Rebecca J. Scott named professor of law

The Law School is known worldwide for its interdisciplinary capabilities and the ability of its faculty to cross specialty lines to illuminate the nature of the law. In doing so, they further the understanding of how law affects other aspects of life as well as how those aspects affect law.

Historian Rebecca J. Scott is solidly in law. In doing so, they further the understanding of how law affects other aspects of life as well as how those aspects affect law.

In both capacities, she has been a model member of the Law School community, participating and contributing energy and ideas, in ways that uplift all who come in contact with her,” Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, ’81, and Terrence J. McDonald, interim dean of the U-M's College of Literature, Science & Arts (LSA), wrote of Scott in recommending her Law School appointment to the Board of Regents. The U-M's history department is part of LSA.

Scott earned her A.B. summa cum laude from Harvard University, a M.Phil. from the London School of Economics, and her Ph.D. from Princeton University. She has been a U-M faculty member since 1992, was the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor from 1994-97 in recognition of her contributions to undergraduate education, and has been the Huetwell Professor since 1995. She was founding director of the Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and chaired the U-M History Department from 1996-99.

Scott was honored with a MacArthur Fellowship, an unrestricted cash prize sometimes called “the genius award,” and is a highly regarded scholar of postemancipation societies. She is the author of Slave Emancipation in Cuba and co-author of The Abolition of Slavery and the Aftermath of Emancipation in Brazil and Beyond Slavery: Explorations of Race, Labor, and Citizenship in Postemancipation Societies. She also is co-editor of the just-published bibliography Societies After Slavery. Her recent work deals with voting rights and property relations — a field of inquiry that has led her to draw on the research and collegial resources of the Law School.

Kennedy receives Distinguished Service Award

Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law Emeritus Frank R. Kennedy has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Bankruptcy Developments Journal, and last spring's edition of the Journal was a tribute to the longtime University of Michigan faculty member.

When consideration of the Distinguished Service Award recipient began last year, “one individual who can only be described as a true visionary in the field of bankruptcy practice, scholarship, and teaching emerged as the most deserving.” Editor-in-Chief Joseph G. Minias wrote in the Spring 2002 tribute edition.

Kennedy, continued Minias, "has had a profound influence in the field of bankruptcy through his instrumental role as reporter for the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States from 1960-76, which contributed greatly to the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978.”

"In addition, the field has felt his influence both through his desire to promote and improve the practice of bankruptcy law, and through his career in education and scholarly writings on the subject of bankruptcy.”

Kennedy taught bankruptcy law and related subjects at the Law School from 1961-84. He previously had taught at the University of Iowa. He has chaired the Drafting Committee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, as well as served as a member of the Executive Committee and secretary. He was appointed executive director of the Commission on Bankruptcy Laws in 1970.