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NDLS Update 03/1993

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NDLS UPDATE

NOTRE DAME

MAR 30 1993

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News of the Notre Dame Law School

BARRISTERS TEAM WINS NATIONAL TITLE

The NDLS Barristers Team, consisting of Dominique Camacho, Frank Kros, and Edward Sullivan, won the National Championship at the ABA Mock Trial Competition held in San Antonio, Texas on March 11, 12, and 13. In addition, Frank Kros was voted the nation's outstanding advocate. Congratulations to the team and a special congratulations to Frank.

Over the past eight weeks, our barrister students devoted hundreds of hours to preparation, study, and research of the case. Approximately 120 teams from 60 law schools competed in the eleven regional competitions. Twenty-two regional winners competed in San Antonio. The team accomplishment is truly outstanding. Congratulations and thanks also go to the other barrister team members whose participation was invaluable to the program. Special thanks are due to Judge Sandy Brook and Judge Jeanne Jourdan who spent countless hours coaching the team, and to Jeanine Gozdecki-Wright, NDLS '92; Paul Peralta, NDLS '86; and Wendall Walsh, NDLS '80; who provided additional assistance.

KOMMERS APPOINTED TO ROBBIE CHAIR

On March 16, Don Kommers was formally invested as the inaugural chairholder of the Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Chair in Government and International Studies. Don's distinguished teaching and writing in comparative constitutional law, European law and institutions, and German politics made him the ideal candidate for this honor. Congratulations, Don!

The Chair was established by Joseph Robbie in memory of his son, Dr. David L. Robbie, who graduated from Notre Dame *cum laude* in 1966 and died 1976. Joseph Robbie practiced law in South Dakota and Minnesota. He was a member of the Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Letters. Joseph Robbie died in 1990 and his wife, Elizabeth, died in 1991.

BLSA ALUMNI WEEKEND

The Black Law Students Association is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. BLSA held its annual alumni weekend March 19-21. The guest speaker at the Saturday evening dinner was Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, the Director of the Urban Policy Institute at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. The Keynote Address was given Saturday evening by the Honorable Alan Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Justice Page is a Notre Dame Alumnus and a member of the NFL Hall of Fame. The weekend schedule also included a career panel featuring BLSA Alumni and time for informal discussions among current students and BLSA alumni. Congratulations to the organizers, Natasha

Thompson and Mya Whitmore, and the BLSA Weekend Committee and volunteers. Also thanks to Judge Roland Chamblee, Nancy Kommers, and Frances Shavers of the Notre Dame Alumni Office.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AT NDLS

A celebration of the 25th anniversary of women at NDLS is scheduled for Monday, March 29th. Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court will speak in the courtroom at 3:00 p.m. A panel discussion presented by five NDLS female alumni will follow. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend. In addition to the panel, approximately 25-30 of our alumni have made plans to attend. It will be an excellent opportunity to examine the progress we have made and still need to make. A reception and dinner, for which reservations are required, will follow. For information you should contact Janis Johnston or Carol Mooney.

INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM - STRONG PERFORMANCE

The NDLA International Moot Court Team, coached by Professor Trai Le and Professor Barbara Fick, travelled to the Jessup regional competition in Indianapolis on February 19 and 20. The team composed of Sarah Buescher, Kimberly Burnett, Douglas McNitt and John Plunkett was undefeated until the final round. They defeated teams from the University of Chicago, University of Detroit, University of Michigan, and Wayne State. In the final round they lost to Northwestern. The team's memorial (brief) was rated second among all those submitted at the

competition. A total of eight teams participated.

This year's case involved the nationalization of a pharmaceutical company by a developing nation and a claim by a developed nation for compensation for the lost investments of its nationals. The students prepared and argued the case as if it were before the United Nation's International Court of Justice. The final argument took place in the Federal Courthouse in Indianapolis before Justices Jon D. Krajulik and Brent E. Dickson of the Indiana Supreme Court and Mr. Swadesh S. Kalsi, Director of International Business Law for Kreig DeVault Alexander and Capehart in Indianapolis. Congratulations to the team and the coaches.

LAW REVIEW ELECTTS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A.J. Bellia has been elected to the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Notre Dame Law Review*.

ATLA COMPETITION

The American Trial Lawyers Association held its first trial team competition. An NDLS team consisting of four second-year students, Mark Derwent, Peter McCarthy, Kimberly Scott, and Jennifer Slavik, participated in the regional competition held in Lansing, Michigan, on March 5, 6, and 7. The team was coached by second-year student Kurt Kjelland and Jay Tidmarsh served as faculty advisor. Twelve teams participated in the competition; most were composed of third year as well as second year students. In its three trials, NDLS came up against two of

the top four teams. The NDLS team placed fifth. Congratulations to all involved.

ADMISSIONS NEWS

We are deeply engaged in the business of evaluating the multitude of applications for admission into the class entering next August. With more than 18 candidates for each seat in the class, and with many candidates presenting superb credentials, we face many difficult decisions. The good news is that we are assured of another outstanding first-year class for academic year 1993-94.

FACULTY NEWS

On March 14, Tom Broden chaired a workshop on "How Congregations Can Provide Housing and Support Services for Low Income Families," sponsored by the United Religious Community Task Force on Housing and Homelessness.

Tex and Brigid Dutile spent a very uncomfortable time on the night of "Storm '93" in St. Petersburg, Florida. Except for anxious moments because of rain pouring into their 10th floor apartment under the window casings, the swaying of the building and the loss of two windows and pitted paint to Tex's car, they came through O.K.

