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Justinian

Volume XXXIII - No. 8

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1973

Page One

New Trustees Give Views School's Efforts Lauded

By STEVE MARCELLINO

Mark Adelson was notified of his appointment to the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees on February 28. He revealed to the *Justinian* that he was "flattered" by the appointment and considered it a very prestigious position for a recent graduate. Mr. Adelson is presently a Clerk to Federal Judge Lee Gagliardi at the Southern District court in Foley Square.

Like his newly elected counterpart on the Board, Mr. Adelson felt that the school should receive AALS accreditation. He noted, that the school should be judged solely on its merits and should not have to meet any false standards.

Commenting on the recently adopted elective program, Mr. Adelson expressed pleasure and said that he felt it represented a more "adult view" on the part of the administration to the students. The combination of practical courses with courses of a general legal nature will achieve a balance which is necessary for a complete education. He acknowledged that the shift is an important change which will probably take a few years to implement.

Mr. Adelson, a former Law Review editor, felt that a subscription drive coupled with the Student Activity fee would result in a more equitable method of

Newly appointed Trustee Michael Schumaecker revealed in a telephone interview with the *Justinian* that his appointment to the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees was a complete surprise to him. While he had been apprised of his nomination by Dean Emeritus Prince about a month before the vote, he did not expect to be elected.

Since his appointment, he has only had one five minute meeting with the Board. He has been assured that he will be a full voting member and that his term will run for two years. He expects to be an "active force" representing student interests on the Board and told us that he will definitely not be a "rubber stamp" for Board policies.

Mr. Schumaecker discussed with us several issues of present concern to BLS. He discussed AALS accreditation by noting that it was important in terms of the school becoming a more nationally recognized law school. However, he expressed the fact that since his graduation, he has come to appreciate the background that BLS had provided in various practical aspects of the law and that this background has proved very valuable to him thus far in his law career with the New York law firm of Winthrop, Stimpson, Putnam and Roberts.

As a former Editor-In-Chief of Law Review, he noted that he thought the school should subsidize the publication rather than

NEW EDITORS SELECTED

Stein, Platt To Continue 'Law Review's' National Scope

By LAURENCE KRAMER

Jane Stein (Evening, '74) and Sheldon Platt (Day, '74) have been selected Editor-In-Chief and Managing Editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review* for the next academic year. Ms. Stein, a 1968 graduate of Barnard College, received a Masters Degree from N.Y.U. and taught elementary school for three years. Mr. Platt graduated cum laude from Brooklyn College in 1970.

Ms. Stein, in an interview with the *Justinian*, noted that she plans to continue the trend of recent years to broaden the scope of the *Law Review* by dealing more extensively with federal problems. Thus, the Review plans to deal on a more frequent basis with Supreme Court and Circuit Court decisions and trends on specific areas of federal law such as Securities, Anti-trust, Labor and Tax law.

The *Law Review* intends to continue its "open note" competition. This competition allows students who do not ordinarily have the opportunity to be accepted onto the *Law Review* staff on the basis of grades alone the chance to participate. Thus, students can



New Editor-In-Chief, Jane Stein and Managing Editor Sheldon Platt reviewing materials in Law Review office.

be accepted to the *Law Review* staff after their first year by fulfilling the note requirements.

Ms. Stein noted that the *Law Review* is also trying to revive contacts with its alumni by rejuvinating the Brooklyn Law Review Alumni Association. Stephen Siller, the present Managing Editor, will become the BLR

Alumni Director when he graduates this June.

Mr. Stein's husband, Alan, is also a member of the *Law Review* and will be next year's Research Editor. (Acquaintances of Ms. Stein will note that another Stein is on the way and that they are reserving an appropriate staff position.)

Faculty-Student Committee Formed To Study Evaluations

The distribution of the Fall, 1972 faculty evaluations by the Student Bar Association has spurred the passage of a resolution by the Faculty at its March 19 meeting which, in effect, prevents the future use of evaluations by any administration or faculty committee "without the written prior consent of the evaluated faculty member." The Faculty also approved a resolution setting up a four member student-faculty committee which will prepare recommendations for "an effective and workable system of student evaluations."

