and Columbia University Law School, Kamisar served on the University of Minnesota law faculty for six years before coming to Michigan.

**Dr. Watson Stresses Ethics, Emotions In Lecture Series**

The doctor who possesses an old-fashioned “bedside manner” is a rare commodity today.

Equally rare are lawyers who deal with the emotional well-being of their clients, in addition to the cold, objective facts of a case.

So says a University of Michigan psychiatrist who points to deficiencies in education and professional group attitudes which fail to emphasize the humane, ethical, and interpersonal aspects of the law and medical professions.

“Both doctors and lawyers have great conflict about looking at information relating to emotions,” says Dr. Andrew Watson, a practicing psychiatrist who holds professorships at both the U-M medical and law schools.

Thus, he says, it has been difficult to initiate programs at law and medical schools in which serious consideration is given to psychological aspects of professional ethics, or to create support for performance standards which provide feedback to professionals.

Dr. Watson discussed these questions in delivering the 1979 Isaac Ray Lectures at the University of California, Berkeley. He is recipient of the American Psychiatric Association’s Isaac Ray Award which is given for “outstanding contributions to better understanding between psychiatry and law.”

The U-M psychiatrist is involved in a program at U-M Law School in which mental health professionals teach law students, helping them focus on ethical and other professional problems which are likely to arise in their legal careers.

Noting the absence of peer “feedback” within the law and medical professions, Dr. Watson observes that even though performance standards and ethical values “are internalized over the long run of a person’s professional career, they need to be constantly reinforced.

“Failure to do so risks the possibility of a person falling back to the less complex, more instantly satisfying activities of self interest and pleasure.”

Dr. Watson says that in both professions, there are major loopholes in grievance procedures, largely due to the resistance of colleagues to report unprofessional behavior.

“The working assumption of ethics or grievance committees is that complaints will be filed by either the aggrieved or by fellow professionals. It is my impression that most of the complaints are filed by dissatisfied consumers. Unprofessional behavior must reach a very high level before it will be reported by colleagues.

“Both these sources of reporting are psychologically demanding upon the person who would file, and probably many people also begin with a presumption that the grievance committee will be defensively resistant toward them.”

Dr. Watson suggests that a challenge for the professions is “to find a way to positively reinforce the reporting behavior… Such persons must know the group not only approves of their behavior but actively solicits it.”

Within professional schools, professors are reluctant to tackle questions of professional ethics, and courses on the subject are often not given serious attention by faculty, says Dr. Watson.

“I have long argued that failure to deal with these kinds of ethical conflicts when they arise in the classroom is to give the tacit message that the instructor does not think them important.

“Students are intensely concerned about these conflicts, especially in their early years of training. They know at least intuitively that such conflicts will be very difficult to deal with in practice and they wish almost desperately for guidance. They become anxious when these situations are encountered and if they do not learn to cope with them cognitively, their defensive resolution may well take the form of callous indifference.”

Dr. Watson cites a number of trends in the legal and medical professions—such as increased specialization, advertising, and the practice of “defensive medicine”—reflecting a growing distance between the practitioner and the public, and contributing to a feeling of alienation on the part of many clients and patients.

For example, although “confession settlements” are supposedly established as a means of tax sheltering, Dr. Watson observes:

“It is tempting to speculate that other factors may foster this trend to identify profession as business, such as feeling at risk much of the time, and losing the kinds of emotional satisfactions which traditionally flowed from being a doctor or a lawyer.”

Dr. Watson says that, in his view, efforts should be made by the professions themselves to repay consumers in the case of malpractice or negligence.

“One way that a profession can demonstrate its intention to safeguard its consumers is by establishing a fund to reimburse those who have suffered loss through malpractice or incompetence. Thus, the professional group indemnifies itself as a matter of group responsibility.

“This action says to the consumer population that ‘We care enough about you to see to it that your losses are compensated, and will take the initiative ourselves.’”

*Harry Edwards Chairs Board Of Amtrak*

U-M law Prof. Harry T. Edwards has been elected chairman of the board of Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corp.

The appointment, announced in April, is for a term continuing through July, 1980. While assuming the post, Edwards will continue his teaching duties at U-M Law School.

Edwards succeeds Amtrak chairman Donald P. Jacobs, dean of the Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

Since 1977 Edwards has served as one of seven members of Amtrak’s board of directors who are appointed by the President. A total of thirteen serve on the board.

A member of the U-M law faculty since 1970, Edwards is a specialist in labor law with long experience in arbitration cases.

He has served as vice president of the National Academy of Arbitrators and as a member of the board of directors of the American Arbitration Association.

Edwards’ books include The Lawyer as Negotiator and Labor Relations in the Public Sector.

Edwards graduated from Cornell University in 1962 and received his law degree from Michigan in 1965. He