court system, as part of a program involving a $280,000 grant from the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) to the state's 22nd Judicial Circuit in Washtenaw County.

The cooperative venture is designed to find a solution to the backlog of cases which has plagued the court system. Under the LEAA grant, the local judicial circuit can request visiting judges to try civil and criminal cases considered backlogged. Civil cases heard under the program are up to a year old, while criminal cases are considered backlogged after only 90 days.

Washtenaw Circuit Court administrator Terry T. Deinlein, who heads the new "crash" court delay elimination program, says the program requires the court to find extra space beyond the five courtrooms in the County Building. So far the circuit court has made use of the three district courtrooms in City Hall, the jury assembly room in the County Building, the district courtrooms outside Ann Arbor, in addition to the moot court at the Law School.

Because lockup areas and other facilities are not available at the Law School, the moot courtroom has been used only in civil cases.

Under the LEAA grant, $1,000 has been made available for refurbishing the school's moot courtroom, including such things as re-upholstering chairs, refinishing tables, and purchasing a new lectern for use by lawyers and an easel for visual displays.

Use of the courtroom is provided free of charge to the circuit court in exchange for the opportunity for law students to view the cases, which could be of educational value, notes Associate Dean James J. White of the Law School.

After one recent case, for example, visiting judge Harry P. Newblatt of Flint provided a critique of the proceedings for the benefit of the students.

"Some of the visiting judges are very eager for the opportunity to try a case at the Law School," says court administrator Deinlein. "This is particularly true among judges who are graduates of the Law School. It offers them a chance to return to their alma mater and to interact with students in a quasi-teaching capacity."

The cases in the moot courtroom are not the first opportunity for law students to view court proceedings. Since the early 1980's, a closed circuit television hookup at the Law School allowed students to watch cases being held at the County Building. But unavailability of court dockets, unscheduled adjournments, and other problems led to waning student interest, says Associate Dean White.

By contrast, in the present program, the circuit court alerts the Law School whenever a case is to be heard in the moot courtroom.

White says he hopes use of the moot courtroom as an adjunct circuit court will continue in the future, provided that judges find the facility suitable and the shortage of automobile parking for jurors and other logistical problems do not present major obstacles.

Washtenaw County's program to reduce the case backlog appears to be working well, says Deinlein. For example, since June 1977, when the program was put into effect for criminal cases, 1,044 out of 1,061 pending criminal cases have now been closed.

The new program was begun largely through the efforts of Washtenaw Chief Circuit Judge William F. Ager, Jr. The steering committee for the program includes many people from the local community, including Associate Dean White of the Law School; Glynn Barnett, president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association; Herbert Spendlove, editor of the Ann Arbor News; Joe Matasich, editor of the Ypsilanti Press; the Rev. S. L. Roberson of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti; Richard Walterhouse, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners; and Arthur Chettle, Michigan Supreme Court regional administrator in Flint.

Others who had been active were Meri Lou Murray, former chairwoman of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; Melinda Morris, former president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association; and U-M law Prof. Theodore J. St. Antoine, former Law School dean.

Washtenaw County was one of four original recipients of the LEAA grants throughout the country. The other three areas were Middlesex County, Mass., Las Vegas, Nev., and Detroit.

In addition, similar programs are now underway in Seattle, Wash.; Washington, D.C., the Gulfport area of Mississippi, and Dupage County, Ill.

Choate Retires
After 20 Years

After 20 years of classes on patent law, Visiting Lecturer Robert A. Choate retired from active teaching this past spring and has assumed the title of lecturer emeritus of patent law.
Henrietta Slote  

A patent attorney in Detroit for more than 40 years, Choate said he would continue his full-time private practice with the firm of Barnes, Kisselle, Raisch and Choate. In addition, Choate said he plans to complete a supplement to his 1973 casebook on patent law.

"I just decided that 20 years was enough," Choate commented, noting that he stepped down to allow "a younger person to carry on." He added, "I was still having good classes and enjoying it."

Teaching has been rewarding, according to Choate. "The most pleasure is in seeing people get interested in patent law and take it up as a career. Quite a few of my students are in active practice," he remarked.

Accepting the emeritus position will allow Choate to have "a continuing status" at the Law School, enabling him to offer guest lectures, he said.

Choate graduated from U-M and U-M Law School in 1936 with joint B.S.E. (engineering) and J.D. degrees. He entered full-time private practice in Detroit that same year and added Law School teaching duties in 1960, when the late Arthur M. Smith accepted a judgeship at the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals.

U-M Law School has offered a patent law course on a regular basis since 1930, and the school will continue in winter term, 1980. U-M Law School alumnus Vincent Barker, himself a former student of Choate's, will be the instructor. Barker has previously taught patent law at the University of Toledo.

—Mark Simonian

Among new projects under Slate's direction are refurbishing the student lounge in Hutchins Hall, improvement of the moot court room funded as part of a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), and the eventual establishment of expanded audio-visual instructional facilities at the Law School. She is also involved in planning for a new faculty lounge in existing Law School buildings pending completion of the new library addition.

The LEAA grant was recently made to the state's 22nd judicial circuit in Washtenaw County, which is using the Law School's second-floor moot court room as an adjunct courtroom for civil cases in an attempt to reduce the court's backlog of cases. Some $1,000 in grant money was allocated for refurbishing the moot court room, notes Slote.

A 1951 summa cum laude graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Slote received a master's degree in English from the U-M in 1952 and studied comparative literature in France under a Fulbright scholarship.

Philip Soper Serves On Air Quality Committee

Philip Soper, a U-M law professor, has been appointed to a national committee that is to identify and study major issues in achieving objectives of the federal Clean Air Act amendments of 1977.

Soper was appointed to the Committee on Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality which will conduct the study under sponsorship of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Their report is expected to be completed and sent to Congress in the summer of 1980.

A member of the U-M law faculty since 1973, Soper previously served as staff attorney with the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality and as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White. He received the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, and a law degree from Harvard University.

Henrietta Slote In Administrative Manager's Post

Henrietta Slote is serving in the new post of administrative manager and assistant to the dean at the Law School, in charge of the physical plant and all non-instructional personnel.

She had served as editor in the Division of Research of the U-M School of Business Administration for 11 years before assuming the Law School post.