Evaluations are conducted after each semester by the S.B.A. A rating sheet is distributed to all students with 1 (Very poor) to 5 (Excellent) ratings given in seven categories: shows respect for students, is clear and understandable, generates interest in his subject matter, motivates student participation in class, is available and helpful outside of class, deals with the subject effectively and an overall rating. Space is also provided for the

subjective comments of students.

The faculty resolution was initially precipitated by a memorandum circulated among faculty members by Professor Henry Holzer which attacked the present evaluation procedure as being a "Star Chamber proceeding which makes a mockery of even the most primitive notions of fair play and due process." He went on to note the "hatchet job just done on me by the second year class" (Professor Holzer received an overall rating of 2.6 from his two sections of Sales. Only three other Professors received lower ratings.) and attacked the very concept of evaluations themselves. (An excerpt of Professor Holzer's memorandum is printed below.)

The faculty resolution stated that "commencing immediately, no student evaluation(s) of any member of this faculty shall be received or considered for any purpose whatsoever — including but not limited to resignation, rehiring, tenure, promotion, salary, assignment and scheduling of courses, and disciplinary proceed-

ings . . . A faculty member's unwillingness, failure, neglect or refusal to give such written consent shall in no way whatever he held against him/her, nor other way be detrimental to him/her in connection with such issues . . ." A subsequent resolution approved the formation of the joint committee.

The faculty resolution was read at the S.B.A. meeting of March 27. A member of delegates felt that the resolutions were a slap in the face at the student body. Others felt that here was a legitimate need to reform the present form and content of the evaluations. It was finally agreed that the students would take part in the joint committee to study the problem thoroughly. After the meeting, S.B.A. President Mitch Alter commented on the faculty's action by stating that "while I have deep concern with respect to the action of the faculty, I hope that the problem will be resolved by this committee."

The Committee formed to review the evaluation procedure includes Professors Richard Farrell and David Trager and students Shirley Norris and Enid Cruz.



Newly appointed Board of Trustees members, Mark Adelson (L) and Michael Schumaecker (R).

funding Law Review. He noted that the present system does not require the student to pay for the publication directly, even though he receives the benefit from it.

Mr. Adelson's term will last for one year. He indicated that he wanted to represent the interests of the school as an entity. In this way, he noted, he will be able to serve best the interests of the faculty and students, as well as the community. Primarily, he said,

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the present method of funding through the Student Activity fee. He also felt that in the future, students from other areas of school life should be appointed to the Board.

The major problems of the school, Mr. Schumaecker noted, are those inherent with becoming a national law school in scope. He urged that the changes that the school will go through, and those thus far implemented

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— editorials —

Evaluate Evaluations: Don't Smear Students

It is not terribly surprising that a controversy over student evaluations has finally surfaced. Whether the Student Bar Association wants to admit it or not, the present format and procedure for taking evaluations are woefully inadequate. What troubles us is the manner in which the matter came up.

While we have the greatest respect for the ability and qualifications of Professor Holzer, a first year faculty member who came to Brooklyn Law School after actively practicing as a Constitutional lawyer, we feel that certain remarks contained within his memorandum were ill-timed and unfounded. At a time when strong efforts are being made to foster collaboration among the student body, faculty and administration to mold a new curriculum and press for recognition by A.A.L.S., Professor Holzer's assertions regarding "Star Chamber proceedings", "defamatory attacks", and "vindictively motivated" abuses that "malign us and sully our reputations" and which are the "mainstays of all political dictatorships" are mere demagoguery which merit no response.

Furthermore, while the latter part of Professor Holzer's memo (printed herewith) discusses legitimate questions dealing with the concept of evaluations, the fact that he chose to malign the INTEGRITY of law students calls into question his own good judgment. We sincerely hope that among faculty members, this response to a legitimate problem was an isolated indiscretion.

The response of the Faculty as a whole and the Student Bar Association has been far more constructive. The first faculty resolution was, we hope, a slap at evaluations as presently constituted and not at students. Their willingness to help reform the current evaluation procedure through a joint committee seems to indicate a positive attitude towards the concept of evaluations. The S.B.A. has wisely joined in this effort.

We hope that a more viable format will be worked out, one which will elicit a more significant response from the student body and more clearly define the objective categories represented. Also, the subjective query should be framed so as to draw comment on the actual teaching ability of professors without overemphasizing personality matters. Through such reform, evaluations can become a useful guide to students when they select elective offerings, to faculty members who want to improve their teaching methods and to the administration when it seeks, as it should, a student view of individual faculty abilities.