Jimmy Gurulè, who sits on the Advisory Board for the National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition co-sponsored by the ABA Criminal Justice Section and the John Marshall Law School, has been invited to judge this year's finals. The competition will take place March

25-27 in Chicago. Twenty law schools will participate.

Don Kommers lectured on March 10 at the BYU School of Law on "The Constitutional Politics of Abortion in Germany." Don also lectured at the Forever Learning Institute on "German Reunification: Some Legal and Political Issues." Don recently published a chapter titled "Law and Abortion in Six Countries: A Comparative Analysis," in *Abortion, Medicine, and the Law*, a book edited by Butler and Walbert. Don also published three entries in *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*. His entries discuss *Malloy v. Hogan*, *Murphy v. Waterfront Commission of New York*, and *Griffin v. California*.

Lucy Salsbury Payne presented a lecture on March 8 on *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990) (the peyote case), to a forensic chemistry class at Andrews University.

Terry Phelps spoke on March 13 in Orlando, Florida, to about 50 students under the auspices of the United Negro College Fund about choosing a law school and preparing for law school.

Charlie Rice will speak on March 27 at the Human Life International Convention in Cincinnati.

On March 10, John Robinson delivered a lecture entitled "Physician Assisted Suicide" to the Forever Learning Institute of South Bend and to the Notre Dame Club of Detroit.

Jim Seckinger was a faculty member for The Advocates Society Institute Teacher

Training Program held in Toronto, Ontario from February 5-6. Jim also lectured to both the faculty and participants in the program on effective teaching techniques.

Eric Smithburn was a faculty member for the Indiana NITA Trial Advocacy Program held at the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis from March 14 through March 20.

LEGAL AID NEWS

The Legal Aid Clinic accepted 33 new cases in February. Although it was a short month, the interns put in many hours in hearings and trials, finalizing current cases and taking on new matters. These included 9 consumer related problems, 9 new dissolution cases, 4 landlord/tenant conflicts, 2 denial of public benefits cases at the hearing stage, and 3 immigration matters, 2 of which involve getting 10-year-old children out of Vietnam for their mothers. The Clinics is also doing two record expungements for students, and 3 wills and estates.

The total case load at the end of February was 143 cases.

Kudos to Margaret McMahon and Dennis Ehling who put on trials in difficult dissolution cases and got more for their clients than they thought they would. Susan Wilham conducted a final hearing in another dissolution. Larry Dumas had his trial by fire as he argued a motion for provisional relief that required the court to deviate from the guidelines. He was successful. He also presented a client's case at an unemployment hearing. Guardian *ad litem* cases required appearances in court by Judy Lenger and Chris Toth.

Stacy Gerber, Elizabeth Farley and Susan Wilham put in long hours for a landlord/tenant presentation for the university student body at the request of Student Affairs.

LIBRARY NEWS

Network News

Early this summer network cards will be installed in all faculty PC's to complete our connection with the university network. Through the network each faculty member will have access to an easy-to-use electronic mail network that allows users to send and receive messages locally and worldwide. Additionally, the network provides access through the Internet, a collection of networks, to databases from a broad variety of disciplines.

Perhaps more significant is the installation of a law school local area network (LAN) this summer. This network will be self contained within the law school and should enhance internal communication. While planning for the LAN is in the very early stages, several potential uses include a calendar of events, sharing of software, and access to library catalogs and indexes. Many other law schools have developed LANs and have found them enormously useful.

The library staff is preparing informational and instructional materials to enable all of us to take advantage of these newer technologies.

Library Funding

The Murphy Foundation, which has generously supported the materials budget of

the library in the past, has decided it is unable to renew its gift to the library at this time. This is very disappointing news as the previous Murphy gift, of \$100,000 per year for five years, supported roughly 20% of our annual purchase of continuations and new titles. The Foundation has pledged a gift of \$35,000 to assist with purchasing information available through new technologies.

ALUMNI NEWS

Douglas J. Austin, NDLS '69, has been recognized for his expertise in the area of real estate in the 1993-94 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Austin is a shareholder in Fraser Trebilcock & Foster, P.C. of Lansing, Michigan.

James Brammer, NDLS '92, and his wife, Dieanna, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Troy Carson, born March 15. James is with Spangler, Jennings & Dougherty in Merrillville, Indiana. He will shortly to transfer to Valparaiso.

Thomas Dahlberg and Frederick Greene, both NDLS '87, have recently published several articles. Their most recent article, "Attorneys: How to Survive the Winter Settlement Slump," appeared in the February 8, 1993 issue of MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY. They also co-authored "Enhancing the Credibility of Plaintiff's Counsel" in the December 1991 issue of TRIAL magazine and "Surviving the Winter Slump" in the winter 1993 issue of BARRISTER magazine. Dahlberg practices law in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Greene practices law in Lansing, Michigan.

Jean Gorman, NDLS '82, is director of Planned Giving at the University of California, San Diego.

Bill Kemp, NDLS '76, has been in the news frequently of late. He is the GM attorney who headed the investigation into the NBC news fraud concerning the exploding trucks. He also played a key part in drafting the agreement resulting in NBC's on-the-air retraction and payment of GM's investigative costs in exchange for GM's dismissal of its suit against NBC.

Max Siegel, NDLS '92, was featured in the "Executive Spotlight" in the March 6, 1993 edition of *Cash Box* magazine, a music industry trade magazine. Max is an associate with Baker & Daniels in Indianapolis doing sports and entertainment law.

Morrice Young, NDLS '80, died recently. Please pray for him and his family.

Carol Ann Mooney
Associate Dean