

MERCER UNIVERSITY  
The Walter F. George School of Law  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEAN  
April 1966-April 1967  
ENROLLMENT

A. Student Body

The current academic year began with 209 students, the largest enrollment in the history of the Law School. This total was four more than the enrollment at the beginning of last year and represents the approximate maximum enrollment for the foreseeable future. With our policy of admitting between 70 and 75 entering students each year, our maximum enrollment would be 225. Of course this number could be reached only if there were no withdrawals caused by financial difficulties, military obligations, or academic deficiencies, and almost inevitably some interruptions will be attributed to these and similar causes.

B. Admissions

We continue to seek actively the best prepared and the most promising students for the entering class. Sixty-five of last fall's 72 beginning students had earned the A.B. or equivalent degree. We do not now require a degree for admission, and prefer the applicant with only three years of excellent grades to a college graduate whose academic career was undistinguished. We continue to make our selection from more than 250 applicants who meet the basic admissions requirements. Our admissions policies seem to achieve the desired result. The size of our present graduating class, 70, demonstrates a minimum loss from attrition. It should be said that this high retention rate is in no way attributable to a lowering of standards. From talking with members of the student body and from examination of grade reports and scholastic averages, I am convinced that the faculty is moving in the other direction, i.e., requiring more of students and grading them even more severely.

The most important factor in determining an applicant's eligibility continues to be the academic performance in college. Evaluation of transcripts is not a mechanical application of a formula based upon overall grade-point average, but involves a detailed analysis of all courses undertaken with attention given to areas of strength or weakness, along with any trend in performance.

The Law School Admission Test scores, which can all too easily be relied upon heavily as a mathematical equivalent of an applicant's potential, are used carefully and selectively. My appreciation of the Law School Admission Test was increased during an admissions workshop by the Educational

Testing Service of Princeton, but the test will remain a supplementary and a subsidiary method of prediction and will not be given the *major* role allotted to it by the admissions committees of many law schools.

### THE FACULTY

The continuity in the personnel of the faculty is almost as remarkable as the excellence of the individual professors who comprise it, and fortunately no losses from the present faculty are anticipated for the coming academic year. Past reports have stressed the importance the faculty attributes to classroom teaching. The faculty continually strives to improve the effectiveness of the person-to-person contact in the classroom context. Some of the most important discussions in faculty meetings involve the interchange of ideas as to methods of stimulating and challenging students in the consideration of various types of subject matter. The experience of the faculty is particularly valuable at this point. The average teaching experience is over 15 years. The diversity of background of these teachers is illustrated by the fact that the nine full-time members of the faculty have earned degrees from nine different schools of law, and are members of the bars of five jurisdictions other than Georgia.

Teaching in the classroom is only one aspect, although the most important one, of the faculty-student relationship. Individual consultations are encouraged, whether the student seeks a discussion on further points of material covered in class or advice as to aspirations following graduation.

Although teaching in one context or another is the primary function of a professor, our professors have appropriate interests in the realm of research and in the activities of professional organizations. The following paragraphs review briefly the areas of specialization and summarize some of the recent activities of members of the faculty.

Professor Philip Mullock continues his study in the area of logic in the legal system. He has recently written two articles for the publication *MIND*, has completed two other articles not yet submitted for publication, and has embarked upon additional writing projects. It is a signal recognition of Professor Mullock's promise and performance that the Committee for Advanced Studies of the University of Oxford has granted him permission to complete his studies and research on the subject "Logic and Legal Theory" in the Philosophy Department at the University of Pittsburgh, since Professor A. R. Anderson, under whom he formerly studied at Oxford, will be at Pittsburgh. Professor Mullock will be studying systems of modal logic under an internationally recognized pioneer in the development of this area of logic. Professor Mullock plans to return to Macon at the beginning of the summer to work on his dissertation on "Logic and Legal Theory," with the expectation of completing the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree by June of 1968.

Professor Mallory Atkinson has written survey articles for the Mercer

Law Review and has performed other legal research and writing projects as editor of the Georgia State Bar Journal. As General Counsel of the State Bar, Professor Atkinson has naturally been quite active in the meetings and other functions of that organization and its adjuncts.

Professor James C. Rehberg has written articles on Trusts, Wills, and Administration of Estates for the Mercer Law Review and has delivered papers on "Contracts to Will" and "Recent Year's Support Decisions" at Estate Planning Institutes.

Associate Professor Carroll Sierk has written articles on Taxation and Administrative Law for the Mercer Law Review. He has also undertaken the preparation of the titles "Master and Servant" and "Partnership" for the Encyclopedia of Georgia Law.

Professor William E. McCurdy, Emeritus Professor from Harvard, was on leave of absence during the fall quarter but returned to full-time teaching in January. He is the editor of one of the most venerable casebooks on domestic relations and a widely-used casebook on sales. He is now pursuing a research project on the role of equity in the development of the law of domestic relations.

The principal writing project of Professor Edgar Wilson has been in connection with the proposed criminal code of Georgia. During the fall quarter he visited over 40 colleges in the southeastern United States to recruit superior students. He attended the Southeastern Law Teachers Conference, and the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, and is a member of the program committee for the 1967 meeting of the Association of American Law Schools. He is a trustee of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, and serves without compensation as a special hearing officer for the United States Department of Justice.