Comment:

ED. NOTE: The following memorandum was distributed early last month to the Faculty and the Justinian. The space is available for future commentary and does not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

To: All members of The Brooklyn Law School Faculty

From: Prof. H. M. Holzer

Apparently, I am the most recent victim of an appallingly unjust practice, one which, I understand, most of you have suffered from at one time or another. I refer to a **Star Chamber** proceeding which makes a mockery of even the most primitive notions of fair play and due process, but which continues to exist because, apparently, no one has ever made an open, formal challenge to it.

Consider this then, and join me in, an open, formal challenge to the so-called "student evaluations."

I find it incomprehensible that members of this faculty have, until now, sanctioned what amounts, in many cases, to defamatory attacks on their ability, and, in all cases, to an absolutely unjustified usurpation by the students of power which they have no right to possess. And worse: that you should have swallowed, without serious challenge, abuse — some of it vindictively motivated, some of it the product of sheer ineptitude — from students who, with one breath, make noises about fair play in support of their assorted demands, but, when it comes to "evaluating" their professors, cover behind the secure cloak of anonymity, from where, they can, and do, malign us and sully our reputations.

I have no intention of passively submitting to this semi-annual

blood-letting, nor of allowing my future at this institution to be affected by a process which is so patently unfair that it reminds me of the mainstays of all political dictatorships: anonymous accusations followed by *ex parte* proceedings, with no right to confront one's accusers and therefore no opportunity to be heard in one's own defense.

It is no secret that I deplore the hatchet-job just done on me by the second year day class. But the ideas expressed above are not a reaction to that, nor are they mere disillusionment with the implementation of the evaluation system, or with the many opportunities for specific abuses necessarily contained in any such system. On the contrary, my objection goes much deeper, to the system itself, to the very concept of student evaluations of their professors in a professional school. Such a concept is wrong in principle. The sad fact is that, at least today, most law school students lack the necessary qualifications, and many lack the integrity, to judge the classroom performance of law school professors. For one thing, most students have no understanding of the various teaching techniques in a professor's arsenal. What if a professor's question-asking, rather than lecturing or answer-feeding, is construed by students as ineptitude, when in fact it is a serious effort to stimulate thinking? What if answer-feeding is the lazy student's dream, and prodding, pro-

vocative questions instead stir only resentment in him/her?

For another thing, judging a professor's classroom performance presupposes a huge amount of knowledge of the course material — which few students possess, even by the end of the semester. How, then, can students properly and adequately judge, for example, the extent of a professor's preparedness? How can students who can barely communicate themselves, judge how well a professor communicates? As to the issue of academic freedom, many students seem to have no interest in or conception of what this principle implies. Therefore, despite a professor's expert teaching of his course, his expression of ideas outside the mainstream can too easily result in students attacks, based on ideological grounds — attacks disguised as "evaluations" of, for example, his class preparation nor how available he is to see students. Also relevant is the fact that many students — too many — are immature and, as a result, wholly unable to separate feelings of personal dislike for the professor from the latter's classroom performance.

In short, the system of allowing our students to evaluate us, and, worse, utilizing those evaluations to affect any part of our status here — let alone whether or not some of us remain here — is so profoundly wrong that it ought to be put to an end once and for all right now. It is the task of the faculty itself, and of the administration, to judge the faculty. To the extent that we fail to do so, to the extent that we default on our responsibilities, to that extent we invite the filling of the vacuum which we leave — and filled it will be, with the hot air of student activism.

Letters

Letter to the Editor:

Having completed Professor Holzer's course in "Sales and Secured Transactions" we deem it appropriate to formally register our praise and respect for Prof. Hol-

zer, both as an individual and as a Professor of Law. The Course was presented as interestingly as possible, and Prof. Holzer's attitude throughout demonstrated a desire to seriously educate and elevate the status of Brooklyn Law School. In this regard we particularly note the extensive outline of the Course prepared by

Prof. Holzer. It served as a valuable tool in searching through a maze of U.C.C. sections and betokens, as well, the Professor's conscientiousness toward his role as a law professor.

