

LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Where Do We Go From Here?

THE LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION, as an official spokesman for that growing cadre of persons interested in interdisciplinary concern for law and the legal system, is at a critical benchmark. It has brought scholars and practitioners of many disciplines together at professional meetings and at a summer Institute; it has established a forum for scholarly discourse—this *Review*; it has encouraged the development of materials and courses in the field. All of this has been in an atmosphere of informal collegueship.

As piggyback participants at the professional meetings of related disciplines, there has been some knowledge shared and generated. But the diverse membership of the Association has not, as yet, found the opportunity to draw on its total accumulation of wisdom. Would it be proper, or even feasible, for the Association to provide a forum for the committee of the whole?

The Summer Institute on Social Science Methods in Legal Education (SSMILE) provided some training for a small number of potential sociolegal scholars. The optimum impact of this effort will be limited, at best. Do the interdisciplinarians among us wish to risk the predictable bureaucratic consequences of Association-sponsored Institutes on subjects of more inclusive concern to the membership?

This *Review* contains the manuscripts judged relevant by a few among us. Indeed, the submissions to the Editors deal with only a few of the many intellectual issues that the Association purports to promote. The Editors and the Association need guidance in producing a journal which meets the needs of the entire membership.

The sociolegal materials now available by and large fall disproportionately into two categories: (1) materials about the legal profession

and (2) materials about the administration of justice, mostly criminal. There are great plains [if not rocky mountains—Ed.] still to be conquered. Furthermore, the curricular developments in academic and professional schools are spotty and specialized, not general and integrated. The absence of teaching materials may provide some justification for this state. Still, the Law and Society Association advertises its advocacy for growth and expansion of materials and teaching incorporating the knowledge and methodologies of various disciplines.

What are the next steps?

Some have predicted the development of a new discipline, or profession (depending on the prophet identified) in our Law and Society area. Should the Association be concerned with a future that will occur if the prediction is correct?

Indeed, the law is too important to be left to the lawyers. But, how and by which “non-lawyers” will the self-fulfilling prophecy be verified or, for that matter, rejected?

—ROBERT B. YEGGE

SUMMER INSTITUTE ANNOUNCED

The Sociology and Law Program at the University of Wisconsin announces that an Institute in Behavioral Science and the Law will be held at Madison this summer. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Institute will offer graduate courses and seminars on the political, social, economic, and legal aspects of legal systems. The focus will be interdisciplinary, and the faculty will include professors from the disciplines of Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Law, and Anthropology. Students who are admitted will receive a stipend and travel allowance, and may receive graduate credit for courses taken. For further information write to:

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