Professor Robben W. Fleming was granted emeritus status at the December meeting of the Regents. Fleming, president of the U-M from 1968 to 1978, rejoined the University in 1982 as professor of law following a term as president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

In conferring on him the joint titles of professor emeritus of law and president emeritus of the University of Michigan, the Regents stated, "he has been a dedicated teacher of the law and a leader of national stature in the field of education. He has been a versatile and compassionate administrator, enjoying the nearly unique distinction of heading two of the most respected public universities in the nation." Before coming to the U-M, Fleming was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In recent months, Fleming's work has been directed toward finding a solution to the problem of soaring premiums for medical malpractice insurance. Appointed by Michigan Governor James J. Blanchard to study the issue, Fleming recently presented his findings and recommendations in a 31-page report.

Last spring, the long-contested Howard Hughes case came to a close through the efforts of Wade H. McCree, Jr. The former U.S. Solicitor General and federal judge is now the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law at Michigan. McCree's work as special master was instrumental in bringing the case to a close.

Now, once again, the Supreme Court has called upon McCree to serve in this important capacity. The fact that it is unusual for a person to be appointed special master more than once indicates the esteem with which McCree is regarded in the highest legal circles. His new appointment involves a dispute over shipment of radioactive dirt from New Jersey to Nevada.

In the case, New Jersey v. Nevada, New Jersey, wishing to transport 7,200 tons of radioactive dirt out of its own territory, applied for and was granted by the state of Nevada a permit to transport and dispose of radioactive material in that state. After New Jersey had obtained the permit, the governor of Nevada objected to the transportation and disposal of the contaminated soil into Nevada. The state of Nevada then banned the agreed-upon shipment, a move New Jersey contends is inconsistent with federal regulations.

Joseph L. Sax, the Philip A. Hart Distinguished University Professor of Law at Michigan, has received the Environmental Law Institute Award for 1985. The award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to better environmental law and policy. A noted professor of law, Sax has helped to create the field of environmental law through teaching, legal scholarship, and law reform efforts. He has revitalized the public trust doctrine, brought new legal resources to the protection of America's parks and wildlands, and pioneered the concept of private environmental law enforcement, opening the courts of the United States to citizens seeking stronger enforcement of the law. 

Making news
Fleming, McCree, Sax receive recognition