Finally, this letter has been made timely by the to be published results of the student evaluations which, in an unfair and unsubstantive manner, undervalued the effort and contribution Professor Holzer has made, and is making, to the Law School.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Elbaum

* * *

To the Editor:

On behalf of the classes who are affected by the choice of summer school courses, we would like to take the time to thank Dean Lisle for his responsiveness in altering the proposed summer school schedule to include a greater number and variety of courses. This minor administrative change should prompt greater participation in the summer school program and allow many students, especially night students, to cut down the number of hours they take during the academic year or to take additional course hours.

We hope that in the future a substantial summer school program will be offered from the outset so that needless energies are not lost redoing what has been done.

Sincerely,

Paula Jane Seidman
Gerald Dunbar
Pat Kane

Moot Court Competition

Noted Judges Preside

On Wednesday, March 14, a team from Brooklyn Law School competed against one from St. John's Law School at the Brooklyn Bar Association. The BLS team won on its brief but lost the oral arguments. Judith Teitelbaum, Albert Kroll and Robin Weiner, second year students, prepared the brief. Ms. Teitelbaum and Mr. Kroll made the oral presentation.

The argument involved the right of the City of New York to impose an income tax on its non-resident employees equal to an amount paid by city residents, an amount which is greater than the "commuter tax". The BLS team defended the City's right to impose such a tax.

Judging the competition were three prominent judges from the local courts. They were Judge Nathan Sobel, Kings County Surrogate, Judge Hopkins, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department and Federal Judge Orin Judd, a former law clerk to Learned Hand. King's County Surrogate and Solicitor General for New York State. The three judges fielded appropriate questions during the argument and

rendered a decision in favor of St. Johns by a score of 219 to 214.

After the arguments each judge criticized both the briefs and oral arguments. Both sides were chided for omissions in their research product and defects in proof reading. They also gave some helpful hints on appellate practice.

The audience was comprised largely of experienced members of the bench and bar and pre-law students from the City University of New York. Professor Richard Farrell, the BLS coach, Dean Gerard Gilbride and Professor Deberah Schenck attended on behalf of the BLS faculty. The competition was preceded by dinner at the Brooklyn Club and each team received autographed books and subscriptions to the Advance Sheets.

NOTICE TO

ALL

STAFF MEMBERS!

There will be a meeting of the staff Monday, April 30 for the purpose of electing a new editor. The meeting for day students will be at 12:15 P.M. and at 5:30 p.m. for night students.

SBA Speakers' Program: Judges Discuss New Housing Court

By TRUDI MARA SCHLEIFER

On Wednesday, March 14, Leonard Yoswein and Samuel Welcome judges of the Civil Court of the City of New York, Kings County, led a discussion on the City's housing crisis and court reform in Brooklyn Law School's Moot Court Room. The discussion centered around plans to institute a new Housing Court which will be part of the present Civil Court system.

Judge Welcome noted that all housing cases which are presently heard before the Criminal Court will be handled by a new Housing Court. The judge indicated that appointed referees and hearing officers will preside over cases and determine violations and penalties. Where violations are found, systems of rent withholding are being worked out so that speedy repairs can be made. Among the alternatives that the judge noted were under consideration are the placement of rents in an escrow account to be administered by the Court until violations are cleared or the use by tenants of rents withheld to make repairs. The judge also indicated that an equity

section will be able to stop foreclosures and issue restraining orders where such actions are necessary.

Although Judge Welcome favored the concept of a Housing Court, he revealed some apprehension

in buildings and among diverse areas of the same borough.

Judge Yoswein agreed with the concept of a new Housing Court but implied that there were other political considerations underlying its promotion and possible institution which go beyond the need of a specialized part. He noted that neither additional facilities nor manpower had been yet provided for the new Court. He indicated that there was a quid pro quo being extracted from Criminal Court judges by Governor Rockefeller with the institution of the new part, the exchange being support



Civil Court Judges Samuel Welcome (l) and Leonard Yoswein (r).

that too much power might be concentrated in the hands of any one referee or judge. He also expressed a desire to see an equalization of rent discrepancies with-

for the Governor's recent proposals to give drug offenders life sentences without parole. The judge indicated that the new Court could substantially relieve

the caseload burden of the Criminal Court, where housing cases are now heard.

