Seats of honor
Vining, White occupy newly established chairs

Two distinguished faculty members, known for their contributions to the Law School's preeminence as a center for the humanistic study of law, have been named to newly established chairs at the School. Joseph Vining has been appointed the first Henry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law and James Boyd White is the first L. Hart Wright Collegiate Professor of Law.

Joseph Vining has been a member of the Law faculty since 1969, and a full professor since 1974. He holds B.A.'s from Yale and Cambridge Universities, an M.A. in history from Cambridge, and a J.D. from Harvard. After completing law school, he served briefly as an attorney in the Department of Justice and thereafter as an assistant to the executive director of President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. In 1966, he entered private practice, where he remained until joining the Michigan law faculty.

Vining's latest book, The Authoritative and the Authoritarian (to be published this year), follows Legal Identity as the second in a series of studies of the phenomenon of personification in law and of the place that entities greater than the individual have in the working beliefs of (as he says) "the sophisticated as well as the simple."

His earlier book examined the nature of the persons who speak to courts or other sources of law, through an analysis of jurisdictional thinking in public law. His new work turns to the nature of the persons to whom legal arguments are addressed, and attempts to confront the professional dilemmas of practicing lawyers, which, he feels, are closely connected to the dilemmas individuals face today in seeking legitimacy and authenticity in their personal lives. Thus, The Authoritative and the Authoritarian is intended for an audience that extends beyond lawyers. Within the general framework of an inquiry into the consequences of the accelerating bureaucratization of courts, the book moves from the basic presuppositions of legal method to a consideration of law's distinctive institutional arrangements and the connections between law and other major disciplines, including even theology, the discipline most often omitted from modern discussions of law in the United States.

Vining's third inquiry in this series, which he is now beginning, is into the nature and function of conceived entities in commercial and corporate law, with particular attention to the responsibility and liability of organizations under the criminal law.

Dean Terrance Sandalow praised Vining's scholarship for reflecting "an unusual capacity to avoid confinement by conventional categories of thought and an ability to perceive significant intel-
Throughout his career, “White has been a highly productive scholar with a consistent and original angle of vision,” said Dean Sandalow. “In work after work, he has explored (and invited students to explore) the relationship of writer to reader, the relationship of language to culture, and, in the end, the relationship of all of these to the nature of law and the functions of lawyers.”

“Professor White is not only a distinguished scholar, but a widely admired teacher. Among his many strengths are a deep interest in teaching students to write, the capacity to engage them in the effort, and the willingness to undertake the hard work required in assisting them.”

The late Professor Wright, in whose honor the chair was established, served on the Law School faculty for 37 years, from 1946 until his death in 1983. He was a leading expert on U.S. federal and European tax procedures, who is best remembered as a distinguished and inspirational instructor. “Professor Wright gave the University his time, his energy, and his affection,” said Sandalow.

Professor Wright earned an international reputation as a scholar of taxation. For his public service the U.S. Treasury Department awarded him the Civilian Meritorious Service Award, the highest civilian honor given by the government. Among other honors, he was named the Paul G. Kauper Professor of Law in 1979, and he received the University’s Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 1968.

The professorship is to be supported by the income from an endowment established with gifts made by the alumni and faculty of the Law School and by the family and other admirers of Professor Wright.