A NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE
CLASS OF 1977, NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL

We have a fictional state here, which we use in the
moot and practice courts and for other purposes, serious
and jocular. It is the State of Hoynes, named after our
first dean, Col. William James Hoynes. Welcome to Hoynes!

This newsletter will cover several items of importance,
in no particular order:

Summer Reading. There are two categories, required
and recommended. The required summer reading consists of
three pieces--Prof. Rodes' new book, The Legal Enterprise;
Dean O'Meara's "An Introduction to the Law and How to Study
It"; and my manuscript, "Christian Theories of Professional
Responsibility." All have to be obtained from the Law
School. (Prof. Rodes' and my pieces are still in manuscript--
I have had copies made for you; Dean O'Meara's work is a
special issue of the Notre Dame Lawyer.) Miss Amanda Gunn
of the Law School staff has packages of all three, obtained
for you at cost. Please direct your orders to her and en-
close $14 for each set.

I recommend for your more casual reading books which
will cause you to think about lawyers and the legal profes-
sion. Fiction often satisfies this need--Faulkner's "In-
truder in the Dust," for instance; some of James Gould
Cozzens' novels; Louis Auchincloss' fine lawyer fiction;
C.P. Snow's "The Affair" and "Time of Hope." Biographies
may serve even better--Mrs. Bowen's biographies of Coke,
Bacon, John Adams, and Holmes; Stone's biography of Clarence
Darrow; Adela Rogers' biography of her father, Final Verdict;
Mayers' The Lawyers; and others which might be recommended
to you by a lawyer in your town.

Orientation and Registration. You must be here for
orientation on Friday morning, August 23, 1974. The orient-
tation and registration program will continue for two days.
First classes will meet on Monday morning, August 26, and
will begin with assignments which will be posted during
orientation.
Tuition. Tuition for the 1974-75 Academic year is $2,600. That represents a raise of $185 over last year. I should warn you that similar raises are predicted for 1975-76 and 1976-77.

Your Class. We aim at a class of 150 students, in a school of about 400 (approximately 10 per cent from minority groups and 20 per cent women). The first-year curriculum will as published with a couple of minor changes. (The course "Introduction to the Legal Profession," for example, will be one semester hour instead of two and will be taught in four sections.)

Sober Thoughts. Two years ago I composed a letter to incoming law students, reminding them of what I thought to be the realities of entrance into the legal profession in the seventies. None of the facts which prompted that letter have changed, although there is now some indication that the number of law students is declining, and our experience in placing Notre Dame lawyers remains good. I would like to quote the heart of my 1972 letter, for your consideration:

"The fact that you have been accepted to enter the Notre Dame Law School this year means several happy things. It means you have the ability to study law and do well at any law school in the country. It means you can be admitted to almost any other law school. And it means that we at Notre Dame have looked at what you sent us, thought about it, and decided to invite you here; this year we are inviting one student for every seven who apply.

"But there are some somber facts about law school and law students in 1972; I want you to know about them. I am not sending this to you to weaken your intention to study law. But I am hoping that you will come here next fall with more thought about the legal profession, about law school, and about yourself, than has been the case with many law students in the past year or two.

"First sober thought: the number of law students has grown enormously in the last few years. In 1961, there were 16,500 entering students in law schools approved by the American Bar Association; 29,000 in 1969; and 36,000 last year. The number of lawyers entering the profession each year doubled between 1961 and 1969. There are literally no unfilled places in law schools today; there were several thousand two years ago.

"These young lawyers, and you three years from now, will probably all be employed somewhere. The legal profession has never really been overcrowded, for many complex reasons, and
there is a chance that this flood of new lawyers will be
calmly absorbed. There is a chance that many of these lawyers
will devote themselves to legal services for people who can-
not now afford lawyers. Less optimistically:

--The earnings of lawyers will likely level off or decline--
particularly earnings of lawyers in public service and
service to poor and middle-class clients. Many lawyers
consider this inevitable and even desirable (if legal
services are not to become impossibly expensive); the
legal profession, in any case, has never been an effi-
cient way to get rich.

--New lawyers are having a harder time finding employment
this year; this market condition will continue to be
difficult. At Notre Dame we provide efficient (even
tireless) placement service, but we cannot guaranty
employment, and we find it necessary to say, more often
than we used to, that students must begin to think
about employment early and work to find it.

--The legal profession has never sought to limit entry
by limiting law-school enrollment, and I doubt that it
will change that policy. This means it has an obliga-
tion to find new avenues of employment for lawyers--
and the American Bar Association is doing that now--
but it also means that acceptance to law school, and
even graduation from law school, carries no guaranty.

"Second, we find what seems to me a growing number of
law students who don't know why they are studying law, who
don't understand much about lawyers. You need to have some
idea of why you're in law school. You need not even want to
be like other lawyers, but you do need to see what it is you
want to do with a law degree, and that may require a healthy
respect for what you can do. Law school is a poor place to
study business, or do graduate work in political science, and
it is far too much work to qualify as a good place for thinking
about life or assessing your future. If this rather vague
paragraph disturbs you, maybe you should write me a letter or
come in to see me. I would like to talk to you about it.

"Finally, law school is terribly expensive. Too many
students have come here in recent years expecting Providence
to provide for them (and, in many cases, for their wives and
children)."

Housing. Campus housing for single students is nearly
filled. Information is available from the Director of Gradu-
ate Admissions. University Village, which offers modestly
priced two-bedroom apartments for married students and their
families, has a waiting list. Write the Manager, University Village. For off-campus housing information, write the University's Director of Off-Campus Housing, 315 Administration Building. The Student Bar Association has also prepared a supplemental list of rentals suggested by law students. You may obtain this list by writing Chauncey Veatch, President, Student Bar Association, at the Law School.

Transcripts. If you have not already supplied one, we need a complete official transcript of your undergraduate work, as soon as possible. This should include the date and type of degree awarded to you.

New Faculty. I am happy to report three new teachers who are not listed in our catalogue--Prof. James H. Seckinger, who was top man in his class here in 1968 and who also holds a masters degree in physics. He had a busy, productive six years in the profession, as law clerk to a federal judge, law-reform lawyer for the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver, and as Chief Deputy Prosecutor of Denver County, in charge of consumer fraud cases; Prof. Edward A. Laing, who comes to us after three years at (and being one of the founders of) the new law school at the University of the West Indies; Prof. Laing is British educated (Cambridge) and is an American lawyer who has practiced in Illinois, New York, and the West Indies; and Prof. Charles F. Crutchfield, who comes to us from a position as director of the legal services program in St. Joseph County, Indiana; Prof. Crutchfield taught political science at the University of Maryland, before he retired from a career as an intelligence and investigative officer in the Air Force and decided to go to law school.

Welcome, once again. I look forward to sharing our law school with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Shafer
Dean

June 20, 1974

TLS/mm