Associate Dean Joiner to Leave After Twenty Years’ Service; Will Assume Deanship of Wayne State Law School

After devoting his energies to the University of Michigan Law School for the past twenty years, Associate Dean Charles W. Joiner is leaving. Since December 1, 1967, Joiner has been Dean Designate of Wayne State University’s Law School and has divided his time between Detroit and Ann Arbor. On June 1, he will assume his new duties on a full-time basis.

Joiner’s association with Michigan began in 1947 when he joined the law faculty as an assistant professor after having practiced in Des Moines since 1939. He has accomplished many things in his years here.

When the procedure curriculum was greatly reorganized immediately after World War II, Joiner was largely responsible. The old courses consisted of: Common Law Pleading, Judicial Administration, and Trial and Appellate Practice. When the changes were made, they were forward-looking and oriented toward the needs of modern practice.

A complete reorganization of courses and teaching materials was involved. The three new courses were: Pleading and Joiner, Jurisdiction and Judgments, and Trials and Appeals. These changes stood for nearly twenty years—until the present seniors were given a full year Civil Procedure course as freshmen.

Soon after Dean Joiner arrived at Michigan, he turned his attention to the practicing lawyer’s need for a continuing legal education to keep him abreast of the many new developments and trends since his graduation. To this end, Joiner staged advocacy institutes here from 1949 to 1959.

At first the programs drew small audiences, but they grew larger each year. Because of the ever-growing success of what had amounted to an extra-curricular activity for Joiner, he was able to persuade the law school to formalize and structure the programs. This occurred in 1960 when E. Donald Shapiro became Director of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Much of the value which Joiner ascribes to this project came about when members of the bench and bar were made to realize that the University was intensely interested in upgrading the profession, not solely concerned with training law students.

The rejection of a job offer as dean of another law school spurred Dean Joiner in the mid-fifties to work on a project of which he is especially proud. The offer was rejected because Joiner did not feel he was quite ready to become a dean. He felt he wanted to do other things first—such as push hard for procedural revision in Michigan.

He got a resolution through the Michigan Supreme Court, State Bar, and State Legislature which established a Joint Committee on Michigan Procedure Revision. Lawyers, lawmakers, and judges all participated in the work of the committee whose chairman and reporter was Dean Joiner.

After this work was completed, Joiner labored hard to get the resultant bill through the legislature. He met with success in 1961 when the Revised Judicature Act and a new set of Michigan Court Rules were passed, effective as of 1963.

Believing that law students would benefit from greater exposure to court room proceedings, Dean Joiner exerted his efforts toward the creation of the Washtenaw County Adjunct Courtroom in the second floor of Hutchins Hall. There, students could see the “real world” in the courtroom downtown over a television screen.

Concerned about the application of Canon 35, which prohibits broadcasting from a courtroom, Joiner was able to get a special court rule making the room in Hutchins a part of the Wash-tenaw County Court. Still fretful that some would be disturbed by this arrangement, Joiner invited some of the leaders of the American Bar Association to the Adjunct Courtroom in 1960.

His participation in bar association work — both state and federal — has been a special joy to Dean Joiner. Uneasy about the effects specialization could have on the legal profession, as chairman of the ABA Committee on Specialization in the mid-fifties, Joiner urged the adoption of certain regulations setting standards for claims of legal proficiency and providing new books in which lawyers could announce themselves as...
specialists. Though approved in principle, the details could not be worked out at that time and thorny problems generated by this project remain a concern.

Dean Joiner has been a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics for the past seven years. He regards his role there as gadfly of the group, resisting any attempts to put forth pat solutions to problems. Additionally, Dean Joiner is a member of both the Civil Rules and Evidence Committees of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

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When it comes to the classroom aspect of Joiner's stay at Michigan he says he has always enjoyed teaching—though recognizing a shortcoming (he tends to talk too fast). "I remember the first class I taught in law school," Joiner said. "I prepared for it up one side and down the other and came out all hopped up. I went home and received a phone call from a student who said, 'Mr. Joiner, I just want you to know that we like you, stutter, stutter, but you talk too fast.' Click."

In commenting about the faculty here, Joiner observed that he has watched professors go from poor, thin, struggling, very able young men to old, heavy, even more able, nationally renowned men. "It's been not only their avoirdupois, but the size of their homes that has grown," said Joiner.

Joiner feels the faculty here is very highly motivated toward getting involved with and helping the students. "This willingness on the part of a highly competent faculty to make itself available to students to discuss work after class shows when the students get out into practice. It accounts to some degree for the fine success our students have after they have graduated."

Joiner's decision to take the deanship at Wayne Law School was influenced by his belief that "the urban problems are the most important ones of today. There is no reason why a law school cannot be built on the strengths it acquires by being located in a great metropolis like Detroit."

Cooley Series to Publish
"The Oracles of the Law"

John P. Dawson's The Oracles of the Law is to be published in April of this year in the Thomas M. Cooley Series. The book is much expanded from the five lectures given in March 1959 at the University of Michigan Law School by Professor Dawson, who was on the Michigan Law School faculty from 1927 to 1958 and who has been at Harvard Law School since that time. The Thomas M. Cooley Lectureship was established for the purpose of stimulating research and presenting its results in the form of public lectures.

In the foreword to the forthcoming volume, Allan F. Smith, U-M Vice-President for Academic Affairs and former Law School Dean, lavishes high praise on this scholarly work:

"Probably the ideal goal of historical and comparative writing is to create a document which functions both to provide new insights into the past simply for the sake of understanding and to provide perspective which casts light on current issues and illuminates potential future courses of action. Seldom does a book achieve the goal as well as that which Professor Dawson has produced. But then, seldom is there an author so admirably equipped as he to undertake the task. As teacher and student, as scholar and administrator, his work has been marked by thoroughness without pandantry, and a sense of relevance which few can match.

"The definition of the role of the judiciary within a legal system is a matter of concern throughout the world, and nowhere is the question more vigorously debated than in the United States. For those who would seek meaningful perspective, The Oracles of the Law is surely a prime source, for it searches out the societal effects of varying philosophies and causal relationships between the assumed judicial roles and the achievement of both stability and flexibility within the judicial system. It probes the realities by comparing the verbal articulation of judicial role with actual judicial action, for it is clear that judicial activism can occur covertly as well as overtly, with proper and deferential lip service to notions of stability."

Orders for this book can be sent to Professor William J. Pierce, Editor of Michigan Legal Publications, The University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. The price of the book of approximately 600 pages is $15.00. No charge is made for mailing if your check, payable to The University of Michigan, accompanies the order.

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Michigan in 1907 and returned five years later to begin a distinguished teaching career which spanned forty years at the Law School. His primary interest lay in the field of criminal law. From 1920 to 1981 he was Editor of the Michigan Law Review.

Many generations of law students will recall "J. B." Waite, popularly known as "Jabby," as a stimulating and demanding teacher who used the classroom primarily as a vehicle for developing analytical precision and sharpness. Burke Shartel died at San Diego, California, on January 15, 1968, at the age of 79. He attended both the Literary College and the Law School at Michigan and joined the faculty in