(A recent article in the New York Times seems to substantiate the point that judges other than Judge Yoswein are concerned with the political motives surrounding the institution of the Housing Court. The article noted that opposition by Civil Court judges to the appointment of lay hearing examiners is being felt in the legislature and that an effort may be made to kill the new Court entirely during this legislative session. The Judges, according to the article, feel that they will be able to handle an increased workload because enactment of the new no-fault auto insurance law will significantly decrease automobile negligence cases. Also, the Times noted that there is opposition in political circles to the fact that appointments will be made by the Administrative Judge, Edward Thompson, who reportedly has close ties with the Queens County Democratic leadership.)

In the area of court reform, Judge Yoswein favored a single statewide court structure which would consolidate all of the state's criminal and civil courts. Judges, under such a system, would be paid by the State and subject to assignment anywhere in the State as need dictates. Judge Yoswein also criticized what he called the "numbers game", referring to present concern to dispense with cases quickly. This concern, he noted, often deprives litigants of a sense of justice, as cases are rushed through to eliminate them from court.

New Faculty Members Named

The Committee on Faculty Selection has announced the appointment of five new faculty members to the Brooklyn Law School faculty next year. Among those chosen are Eliot A. Landau, presently an Assistant Professor at Drake University School of Law, Margaret A. Berger, a former law clerk to Federal Judge Jack Weinstein, George W. Johnson III, a former law clerk to the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court who later completed his LL. M., program at NYU and Susan M. Brandt, an associate with the New York law firm of Paul, Weiss Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. A fifth new faculty member has asked that his appointment not be publicized until a later date.

Professor Philip Yonge, chairman of the Committee, noted that in making its recommendations on the five selections, the Committee interviewed, here and at the AALS Convention, approximately sixty applicants, re-interviewing and investigating some twenty of these. Over 600 letters of application or resumes of persons interested in teaching law were received and considered, resulting in interview invitations to 130 people.

Professor Landau is a specialist in Labor Law and comes to BLS with an extensive background both in teaching and practical

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Rothblatt On Criminal Advocacy

By MARK BRANDOFF

Henry Rothblatt, a criminal trial lawyer who recently participated in the Watergate trial, spoke at Brooklyn Law School on Wednesday, March 21, as part of the Student Bar Association's Speaker's Program. Mr. Rothblatt is a graduate of BLS (class of '38) and has written several books on trial practice techniques and criminal law.

Several of Mr. Rothblatt's books were joint efforts with F. Lee Bailey. In addition to his literary skill, he has had opportunities to demonstrate his courtroom prowess in several, well publicized trials. Among them have been the Watergate case and the defense of several defendants charged with atrocities in the My Lai massacre, the most notable being Colonel Oran Henderson.

Questioned about the Watergate affair, Mr. Rothblatt refused to give specifics as to whether he thought there was a cover-up, alluding to his relationship to the defendants and the privacy of information. He did say though, that the whole story will eventually come out in the media and in the upcoming Senate hearings.

Mr. Rothblatt revealed that it was not his decision to plead the Watergate defendant's guilty. In fact, he said, he was opposed to the guilty pleas and wanted to continue with the trial. He refused to sign his name to the guilty plea and asked to be relieved as defense counsel. Finally, he noted that he took the case because it was a challenge to him. It was a well publicized case, right in the public's eye.

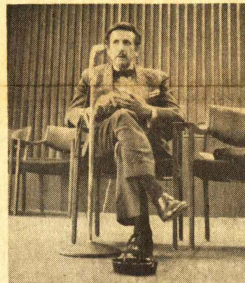
In his formal remarks, Mr. Rothblatt talked of his views on the role of today's law school graduate in the field of criminal

trial advocacy. He voiced the opinion that "youth" is an advantage in the practice of criminal law. He also felt that young lawyers with imagination and guts can take on institutions and can be highly successful as defense attorneys. While he stated that no great academic success was necessary to be a good trial lawyer, he felt that a good lawyer must have a firm grasp of the applicable principles of law.

Citing the case of *Bradley v. Maryland*, Mr. Rothblatt expressed his opinion that stare decisis is no good if old precedent is wrong. He felt that in every criminal case, defense counsel must also be thoroughly familiar with Constitutional Law. In the above case he described how the defense was successful in forcing the prosecution to produce possibly exculpatory evidence for pre-trial discovery or face a dismissal of the indictment.

Using F. Lee Bailey as his example, Mr. Rothblatt demonstrated that a good criminal lawyer must know more than just legal principles in order to win cases. He pointed out that Bailey's experience in investigation and the use of the polygraph helped him win the Sam Shepard murder case. Rothblatt then went on to give several examples where technical expertise in several fields will greatly aid in courtroom success.

