Job Openings Drop For New Lawyers

Recent University of Michigan law graduates, experiencing a slight decline in job placements, are among law students across the country feeling the pinch of the depressed job market.

Employment figures for newly graduated U-M law students are down about five per cent from previous levels, according to the Law School placement office.

As of early June, the office reported that 70 per cent of the graduating class listed "definite plans" for the future—meaning plans for employment, military service, or further graduate study. At this time last year, the figure was 75 per cent; in 1973 it was 72 per cent; and the year before, 75 per cent.

EDITOR'S NOTE: U-M law alumni can help recent graduates and students of the Law School find jobs by completing the enclosed "mailer" in this issue of Law Quadrangle Notes, on which they can note any job availability at their law firms. Alumni can also indicate on the form whether they wish to serve as "contact person" in their geographic area, advising students interested in practicing there about the job market in general, quality of living, and other practical concerns.

"U-M Law School has not done too badly, considering the depressed job market and the increased number of law graduates nationally looking for jobs," says Nancy Krieger, the Law School's director of job placement.

"Still, our figures have declined from past levels."

She believes that "generally, national law schools such as Michigan have come close to previous placement levels, while some other schools have seen their job placement figures decline more sharply."

Surprisingly, Ms. Krieger notes a substantial increase this year in the number of job interviewers coming to U-M School, the number of interviews scheduled and the number of firms contacting the Law School by mail about job vacancies.

During the fall and winter terms there were some 436 interviewers who saw a total of 8,668 students at the Law School, according to Ms. Krieger. Last year there were 419 interviewers and 6,806 interviews conducted.

"Many students were alarmed by rumors of a depressed job market this year and scheduled an unusually large number of interviews," Ms. Krieger explains. "Potential employers were very cooperative about conducting so many on-campus interviews. Many students sought interviews with as many as 25 firms, while in the past 10 or 15 would have been the usual amount."

The placement director also reports that the number of law firms contacting the Law School by mail about job openings jumped from 633 last year to 788 this year.

Among other job-related statistics, Ms. Krieger reports that, although many U-M law students sought jobs in Michigan, fewer were hired than last year, while Detroit-area firms came close to previous hiring levels.

This year, 70 students received jobs at Detroit law firms, compared to 41 last year. A total of 78 students received jobs with Michigan firms this year, compared to 95 last year, according to the placement office.

All told, out of 253 graduates reporting "definite plans" for the future, 180 will work for private law firms; 20 accepted federal, state, or local judicial clerkships; 17 will take jobs with business firms; 17 have taken jobs with federal or state government; 7 will work in legal services for the poor; 4 will enter teaching careers; and 1 will pursue further graduate study, according to the placement office.

Ms. Krieger's report also shows the most popular geographic locations of the graduates: 78 of them will work in Michigan; 27 in Washington, D.C.; 22 in New York City; 18 in Ohio; 14 in Chicago; 14 in California; 7 in Pennsylvania; and the remainder scattered throughout most other states.

Steven Pepe to Head Clinical Law Program

Steven D. Pepe formally joins the U-M law faculty this summer as an associate professor, with over-all administrative responsibility for the School's clinical law program.

The program, one of the Law School's most popular offerings, allows second- and third-year students to earn course credit by handling a variety of civil and criminal legal aid cases under faculty supervision. Students confer directly with clients and represent their cases in court. Also part of the program are seminars focusing on development of practical skills and analysis of psychological and ethical problems encountered by the students in their day-to-day work.

During the fall or winter term and during the summer, Pepe will direct the clinical program, supervise case handling, and teach the seminar. In the remaining term, he will teach subjects at the Law School that relate closely to clinical practice, such as welfare law and evidence. Other faculty members will take turns heading the clinic during the terms Pepe spend in the classroom.

Pepe has been co-director of the clinic along with Edward B. Goldman since January 1974, but as adjunct assistant professors, they did not teach courses in the standard curriculum. Goldman is to enter private practice this summer.

