Comings and goings

A.W. Brian Simpson, Joel Seligman, Marie Deveney join the faculty; Reed, Sax depart

The Law School has recently announced three new faculty appointments: A. W. Brian Simpson, a renowned English legal historian; Joel Seligman, a widely-read corporate and securities specialist; and Marie Deveney, an innovator in the field of historical conservation.

The brief accounts of the work, accomplishments, and interests of Simpson and Seligman below will be supplemented by more detailed articles in subsequent issues of LQN. A feature on Marie Deveney, who began teaching at the Law School this winter, follows.

A. W. Brian Simpson

A highly regarded scholar with wide-ranging accomplishments

A. W. Brian Simpson, a highly regarded legal scholar who visited at the Law School during the fall, 1985 semester, will be joining the faculty next fall on the senior level. Simpson has taught at the University of Chicago Law School and served as professor of law and dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England.

Simpson’s extensive interests (including contracts, property, philosophy, and history) have established him as one of the widest ranging and most highly regarded English legal scholars of his generation. His work in legal history includes two books on the development of common law doctrine: A History of the Land Law (2nd ed., 1985) and A History of the Common Law of Contract (1975).

More recently, Simpson has written on the legal, social, and cultural background of some of the best known English cases. His widely acclaimed Cannibalism and the Common Law (1984), according to Law School Professor Thomas Green, is praiseworthy for the range of sources, the ingenuity, and the pure sleuthing displayed in it.

Simpson brings to teaching at Michigan a mastery of the evolution of common law doctrine. He is, in the words of Green, “deeply committed to the view that the litigation that produces new doctrinal twists and turns — and the twists and turns themselves — must be studied in a social context.” During his visit here last year, he was highly regarded by the students who took his courses. “He’s an engaging teacher, both in terms of how he relates human interest with deep theory, and the way he conveys attention to the process of reasoning,” said Professor Frederick Schauer, who chaired the committee which recommended that Simpson be invited to join the U-M law faculty.

Joel Seligman

Prodigious writer on corporate, securities, anti-trust law

Joel Seligman, who is visiting at Michigan this year, will join the regular faculty next fall as a mid-level, tenured appointment. Seligman is well known and respected for his extensive writings in the fields of corporate, securities, and antitrust law.

Before coming to Michigan, he taught at Northeastern Law School in Boston and George Washington University’s National Law Center in Washington, D.C. A graduate of UCLA and Harvard Law School, Seligman spent several years with Ralph Nader’s Corporate Accountability Research Group. There, he co-authored Taming the Giant Corporation with Nader. The book maintained that federal incorporation of business firms should replace our current system of state incorporation. Seligman is also the author of The Transformation of Wall Street: A History of the Security and Exchange Commission and Modern Corporate Finance, 1982; The Security Exchange Commission and the Future of Finance, 1984; and The High Citadel: The Influence of Harvard Law School, 1978. Seligman’s principal research and writing project for the next few years will be a revision and expansion of Louis Loss’s monumental treatise, Securities Regulation. When completed, the