Hammer, Lyon win teaching award

Law students each year get the chance to vote for their favorite teachers — an honor that gives the winners in this student balloting the L. Hart Wright Outstanding Teaching Award. The award is named for the late L. Hart Wright, a Law School faculty member who commanded the respect and drew the affection of his students during the many years that he taught here.

This year’s winners of the award are Professor Peter J. Hammer, ’89, and Clinical Professor Andrea D. Lyon.

Hammer has been a member of the faculty since 1995. A graduate of Gonzaga University, he earned his J.D. and Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on health care markets, and he also has been deeply involved in establishing a public defender program in Cambodia. He is director of the Law School’s Program in Law and Development in Cambodia.

Lyon was director of the Capital Resource Center in Chicago, which trained, assisted, and selected attorneys who represented death row inmates on collateral review. Prior to that she was on the staff of the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, also in Chicago, where she handled cases in the felony trial division, post-conviction/habeus corpus unit, misdemeanor unit, the appeals division, and served as the chief of the homicide task force, a 22-lawyer unit representing persons accused of homicides.

She received a J.D. from Antioch School of Law in 1976 and is a nationally-recognized expert in death penalty defense. She regularly teaches Continuing Legal Education programs around the United States.

The awards were presented at the annual Honors Convocation in May, the day before commencement. Lyon also won the prize last year.

Four faculty members present papers at Law and Economics Association

Delivering a paper at the annual meeting of the American Law and Economics Association is considered a high honor, and this year four members of the Law School faculty — an unusually large number from a single school — were presenters.

Professors Omri Ben-Shahar and Michael A. Heller and Assistant Professors Adam C. Pritchard and Mark D. West presented papers at the annual meeting in May.

Ben-Shahar, recently named director of the Law School’s new Olin Center for Law and Economics (see story on page 29), presented the paper “Compensation of Victims of Crime: An Economic Analysis,” co-authored with Alon Hare of Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Heller, who also is a research director for the Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan Business School, presented “The Liberal Commons,” which he co-authored with Hanoch Dagan, a law professor at Tel Aviv University and a visiting professor at the Law School during fall term 1999.

Pritchard delivered the paper “Stock Market Effects of Securities Fraud Class Actions Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act,” co-authored with Stephen P. Ferris, professor of finance at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

West, who directs the Law School’s Japanese law program, presented the paper “Corporate Law, Institutions, and Convergence: Statutory Development in Japan and the United States.”

Ben-Shahar, Pritchard, and West also presented papers at the association’s ninth annual meeting last year. Faculty colleagues Peter J. Hammer, ’89, and Ronald J. Mann also presented papers at last year’s conference.