Browder, Kennedy And Wright Get Distinguished Professorships

Three U-M law professors, Olin L. Browder, Jr., Frank R. Kennedy, and L. Hart Wright, have been appointed to distinguished professorships at the Law School.

Prof. Wright will serve as the Paul G. Kauper Professor of Law; Prof. Browder will be the James V. Campbell Professor; and Prof. Kennedy will be the Thomas M. Cooley Professor.

The three professorships, which include annual stipends, are for five-year terms effective January 8, 1979. The Kauper professorship is being funded by contributions to the Paul G. Kauper Memorial Fund, named for the late U-M law professor; and the Cooley and Campbell professorships are supported by a gift from U-M Regent Robert E. Nederlander, a member of the Law School class of 1958. Cooley and Campbell were members of the original faculty of the Law School in 1859.

Prof. Wright, who joined the U-M law faculty in 1947, is an authority on U.S. federal and European tax procedures. Among other works, he is co-author of the book Federal Tax Liens and editor of Comparative Conflict Resolution Procedures in Taxation, to which he contributed major sections.

Recipient of undergraduate and law degrees from University of Oklahoma and a Master of Law from U-M, Wright in the 1950’s prepared a major study of the Internal Revenue Service for which he received the Civilian Meritorious Service Award from the Treasury Department, the highest civilian award given by the government.

He has served for many years as consultant to the IRS, has drafted state tax legislation, and participated in many other government activities.

Dean Sandalow noted that Wright teaches “in one of the most difficult and demanding of legal subject matters. His work as a teacher is characterized by remarkably conscientious preparation, high intellectual demands on his students, technical proficiency, and sensitive concern for the broader issues of public policy.”

Prof. Browder, a member of the Michigan law faculty since 1953, is a respected authority on the law of property and co-author of three law casebooks. He is also co-author of the encyclopedic American Law of Property and a frequent contributor to scholarly journals.

Recipient of the A.B. and law degrees from University of Illinois and a law doctorate from U-M, Prof. Browder has served, among other positions, as chairman of the American Bar Association’s Committee Against Perpetuities and as a consultant to the Michigan Law Revision Commission in the drafting of the Michigan Powers of Appointment Act.

Dean Sandalow noted that Browder’s scholarly work “reflects not only thoroughness and the craftsman’s attention to detail, but a concern for the major themes of property law... He has been one of the Law School’s most popular and effective teachers.”

Prof. Kennedy, who joined the U-M law faculty in 1961, is an expert on bankruptcy who has held a number of important posts over the past 20 years. From 1970 to 1973, serving as executive director of the U.S. Commission on Bankruptcy Laws, he was principal draftsman of the recently enacted Bankruptcy Act, the first comprehensive revision of the nation’s bankruptcy laws in more than 75 years.

Between 1960 and 1976 he served successive five-year terms as reporter for the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the U.S.

He has also been reporter for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in drafting the Uniform Exemptions Act; chairman of the National Bankruptcy Conference; and chairman of the Uniform Commercial Code Committee and the Secured Transactions Committee of the American Bar Association.

The holder of degrees from Southwest Missouri State College, and the law schools of Washington University and Yale University, Kennedy has written widely in his field.

His excellence as a teacher, noted Dean Sandalow, “is based not at all on histrionics, but on an unchallengeable command of an intricate and difficult subject matter; a tough, analytical mind; and patience in dealing with students.”