Faculty retirements

Two distinguished scholars become emeriti

Samuel D. Estep

Samuel D. Estep retired from active faculty status in spring 1989 after a dedicated career of teaching and research.

Professor Estep was born in Topeka, Kansas, and received his A.B. degree from Kansas State Teachers College in 1940. His legal studies at the University of Michigan were interrupted by service with the United States Navy; he received his J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1946. Estep practiced law in Detroit before beginning his academic career at the Law School in 1948.

Estep’s career was devoted to teaching in diverse fields, including constitutional law, commercial law, and science and the law. His work as a scholar has been devoted primarily to topics drawn from his interest in science and the law. Together with Dean E. Blythe Stason and Professor William J. Pierce, he was author of a pathbreaking book, Atoms and the Law. Earlier, the same team published State Regulation of Atomic Energy. Estep published many law review articles on the legal problems that would emerge from the peacetime use of atomic energy. He also was one of the pioneers in the legal literature dealing with space communications. He has remained active in the broad field of science and the law.

Estep has been highly regarded, and in 1988, his final year as a full-time teacher, the Law School Student Senate recognized his contributions to the School with the Francis Allen Award. Over the years he also has contributed to the University and to outside constituencies by active participation in committee work and community projects.

William J. Pierce

William J. Pierce retired in spring 1989 from active faculty status, after a distinguished career of teaching, research, and administration.

Pierce has done work of unparalleled prominence in the field of legislation, in both the academic and the legislative spheres. He has served as executive secretary of the Michigan Law Revision Commission, chairman of the Juvenile Court Citizens Advisory Committee, president and executive director of the National Conference of Commissioners for Uniform State Laws, and chairman of the American Bar Foundation’s American Statutory Law Committee. Pierce is the co-author of a highly successful book, Materials on Legislation.

In addition to his accomplishments in the area of legislation, Pierce has been in the forefront of emerging fields of law, and has co-authored Atomic Energy and the Law and Apportionment and Representative Institutions.

Professor Pierce also found time to serve on numerous committees in the Law School and the University. During his years as associate dean, for example, Pierce played a major role in planning the addition to the Law Library. His excellence as a teacher is reflected in the action of the Law School Student Senate in awarding him the 1989 Francis Allen Award for his outstanding contributions to legal education at Michigan.

Pierce is twice a graduate of the University of Michigan, receiving his A.B. in 1947 and his J.D. in 1949. Following graduation, he worked with the New York Law Revision Commission, the office of the United States Senate Legislative Counsel, and the Governor’s Study Commission in Michigan. He began his career at the Law School in 1950. In addition to his teaching appointments, he has been director of the Legislative Research Center and served as associate dean from 1971 to 1979.