Pepe emphasizes that the clinic serves as a "social community service." "Our first concern is the quality of legal services our clients are receiving," he points out. The amount of time that students spend on cases and the close supervision they receive serve as safeguards in this respect, he says. "Individual attention and added effort," says Pepe, "make up for the lack of experience in legal representation."
Besides offering practical experience, the clinical law program increases students' exposure to problems of poverty, race, and status, and improves their understanding of the "institutional and interpersonal dynamics of the legal system," according to Pepe.

He feels that a term at the clinic can make the students' academic work more meaningful and can help them in choosing courses and careers.

Pepe has a background in community legal service work. Under a Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship, he worked as staff attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C. He was later a clinical teaching fellow at Harvard Law School, teaching seminars and supervising students in the handling of cases connected with legal aid agencies.

Pepe's work has focused on problems of low-income housing. He did research in that field at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Pepe attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate. He was an assistant editor of the Michigan Law Review at U-M Law School, graduating in 1968. He then clerked for one year for Judge Harold Leventhal of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Prof. William Bishop Plans for Retirement

U-M Law Prof. William W. Bishop, Jr., is due for retirement furlough prior to his formal retirement in 1976, but he will still be spending much of his time in the classroom.

"He's doing it out of the sheer love of teaching," says Law Dean Theodore J. St. Antoine of Bishop's decision to take on a full class load for fall 1975.

Bishop has taught international law courses at the Law School since 1948. In 1966, he was named Edwin DeWitt Dickenson University Professor of International Law.

He came to the Law School from the U.S. Department of State after brief periods teaching law at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University.

Bishop studied political science as an undergraduate at U-M and pursued legal studies at Harvard, Michigan, and Columbia.

As an assistant legal adviser at the State Department, he formulated the "continental shelf doctrine," proclaimed by President Truman in 1945. This doctrine secured U.S. jurisdiction over its continental coastal areas.

The concept gained wide acceptance. Today, the extent of jurisdiction over the continental shelf is a central issue at the ongoing international Conference on the Law of the Sea.

One major shift in recent years in the field of international law, according to Prof. Bishop, has been the increasing power of third-world countries, many of which question legal concepts that evolved without their past participation. Nonetheless, "the newer countries are coming to see the advantage in trying to have relationships governed by law," according to the U-M professor.

In this respect, the United Nations has been useful as a center for negotiations and a forum for ideas, says Bishop. "It has been a source of low-profile accomplishments," he notes. "But it's an institution we'd have a great deal of difficulty doing without."

"In a period when many scholars are accused of pursuing their research interests at the expense of their students, Bill is a reassuring example that both can be served, and served magnificently. Generations of Michigan students have become intellectually attracted to international law through their contact with Bill Bishop the teacher, and they have become morally committed to careers in the field through their contact with Bill Bishop the man."

Winners Announced In Campbell Debate

Winners in the 51st annual Henry M. Campbell moot court competition at the University of Michigan Law School were announced by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, who served as one of the judges in the hypothetical court debate.

The winners were students William Black and Marilyn Huff, both of Dearborn; Ronald Henry of Southgate, and Warren Harrison of North Woodmere, N.Y. Black and Ms. Huffman argued before the bench, while the other two students prepared legal briefs for the case.

Runners-up in the competition were James Davis of Arlington, Va., and Mark Luscombe of Clinton, III.

The winners were announced by Justice White at a banquet following the competition in early spring. Also serving as judges in the mock debate were Judge J. Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C. Circuit; Justice Mary S. Coleman of the Michigan Supreme Court; and Dean Theodore J. St. Antoine and Prof. Peter K. Westen of the U-M Law School.

The winning team represented the State of Michigan in a fictional case in

Judges in the Campbell moot court competition at U-M Law School were seated (from left): Dean Theodore J. St. Antoine, Judge J. Skelly Wright, Justice Byron R. White, Justice Mary S. Coleman, and Prof. Peter Westen. The student finalists (standing, from left) were: Marilyn Huff, William Black, Warren Harrison, Ronald Henry, Mark Luscombe, and James Davis.