Dealing with a narcotics case first, he pointed out that a defense attorney must be knowledgeable in chemistry. He felt that most prosecution experts present inadequate proof and sometimes make mistakes. An attorney with competence in this area could "tear this type of weak testimony to shreds", greatly weakening the prosecution's case.



Rothblatt presides

In a murder trial, Mr. Rothblatt noted that a good criminal lawyer must be able to examine forensic pathologists effectively. Part of the examination must include where the bullets came from, their angle of entrance and whether they came from behind or in front of the victim. He pointed out that "so-called" experts often make mistakes in this area.

After his formal remarks, Mr. Rothblatt entertained questions from the audience. In response to an inquiry as to whether a defendant's admission of guilt affects the type of defense that he (Rothblatt) will give, he answered in the negative. Noting that defendant's usually color the facts when talking to their lawyer, he said that it is the lawyer's job to get the facts straight. He indicated that the use of a polygraph has been of great help to him in this area. If he feels that his client is lying, he threatens him with the use of the machine and usually gets the true story. Even if the defendant admits his guilt, Mr. Rothblatt continued, if he wants his trial it is the defense lawyer's responsibility to give it to him.

Mr. Rothblatt also answered inquiries as to whether voir dire of jurors was necessary and the admission of polygraph evidence to prove a client's innocence. He was strongly in favor of both.

Squib Notes

Justinian article noted in Congressional Record.

An article published in the February 8 issue of the Justinian has been read into the Congressional Record by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana. The article, a critique of Mr. Justice Powell done by Justice Louis Heller of the Brooklyn Supreme Court, was part of the Justinian's series entitled "In Pursuit of Justice". The following comments were made by Senator Bayh:

Mr. BAYH, Mr. President, Mr. Justice Louis B. Heller, a member of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, has written a cogent and interesting article on the problems relating to the workload of the U.S. Supreme Court. His article, "In Pursuit of Justice", appeared in the February 8, 1973, issue of the Justinian, a publication of the Student Bar Association of the Brooklyn Law School.

I recommend this article to Senators and ask unanimous consent that it be printed at this point in the Record.

Law Review announces second 2d Circuit Review.

The Brooklyn Law Review has

announced that its second annual "Second Circuit Review" will be published and available in May. Last year's review received wide acclaim in the American Bar Association Journal which noted that "if the quality of this first issue is maintained . . . this issue of the Brooklyn Law Review will be a gold mine for those of us who still read law".

Contributors to the upcoming review include Judge Irving Kaufman, newly appointed Chief Judge of the Second Circuit, Edward Neahr, Judge of the Eastern District Court in Brooklyn, Daniel Fusaro, Chief Clerk of the Second Circuit Court and other prominent attorneys and professors in the area. Last year's issue was over 1,300 pages long.

Open Competition for Law Review

A meeting was held to announce this year's Law Review Upper-class open writing competition. The competition is open to all 2nd-year day and 2nd, 3rd-year night students. Each candidate must submit a note (generally about 40 pages in length) on a legal topic of current interest. The due date will be June

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LSD

NEWS

By STEPHEN MARCELLINO

The LSD 2nd Circuit Governor called a full membership meeting on April 8, 1972 at the Americana Hotel in New York. All students were invited to the Conference from the 13 law schools that make up the 2nd Circuit.

These include Albany Law, BLS, SUNY at Buffalo Law, Columbia Law, Cornell Law, Fordham Law, Hofstra Law, New York Law, N.Y.U. Law, St. John's Law, Syracuse Law and Yale Law.

In the past, these circuit conferences never invited all the students within the circuit to attend. However, this has changed radically. This year, invitations were mailed to every LSD member in our circuit. The mailings were seriously delayed and some invitees had only one of two days' notice of the conference.

The program consisted of some of the finest practitioners and scholars on the subject chosen as the theme: **Freedom of the Press, the Shield Laws, and The Newsman's Privilege**.

The morning keynote address was made by Osmond Fraenkel, Esq., the Senior General Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. He noted that law students have to be made aware that they will be the guardians of not only their own freedoms and civil liberties, but of the American Public's liberties.

