“Their Brains Just Won’t Quit” was the accurate headline for a story in a recent issue of Michigan Today. And two of the five emeritus faculty members profiled were Law School Professors Frank Kennedy and Peter Steiner. Both are case studies in “retirement” that involves working at least as productively as in earlier career days.

Kennedy has actually retired twice, first from teaching and then from consulting at the Chicago firm of Sidley & Austin. Following his second retirement, Kennedy, at age 81, is hard at work on the first volume of a treatise on bankruptcy. The volume deals with partnerships and partners in bankruptcy and is co-authored with Jack Williams at Georgia State Law School.

“I think there will be at least five volumes,” says Kennedy. “The cases keep on coming.”

Kennedy began his career at the Law School in 1961, teaching commercial law and courses on secured credit, consumer credit, and commercial credit. He also became a widely recognized authority on bankruptcy law, eventually serving as executive director of the Commission on Bankruptcy Laws.

In addition to his work on the treatise, Kennedy is consulting with the National Bankruptcy Review Commission, a congressional commission studying possible amendments to bankruptcy law, and with a committee of the business law section of the American Bar Association.

Not surprisingly, given his career and expertise, the book explores poker’s theoretical framework and Steiner did quite a bit of research for the book. But it’s not intended to be overly academic. “I was trying to think about the game as it was played — not as sterile math exercises but with reasoning and calculation playing a role,” explains Steiner. To this end, the book covers four broad areas: an overview of the games called poker; a section on probabilities, odds and risk; discussion of the skills needed to play well; and information and exercises aimed at sharpening and implementing game skills.

“I have often said that in poker you play with cards against people while in bridge you play with people against the cards,” he adds.

When asked whether lawyers make particularly good poker players, Steiner gives a lawyerly answer. “Good poker players have a competitive spirit. Some lawyers have it, some don’t.”

In addition to continuing to hone his game, Steiner does some consulting and is working on a family history “in a relaxed way.” Of his retirement, he says, “I’m enjoying it greatly.”