Lempert named Distinguished University Professor; Avi-Yonah and Malamud receive named professorships

Three University of Michigan Law School faculty have received named professorships:

- Richard O. Lempert, '68, has been named the Eric Stein Distinguished University Professor of Law and Sociology;
- Reuven S. Avi-Yonah has been named as the first Irwin I. Cohn Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School; and
- Deborah C. Malamud has been appointed the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law.

Lempert, a professor of law who also is a professor of sociology and former chairman of the U-M Sociology Department, is founding director of the University of Michigan’s Life Sciences, Values, and Society Program. He has been a leader for three decades in rigorously and innovatively applying the knowledge and methods of social science research to legal issues. His book *A Modern Approach to Evidence* pioneered the problem-oriented approach that is now widely used in the teaching of evidence.

“Professor Lempert is widely recognized for his role in establishing modern law and society as an academic field,” U-M President Lee C. Bollinger and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Earl Lewis said in recommending Lempert to the Board of Regents for the University-wide professorship. “He was one of the key founders of the Law and Society Association, a thriving interdisciplinary organization drawing together legal scholars, social scientists, and others interested in the ‘social embeddedness’ of the law.”

Bollinger and Lewis added that “Lempert’s commitment to the training of students is similarly strong, not only in terms of his classroom teaching, but also in terms of the quality of materials he creates for his classes.”

Lempert’s work has contributed to the study of juries, race and affirmative action, forensic uses of DNA, capital punishment, the use of social science testimony in litigation, mechanisms of dispute resolution, and the law of evidence. A senior fellow of the U-M’s Society of Fellows and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Lempert also has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences and a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. He received the Law and Society Association’s Kalven Prize in recognition of his lifetime of scholarly achievement.

“It is Professor Lempert’s request that his Distinguished University Professorship be named in honor of Eric Stein, Hessel E. Yntema Professor Emeritus of Law, who is widely regarded as an eminent scholar in international and comparative law,” Bollinger and Lewis told the regents in their recommendation. Stein, ’42, who holds law degrees from the University of Michigan and Charles University in Prague, served with the U.S. Department of State and was adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly before joining the Law School faculty. He is the recipient of the 2001 University of Michigan Press Book Award. (See adjoining story.)

Avi-Yonah received his B.A. summa cum laude from Hebrew University, his A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University, and his J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. After several years of private practice, Avi-Yonah joined the faculty at Harvard Law School in 1994. He came to the University of Michigan Law School in 2000.

Recognized as a leading scholar of international law and international taxation, Avi-Yonah has written on the international taxation of electronic commerce, globalization, and the international impact of U.S. taxation choices. He also has been a consultant to the U.S. Treasury Office of Tax Policy and has served on the executive committee of the Tax Section of the New York State Bar Association and the tax management arm of the United States Income Advisory Board.

The Irwin I. Cohn Professorship was established last year by a gift from Avern L. Cohn, ‘49, in honor of his father, a 1917 graduate of the Law School. Avern Cohn, a

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Eric Stein, ‘42, wins University of Michigan Press Award

Eric Stein, ‘42, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor Emeritus of Law, has won the 2001 University of Michigan Press Book Award.

This is the second time that Stein has won the award. The first was for Diplomats, Scientists and Politicians: The United States and the Nuclear Test Ban Negotiations (1966), which he wrote with the late Harold K. Jacobson.

This year, the University of Michigan Press honored Stein for “his literary accomplishments, particularly Thoughts from a Bridge: A Retrospective of Writings on New Europe and American Federalism, and the breadth and depth of his scholarly contributions to international law.”

“The essays collected here cover a generation of scholarship,” New York University School of Law Professor Joseph H.H. Weiler writes in the foreword to Thoughts from a Bridge (University of Michigan Press, 2000). “Each essay has the power to assault our present day sensibilities with their abiding relevance to the most current debates ... Unfolding in this volume is the intellectual life of a master Europeanist, internationalist, and comparatist.” Weiler is a former member of the University of Michigan Law School faculty.

A young lawyer at the time, Stein fled from his native Czechoslovakia in 1939 to escape the Nazis. He earned a second law degree at the U-M Law School in 1942 and worked for the U.S. Department of State before joining the Law School faculty in 1955. He has served as an adviser to the U.S. delegation to the UN General Assembly and Security Council and to the U.S. counsel at the International Court of Justice. He has lectured widely in the United States, Europe, Japan, and China. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Law Association and an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.