After the keynote, panelists discussed U.S. Supreme Court decisions, upcoming cases, the meaning of Shield Laws, and the news-gatherer's right to confidentiality. The panelists included:

Floyd Abrams Esq. of Cahill, Gordon, Sonnet, Reindel and Ohl. Mr. Abrams litigated the "Pentagon Papers" case for the New York Times.

Jack Landau, Esq., of Newhouse Newspaper, is a journalist covering the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Landau had been an assistant U.S. Attorney General before turning to journalism. He is the trustee for the Reporters' Committee for the Freedom of the Press.

Ed Goodman, President of Pacifica Foundation, was station manager for WBAI, a listener-sponsored, non-commercial radio station in New York City. Mr. Goodman was arrested last year when he refused to turn over recordings to New York County District Attorney's office.

At the luncheon, Hon. Jack E. Weinstein and Jacob Fuchsberg spoke to the assemblage. They are both candidates for the position of Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. In the afternoon, the Law Student Division had its business meeting and election for the office of Circuit Governor.

A number of Brooklyn Law students came to the Conference. Representatives of the S.B.A. Justinian, the Women's Group and the LSD were present.

The conference was co-ordinated by Brooklyn Law students who were requested to do so by the President and Executive Director of LSD.

The Conference provided valuable insights into the Shield Law and its organization was a credit to the B.L.S. students who arranged the conference. Howard Kane chaired the meeting and David Segal and Jim Steiger were meeting co-chairmen.

Wills Class Convenes With Spirits

By CHARLES SEGAL

Prof. Herrmann, on Mon., April 9, 1973, convened his room 602 Wills and Administration class into a special executive session to commune with spirits.

After 2 hours of construing, constructing, and confusing various wills, codicils and Trusts, room 602 exercised their right of election to an additional hour by celebrating the upcoming vacation with a wine and cheese party during lunch hour. The Sun, the students, and Faculty-Student Relations rode high in the sky courtesy of wine provided by Prof. Herrmann and, in the spirit

of ecumenicism, cheese provided by class subscription.

This terms sauce was the second for room 602 as they were lucky enough to have the Spirits visit them during Prof. Herrmann's fall festival wine and cheese session during the previous terms Creditors Rights Class. The various members of room 602 were strangely unable to comment, yet this reporter senses the general feeling of the class as looking forward to such executive sessions in the spirit of good faculty-student relations, good fellowship, and a general desire to drink.

AALS Student — Faculty — Administration Committee Convenes

By CAROL FEIN

A student-faculty-administration Coalition met in early March to consider how the Brooklyn Law School community could best encourage membership in AALS. Chaired by Jon Miller (second year evening) and Phyllis Clements (third year day), Dean Lisle met with Professors Fink, Yonge, and Farrell, representatives of the Justinian, Law Review, the Women's Group, the Moot Court society, the Jewish Students Union, and several first year class representatives. Absent were representatives of the SBA Executive Board, Balsa, and a number of other faculty members who had indicated interest in the meeting.

Discussion centered on the multifaceted effort to acquire membership in the AALS, and what such membership would signify to the Brooklyn Law School community. "Community" indeed, because all of us — students, faculty, and administration — are and will always be inextricably related to Brooklyn Law School.

First, some history to clarify the matter. In the early years of Brooklyn Law School, Dean Richardson, rejected an invitation to join the AALS because he did not want to surrender the school's autonomy to a central organization. Later, after the war, the school dissociated itself from St. Lawrence University in upstate New York primarily for financial reasons. For decades, BLS had the distinct reputation of preparing professionals for practice, a "trade school" orientation. BLS graduated capable and efficient attorneys. Consistently, a very high proportion of graduates passed the bar examination and pursued successful practices. Rather than the case book method of study which encouraged the crea-

tive reasoning process, BLS preferred a precise approach utilizing narrow books with categorical principles of New York law defined.

After the 1940's this method of training lawyers gradually changed to a more flexible approach, slowly adapting current theories of legal study and practice. National texts replaced the old ones, and the case method of legal dialogue was adopted in the classroom. With the recent "enlightenment" in educational theory, the emphasis has become one of the law school's proper place in its social and national environment.

BLS's image is slowly, but decidedly, reflecting this change. A number of students, although far too few, are nevertheless entering large firms never before receptive to Brooklyn Law School graduates. Harvard is now accepting BLS students into its graduate programs.

