fearful of asking questions. A lot of men would not have gone to the faculty and said: ‘Tell me what you’d like to teach.’ But I did, and the result was that some of our very best teachers revealed a desire to teach first-year courses.”

Asked if being a woman is an advantage in her position, Eklund responds that it may be. “I think I’m more willing to express sympathy,” she allows. “When a student makes a request to which many males’ first reaction would be, ‘That’s outrageous!’ my first inclination is to say, ‘That’s a terrible situation. Let’s discuss all the options and their consequences.’ In the end, though, I may handle the request in the same way my colleagues would.”

Since she assumed the deanship, Eklund has had two children, and portraits of the Law School staff, sketched by her 6-year-old son, David, give her Law School quarters the comfortable ambience of a pediatrician’s office. “I don’t think it hurts to have had a couple of kids since I came,” she offers. “It makes it visible that I do some nurturing elsewhere—so maybe I could do some here, too. Nobody knows what men do at home.”

There may be a certain constancy to the questions students bring to Eklund as they peruse David’s newest artistic creations. The dean, however, finds herself seeking new, improved answers to their questions as she grapples with the issue of financial indebtedness—as elsewhere, the average student loan debt upon graduation exceeds $20,000—and ponders low-cost solutions to integrating skills training into the curriculum without sacrificing its intellectual core. “There’s also more we need to do to help students make sensible placement choices,” Eklund says.

Eleven years after completing law school, Eklund is content to leave the saving of these United States to someone else. “If one person can help make life a bit better for a fair number of people, that’s worth a lot,” she philosophizes.

“Our grads assume powerful positions, and I like to think that I’ve helped to teach them that there can be a humanity without sacrificing standards and quality. The students who come to me with budgets for student activities invariably overstate their needs. I say, ‘Now tell me what you really need.’ It’s a revelation to them that they could make an honest request and have it dealt with honestly. I’d like to think they’ll remember that during negotiations for a merger or a divorce settlement.”

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**Deans and directors**

**Old friends assume new positions**

Last July, Dean Terrance Sandalow announced three new administrative appointments in the Law School. Beginning September 1, Professor Beverley J. Pooley became associate dean for the Law Library for a five-year term. Margaret Leary succeeded him as Law Library director. Also effective September 1, Virginia B. Gordon became assistant dean for a three-year term.

Pooley joined the law faculty in 1962 and has been director of the Law Library since 1965. His new administrative appointment “recognizes a realignment of responsibilities between him and Margaret Leary, who will become director of the Law Library,” Dean Sandalow said. “Professor Pooley will be concerned mainly with major budgetary and policy issues confronting the Library and with assuring its continuing responsiveness to educational and research objectives determined by the faculty.”

Pooley holds an LL.B. degree from the University of Cambridge in England and earned LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from the U-M. One of the Law School’s most spirited and popular teachers, he has written on the subject of land use controls in the United States.
and is presently interested in contracts and in African law. Before coming to the Law School, he taught at the University of Ghana.

Leary, who was previously the Law Library's associate director, joined the Law School staff as assistant director of the Law Library in 1973. From 1968 to 1970, when she began law school, Leary was chief cataloger at the University of Minnesota Law Library. She holds a B.A. from Cornell University, an M.A. degree in library science from the University of Minnesota, and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. In addition to her duties at the Law Library, she also serves as a lecturer in the U-M School of Library Science.

Gordan joined the Law School staff in 1981 as coordinator of academic programs. "Ms. Gordan's duties at the School have grown to include a broad range of activities," Dean Sandalow said. "She is immediately responsible for administration of the School's graduate program and of its Minority Academic Advancement Program. In addition, she shares responsibility for academic and personal counseling of all J.D. candidates."

Gordan holds an A.B. degree from Brown University and a J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Michigan, she was associate director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at the University of Virginia Law School and practiced law in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

Ross accepts government tax post

In July, Professor Dennis Ross began a two-year leave of absence from the Law School during which he will serve the federal government as deputy tax legislative counsel in the United States Treasury Department.

The Office of the Tax Legislative Counsel, which reports to the Treasury Department's assistant secretary for tax policy, is the executive branch's tax advocate with the Congress. Its responsibilities include formulating the administration's tax proposals and shepherding such proposals through the Congress. It also has oversight responsibilities for tax rulings and regulations originating with the Internal Revenue Service. One of Ross's first tasks will be the development of interpretive regulations for the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984.

Ross, who is a Law School alumnus (J.D. '78), joined the Law School faculty in 1982 after clerking for the Honorable J. Edward Lumbard of the Federal Court of Appeals in New York City and practicing with the firm of Davis Polk & Wardell, where he specialized in tax law. Tax law has continued to be the major focus of his scholarly work, and his new government job places him in a key tax policy position at a time when major tax reform is likely. "Whoever is elected as president in November," he predicted, "is almost certain to rethink tax policy in a rather wholesale fashion. The major decisions will be made at various levels, but I hope to have some influence on the form they take."

The University of Minnesota, and a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. In addition to her duties at the Law Library, she also serves as a lecturer in the U-M School of Library Science.

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