Distinguished faculty named to chairs

Two law school faculty members were honored with named chairs this September. John W. Reed now holds the Thomas M. Cooley Professorship of Law and Lawrence W. Waggoner holds the James V. Campbell Professorship. Established in 1978, the Cooley and Campbell chairs are named for two of the initial three professors in the Michigan Law Department; they were held previously by Frank R. Kennedy and Olin L. Browder, both of whom retired last year.

For over three decades, John W. Reed has served the University and the legal profession with distinction. A widely recognized and respected national leader in continuing education and a former head of Michigan's Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Reed has been a significant force in strengthening the quality of CLE programs throughout the United States. Last year, the Association of Continuing Legal Education Administrators recognized his achievements in the field by conferring upon him its prestigious Harrison Tweed Award.

Reed's major academic interests center upon litigation. He has twice served as Reporter for the Committee on Rules of Evidence of the Michigan Supreme Court and has written frequently for professional audiences on topics in civil procedure and evidence. The esteem in which he is held by members of the litigation bar is demonstrated by his election to the Council of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association.

“The record of Professor Reed's achievements,” says Dean Terrance Sandalow, “would be seriously incomplete without mention of his extraordinary gifts as a teacher. Students' regard for him is so high that enrollments in his elective classes are regularly limited only by the seating capacity of the rooms within the School.”

Reed's popularity with students is echoed by the popularity and esteem he enjoys among colleagues. Notes Sandalow: “It exaggerates not at all to say that without faculty members such as John Reed faculty governance would not be possible.” Reed has chaired or served on many of the most important University and Law School committees, bringing to them, among his other assets, unusual conscientiousness, sound judgment, patience, and good humor.

A graduate of William Jewel College and the Cornell Law School, Reed practiced in Kansas City before receiving graduate law degrees from Columbia University and teaching in Oklahoma. With the exception of four years as dean of the University of Colorado Law School and visiting terms at Chicago, Yale, and Harvard, he has taught at the University of Michigan since 1949. His many services to the profession include the editorship of the International Society of Barristers Quarterly.

Lawrence W. Waggoner, the new Campbell Professor of Law, is one of the nation's leading scholars in the area of trusts and estates.

Waggoner's writing has been in the fields of wills, trusts, and future interests and the taxation of gifts, trusts, and estates. In numerous important articles, books, and proposals for legislative reform, Waggoner has examined most of the major themes of these highly technical areas. “His scholarship,” notes Dean Terrance Sandalow, “reflects mastery of intricate subject matter, a deep understanding of the practical problems with which the law of trusts and estates must contend, and the high degree of inventiveness necessary to reconceptualize areas of law that are encrusted with history. The same qualities that have led to Waggoner's reputation as a scholar have, not surprisingly, also led to his becoming one of the School's most highly regarded teachers.”

Waggoner holds a B.B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and a J.D. from the University of Michigan. Following graduation from
law school, he studied at Oxford University as a Fulbright scholar, earning the D.Phil. degree. In 1968, he began his teaching career at the University of Illinois, where he remained for several years before joining the University of Virginia law faculty. He returned to Michigan as a visiting professor of law in 1973 and was appointed to a permanent position on the faculty in 1974.

An Academic Fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel and a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, Waggoner has also been elected to the American Law Institute.

Alumnus serves as Supreme Court clerk

Kent Douglas Syverud, J.D. `81, has been serving as clerk to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor during the Court's 1984-1985 term.

A native of Rochester, New York, Syverud received his undergraduate degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. At Michigan, he was awarded the Henry M. Bates Memorial Scholarship, the Abram W. Sempliner Memorial Award, the Joel D. and Shelby Tauber Scholarship Award, and the Clifton M. Kolb Law Scholarship. He received his degree magna cum laude, and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Upon graduation, he remained at Michigan to pursue graduate studies in economics, receiving his master's degree in 1983. In the fall of 1981, he taught the course

"Introduction to American Law" to foreign graduate students enrolled at the Law School.


In addition to Syverud, thirty-nine alumni who graduated in August and December 1983 and May 1984 hold state- and federal-court clerkships this year:


Kent D. Syverud