AALS is a part of this process. We have now formally applied for membership to the organization. At the coalition's meeting, Dean Lisle explained the significance of Brooklyn Law School's membership as follows:

Generally, a closer association of our faculty with others will make BLS more aware of current legal trends. For example, four of the newer faculty members will attend a "Law Teach-In" sponsored by the AALS in July. Presently, faculties of non-AALS schools are not permitted to actively participate in the panels of such topical conventions. This was also the case in the convention on "Women and the Law" held last fall in which several BLS professors and students attended, although they were not permitted to lead discussion sections them-

selves. Dean Lisle also noted that the American Law Institute is composed entirely of AALS members.

Another benefit to the student is that AALS membership would make other law schools more accessible for transfer and graduate study. Perhaps most important is that the general reputation of the school in the academic and professional worlds would be enhanced. According to Dean Lisle, many partners in the "big" prestigious law firms are acutely aware of the AALS distinction in considering employment.

Obviously, these factors have a reciprocal effect. As the school becomes more recognized in the mainstream of legal scholarship, it will be more attractive to prospective faculty of diverse backgrounds and specialties. Mobility between our faculty and other schools' will certainly increase.

A committee of AALS members will visit BLS in May to consider our application to AALS. A program will be established for the committee when they visit. Most likely, they will be guided by a select student group representing the various student organizations, and classes. However, these AALS representatives will try to observe normal school life at BLS — talking randomly with students, in informal meetings with the faculty and observing classes.

It was also decided at the meeting, that there be an open panel discussion for the entire school in the near future, so that additional questions about AALS and recent curricular and grading changes can be answered.

Obviously, AALS membership is not an end in itself for BLS. The problems of the law school go beyond that organization. But it is indicative of the change occurring in the school. It is a change that the BLS community is demanding in the attempt to re-define legal education in conjunction with the social environment, and as part of the effort to gain the academic and professional recognition we deserve.

New Faculty...

(Continued from Page 3)

work. His activities have included being a Law Clerk to Circuit Court Judge Otto Kerner, Senior Examiner for the National Railroad Adjustment Board, Arbitrator and Member of the National Labor Panel of the American Arbitration Association, Chairman of the AALS Section on Law and Journalism and Chief Consultant and Hearing Examiner for the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. He has written extensively and been at Drake since 1969.

Ms. Berger was associated with the firm of Nordlinger, Riegelman, Benetar and Charney and was later engaged in a general practice firm in association with her husband. Her association with Judge Weinstein has included contributions to the Judge's books including the Weinstein Korn and Miller treatise on *New York Practice*.

Mr. Johnson was associated with a firm in Orlando, Florida before coming to New York. Since obtaining his LL. M., he has been a research assistant and co-author with an NYU Law Professor. Ms. Brandt has been working in the corporate department of Paul, Weiss since graduating from NYU Law School.

Squib...

(Continued from Page 3)

22 for day students and July 6 for night students. Note topics must be submitted by April 6 (although this date is flexible). An instruction sheet is available from the Law Review office on the 3rd floor.

Courts In Session

On April 28, beginning at 9:30 A.M. and continuing throughout the day, Brooklyn Law School and the American Trial Lawyers Association will conduct a demonstration trial in the moot court room. Fourteen leading lawyers participate, including Isidore Halpern, William F.X. Georghan and Jacob Fuchsberg of New York State Supreme Court Judges Lester Holtzman and Tom Jones will preside.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HOLD HOMECOMING

The Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association's Homecoming Symposium will be held May 2 at 4:30 P.M. in the Jerome Prince Moot Court Room, the subject of which will be "A Survey on Federal Procedure". Speakers will be Federal Judge Mark A. Constantino, Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward Thompson, Jr. and attorney Henry Rothblatt. All students are invited. Libation will be served.

Adelsohn

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he wants to be able to assist in the effectuation of the new program and open up new lines of communication from the Board of Trustees to the faculty and student body.

Schaumaecker

(Continued from Page 1)

under Dean Lisle, be evaluated very carefully in order to maintain the BLS tradition of producing lawyers who not only understand the law but are able to work with it.

Calendar Notice

For those free spirits about to depart for parts unknown during Spring recess, please take note that your flying time has been shortened by one day. Vacation ends and classes begin on Wednesday, April 25 and not Thursday, April 26. So get your landing gear in shape and curse you, Red Baron!