Page 14

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, August 20, 1986

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ake the fast way to phone service and visit our special campus location. We'll process your request for a phone on the spot. Then, simply pick up the telephone you want and take it with you. Save time and

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LT&T Phone Center East, East Park Plaza 200 North 66th 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday Also open Saturdays, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Free legal advice for UNL students

By Curt Wagner Staff Reporter

Staff stability has led to the increasing success of Student Legal Services over the past few years, said Shelley Stall, director.

The staff includes Stall, who has directed Legal Services for 51/2 years, Webb Bancroft, who has worked three years as a part-time attorney and Cheryl Warren, secretary for three years. Student Legal Services was created in 1973 to provide free legal education and services for the university community.

"You can get relationships established with people in the university and you can't get your ideas promoted if you're not here very long," said Stall, a 1978 NU College of Law graduate.

"I think it's to the credit of students who have been working with Legal Services over the past few years that we have a kind of stable staff here," she said.

One idea that Stall promoted was an expansion of the office's capabilities. Two years ago the NU Board of Regents approved a litigation program allowing Stall and Bancroft to represent students in court. Before then, legal services could only provide advice.

Stall has also seen another idea unfold during her employment. A few years ago the office published a Student Legal Services Handbook. The handbook, written mostly by Stall and organized by several UNL students, was developed to inform students of their rights in legal matters that most often concern them. The handbook is being revised.

The handbook is available at Nebraska Union 335 or from residence hall student assistants.

Stall said many items in the handbook are common cases that are brought to her by students.

Services' cases involve landlord/ten- call 472-3350 to make appointments.

ant conflicts. Problems with damage deposit refunds, repairs not being made and the ramifications of breaking a lease have been brought to Legal Services, Stall said. Stall said she will help students prepare for small claims court, and even represent them if the case is appealed or removed to a regular court docket.

Legal Services also has handled cases involving traffic offenses and misdemeanors. Stall said she looks at cases, advises the students what action to take, sets up a pre-trial diversion and possibly represents the students.

Consumer law, auto accidents and domestic cases also have appeared on Legal Services' caseload. Stall said that she will help in simple divorce cases where no property or child custody is involved.

"We try to be available to as many students as possible, and cases like divorces often take up too much time," she said.

Many times Stall confers wth other departments at UNL such as the Ombudsman's office, International Education Services, the Health Center and the psychology department.

"Sometimes the student's problem will be legal, but will involve the need for some psychological counseling," Stall said. "I try to keep informed about what services are available so that I can refer the student to that service."

The only charges students must pay are court costs. Student Legal Services is a prepaid service. Stall estimated that 90 cents is taken from each student's tuition to pay for the service.

Stall said that Legal Services advises about 100 clients a month, although contacts may reach 150 a month. Because of the high number of contacts, appointments are necessary.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., She said that about 1/3 of Legal Monday through Friday. Students can

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