extensions on earlier grants.

The 1971-72 awards reflect the declining variety and size of grants available to graduate students for continued research beyond their studies at the Law School. Maxwell Fellowships for African Studies have been terminated by Syracuse University and the number and size of Fulbright scholarships have been reduced recently. Financial support from the Michigan-Ford Foundation to law graduates seeking foreign fellowships is also being phased out.

The Law School is continuing its search among alumni and other sources for funds to supplement existing outside foreign study grants.

Michigan Law graduates still receive a high proportion of the most outstanding fellowship offers. During the last 10 years, graduates have won awards totaling more than $240,000 from sources scattered around the globe. The projects of this year’s recipients indicate the scope of the grants.

Garrett B. Johnson of Akron, Ohio, received the Junior Volkswagen Fellowship for study at the University of Freiburg, Germany. Johnson, who will study pre-trial detention and criminal procedure abroad, was the only U.S. recipient of the distinguished award this year.

Stephen M. Goldman of Denver, Colo., accepted a Michigan-Ford partial fellowship to Brasenose College, Oxford University, England, for a two-year program of study in legal and political philosophy. Goldman, who was also a national semi-finalist in the prestigious Rhodes competition, studied international law at the Hague Academy last summer on a scholarship.

Gregory A. Lunt of California will begin studies in Switzerland on a Geneva Fellowship from the Institute of Higher International Studies, supplemented by Ford Foundation funds. Lunt will continue comparative studies in conflicts of law and multinational corporations.

Roger Wottila, a December law graduate from Pontiac, Mich., accepted a faculty-level grant for research and