

1010 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Law schools and their students are participating more in legal services programs. Some colleagues have set up their own neighborhood law offices and clinics, sometimes with OEO Legal Services research and demonstration and training funds, but in many other instances—without Federal funds. Among the law schools that have established neighborhood law offices with OEO sponsorship are Harvard, the University of Detroit, Notre Dame University, Southern Methodist University, the University of Mississippi and Emory University in Atlanta.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Law in Philadelphia is conducting a fellowship program whose purpose is to attract to the Legal Services field top quality young legal talent. Fifty outstanding young lawyers were chosen this year to receive Reginald Heber Smith Fellowships to receive special training and serve for a year in the field with a Legal Services Program. They were chosen from among 300 applicants recruited from among major law firms, law schools, Federal judges, and state appellate courts. This first group of Smith Fellows had impressive credentials. Most had finished high in their class standings at law schools. One was first in his class at the University of Chicago. Another was third in his class at Columbia. Another was 7th out of 500 at Harvard. Several came from Wall Street and other top law firms. Five had been serving as judges' law clerks.

Many law schools are working in cooperation with Legal Services Programs in their communities. They provide training of staff attorneys for Legal Services Programs. They conduct research and help to draft pleadings and briefs.

The nature of the changes underway in the law schools is well described by an article in the June 19 *Newsweek* called "The New Law v. Tradition." It lists the War on Poverty as one of the factors that has helped to create a new atmosphere of social concern.

The article follows:

[From *Newsweek*, June 19]

ADDITIONAL OEO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The lawyer's war on poverty requires the support of legal scholarship and professional education of the highest quality.

American law schools have developed their curricular over the years to reflect the changes in society's needs and institutions. Today the War on Poverty and the nation's increased awareness of poverty in the midst of plenty have brought scholarly attention to the legal problems of the poor. This new awareness has helped to bring about curriculum revision, innovation, and experimentation by the law schools.

The University of Detroit Law School, with OEO assistance, has revamped its curriculum and established an Urban Law Program whose major focus is poverty law. It has added new courses in poverty law and has incorporated new poverty law material into traditional courses. For example, administrative law courses will cover rulings affecting those on public welfare, as well as rulings affecting stock investors. Bankruptcy law courses, which traditionally have examined "creditors rights" will cover the debtor's viewpoint.

OEO Legal Services has encouraged scholarship that joins the law with other disciplines. The Indiana University School of Law and the University's School of Social Work have developed a program of research into the legal problems of the poor. A social worker will be assigned to Legal Services offices to supplement the usual referral service.

The Columbia University School of Social Work is making a study of social welfare law. It is offering research assistance to any Legal Services Program in the country in the preparation of briefs and pleadings in welfare law cases. The Columbia Bureau of Applied Social Research is using OEO funds to conduct in-depth surveys of the impact on the poor of consumer credit systems and garnishment proceedings.

OEO is promoting the growing efforts of law schools to involve their students in legal services. The Harvard Law School is conducting an experimental program which includes a model neighborhood law office in a racially mixed slum area of Cambridge. The office is staffed by full-time lawyers and Harvard law students.

The Director is John Ferren, formerly a member of the largest law firm in Chicago, where he spent his evenings and weekends providing free legal assistance to poor people in church basements and schools. The purpose of the Harvard