laboration, Amsterdam and Gross prepared for the upcoming litigation on death qualification with a group of law students who used the issue as a basis for courtroom simulations. The possibilities of this type of teaching convinced Gross to rethink an earlier decision to avoid legal education.

This semester Gross is teaching both a lecture course and a clinical seminar on evidence. In the seminar he is using a method of simulation he developed at Stanford that deals with the problem of trying to reproduce in a clinical setting the emotions of the courtroom and the consequences for the participants. Gross develops simulated cases based on past experiences of his students. In this way, the students work with testimony fueled by real memories and personal interest. Gross interviews his students to discover an event they participated in or witnessed which, with a few circumstantial changes, could have been the subject of testimony in a trial. Students then perform all of the courtroom roles, including those of judge and witness, in trying these cases culled from their own experience.

Currently, Gross is finishing a book on racial discrimination in the uses of the death penalty. The book will focus in part on last year’s Supreme Court decision in McClesky v. Kemp. That decision rejected a challenge based on studies by Gross and others which show that murderers of whites are more likely to receive the death penalty than murderers of Blacks. Next, Gross plans to pursue a long-term research project on the use in litigation of expert witnesses.

Richard Pildes
A former chemist concerned with social issues

“This is an exciting time to begin a career in legal scholarship,” says Richard Pildes, an undergraduate physical chemistry major who turned to law and then clerked at the Supreme Court. “The study of the nature and function of law has been deepened in recent years through exposure to the insights and techniques of a number of other disciplines.”

Pildes’s wide ranging theoretical interests give him special reason to be pleased to be launching his teaching career at the University of Michigan Law School.

“This school has a willingness to move beyond the internal analysis of legal doctrine to examination of broader questions concerning law as a cultural practice and the nature of the legal method more generally,” he says, noting that he was particularly impressed that 20 percent of the faculty have joint appointments in other departments.

This winter, Pildes is teaching public law to first year students, a course that has been offered at the Law School only the past two years. He notes that many law schools have begun adding courses in public law to update their curriculum.

“Much of the 20th-century development of law involves the displacement of common law with statutory law, a trend that accelerated even more rapidly in the 1960s and 70s. Today, the law that people deal with in practice — as well as the law affecting individuals in their daily lives — more often originates with legislatures or administrative agencies rather than with courts.”

He describes the course “as an attempt to expose students to the materials and facts of legislative processes, to develop understanding of the implications of a realistic view of this process for other institutions, such as courts, and to raise questions about the nature and role of public law generally. The course will range from statutory interpretation, examined from the perspective of modern understandings about the practice of interpretation generally, to considerations of structural reform in democratic institutions.”

Pildes describes himself as interested in “public policy and the role of law in the development of ideas and political culture.” He explains, “I hope to teach courses like constitutional law, perhaps federal courts, maybe administrative law.” Potential research topics include: “legislative processes and law’s simultaneous capacity for both legitimating existing institutional arrangements and for criticizing and transforming those arrangements.”
Concern about social issues triggered Pildes's interest in public law — and, in fact, led him away from a promising career in science. "I'd always been torn between a career in science and a career in the humanities," he says. As an undergraduate at Princeton, he majored in chemistry and won a couple of major chemistry prizes. After graduation, he worked briefly as a research chemist for a firm in Illinois. "But I decided," he says, "that a career in the lab would be too isolating from the kind of ongoing social concerns I had. I came to the law seeking social commitment and change."

At Harvard Law, Pildes was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He went on to clerk for Judge Abner Mikva of the Court of Appeals, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The latter experience, in particular, enhanced his excitement about the law. "Justice Marshall is one of the great figures of American political life in this century, and experiencing American history through his eyes, as well as developing the perspective on the entire court structure afforded by a year at the Supreme Court, increased my engagement with public law."

Pildes rounded off his pre-Michigan career by working for the Boston law firm of Foley, Hoag & Eliot, where he concentrated in appellate litigation, including some pro bono litigation. "I knew I wanted to go into teaching," he says, "but I believed some practical experience would provide a better perspective and improve my capacity to train students."

Pildes describes himself as "ecstatic" about the opportunity to teach. "Law school for me was an exhilarating intellectual experience, and I hope I can communicate to students some sense of the power and importance of ideas in the law as well as some excitement about law's capacities."}

---

**Back by popular demand**

**Fleming returns as interim president**

Robben W. Fleming, president emeritus of The University of Michigan and professor emeritus of the Law School, began his term as interim president of the U-M on January 4. The interim appointment was made by the regents last September. Fleming's term is expected to last approximately six to eight months, while the search for a new president proceeds. Former President Harold T. Shapiro assumed the presidency of his alma mater, Princeton University, in January.

A specialist in labor law and industrial relations, Fleming was president and professor of law at Michigan from 1968 to 1979. He left the U-M to head the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, where he served until 1981. He returned to the Law School in 1981 and was named professor emeritus in 1985.

Remarking on the appointment, Law School Professor Thomas E. Kauper, who heads the faculty search committee, said, "The university is most fortunate that Robben Fleming has agreed to serve as interim president. His wide-ranging knowledge of the university, his sound judgement and administrative skill will keep the institution moving ahead while the search for Harold Shapiro's successor goes on."

Fleming served as president during one of the most turbulent periods in the history of higher education. During his tenure, he earned a reputation as a skillful negotiator who was able to maintain calm while safeguarding the climate of intellectual freedom on campus.

Over the coming months, Fleming expects that the bulk of his work will involve the routine business of day-to-day decision-making. One of his primary concerns will be in the area of minority issues, where he is committed to carrying through the initiatives set forth by former President Shapiro last spring. These include the university's efforts to increase minority enrollment and retention, to recruit minority faculty and staff, and to develop programs dealing with various aspects of racism, multiculturalism, and diversity.

Fleming graduated from Beloit College in 1938 and from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1941. He was director of the Industrial Relations Center at the University of Wisconsin from 1947 to 1952 and served as executive...