Professor Frank Figueroa attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, participated in a conference in New York on the teaching of foreign and comparative law, and attended an American Law Institute-American Bar Association course of study on counseling clients on Central and South American trade and investments.

In addition to his administrative duties the Dean has served as chairman of the research group with the Criminal Law Study Committee of Georgia, as a trustee of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, and as chairman of the Macon Bar Association's Continuing Education Committee. He attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in Washington and spoke at alumni meetings in conjunction with the mid-winter meeting of the Georgia State Bar in Atlanta and the annual meeting of the Georgia State Bar in Augusta. He delivered a paper on Police Protection and Individual Safety at a workshop sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter of The American Association of University Women.

Mrs. Leah F. Chanin continues as law librarian and instructor in law.

She has written the legislative history section for a revision of a standard legal research volume which will be published this spring. She will attend the University of Colorado's Institute on Law Library Administration this summer, and on completing this institute will qualify for the highest certification under the American Association of Library Standards.

A recent major addition to the curriculum is a comprehensive course in Criminal Procedure. This subject has not been offered for many years because of the lack of suitable teaching materials, a defect now remedied. Developments in this area have made it obvious that every lawyer (especially the young) is likely to be called upon to render service in this area whether his preferences lie there or elsewhere. Mr. H. T. O'Neal, Jr., who for the past two years offered the course in Corporations, presented the new criminal procedure course during the winter quarter with marked success. Mr. O'Neal, a prominent member of the Macon Bar, has a wide reputation for excellence both as a scholar and as a practitioner in this field, and he is the author of the criminal procedure title in the Encyclopedia of Georgia Law.

An additional part-time member of the faculty is Mr. Albert Reichert of the Macon Bar. This year he is again teaching the course on Bills and Notes, with emphasis upon changes resulting from Georgia's enactment of the Uniform Commercial Code.

### ACTIVITIES

The Eighteenth Annual Law Day in May of 1966 was of unusual significance because it featured the formal dedication of the Harley Langdale Law Library Building. Impressive ceremonies on the quadrangle in front of the new building were highlighted by an address by United States Senator Richard B. Russell. The concluding event on the program was a luncheon at which former Dean Joseph A. McClain in a reminiscent mood informally surveyed the history of the Law School.

The Bench and Bar Series of lectures continues to bring to the campus leaders of the bench and bar whose experiences are both informational and inspirational to the students. This year's programs have tended to concentrate on the first steps into the legal profession by the young lawyer, and younger leaders of the bar have contributed guidance and assistance to those whose minds are beginning to concentrate upon the nature and location of the first professional employment they will undertake.

The three national legal fraternities with chapters at the Law School, along with the Student Bar Association, are actively assisting in the education of future lawyers by providing opportunities for leadership and service in these valuable extra-curricular organizations.

The Appellate Moot Court team again acquitted itself well in the regional rounds and was awarded second place for the excellence of its brief.

The Mercer Law Review, now in its eighteenth volume, provides invaluable experience in research and writing, furnishes a medium for the presentation and exchange of ideas, theories and experiences by members of the profession outside of the context of the adversary confrontation in litigation. It furnishes a valuable service to lawyers, judges and law students by keeping them advised of the latest developments in the law. It is a tribute to the judgment and dedication of the superior law students that they contribute innumerable hours of extra work in performing the multitudinous details of research and cross-checking required in publishing annually approximately 500 pages of highly technical material. Employers in both the profession in industry and in government are acutely aware of the value of this experience and are willing to pay a premium to obtain the services of students with this background.

### PLACEMENT

Graduates of the Law School are in demand, and members of the senior class who are free from military service obligations are being placed readily. The senior class brochure, with photographs and biographical data on each senior, prompts many inquiries to the office of the Dean and directly to the student.

### TUITION

An item of financial interest requiring special mention is the increase in tuition of \$25.00 a quarter for students entering Law School in September of 1967. Students already enrolled will be allowed to continue their normal progress to a degree with payment of the same tuition as that charged when they first began their studies here.

The tuition increase from \$225.00 a quarter to \$250.00 a quarter, or to a total of \$750.00 for the academic year, is a modest one. It is generally lower than the charges of other schools, and represents an increase at a more modest rate than most schools have used. A recent study by the American Law Student Association reveals that ten years ago the average law school tuition was \$485 a year. At that time this Law School's annual tuition was \$420 a year. The 1961 average was \$715 while ours was \$600. By 1966 the average law school tuition had risen to \$1,013 while ours had increased to only \$675. It is thus obvious that Mercer's proposed increase is comparatively small, and its impact is much less since it will fall upon only approximately one-third of the student body.

### PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Once again it is a pleasure to report an additional improvement in the Law School's physical facilities. Last year's report pointed out that the only area in which improvement could be suggested was the third floor

of the Langdale Law Library Building. This portion of the new building was completely prepared and equipped for use in the summer of 1966. By the opening of the fall quarter in September, the third floor had been fitted with the flooring, metal shelving for approximately 14,500 books, fluorescent overhead lighting fixtures, acoustical walls and ceiling, and seating space for approximately fifty students. This area now houses the less frequently used volumes of the library, and provides ample space for growth. It is used primarily for individual study in a quiet environment with no distractions. Consideration is being given to partitioning off small portions of this area to provide rooms where students can type and engage in conferences and group study privately.

James C. Quarles  
Dean