

# Law students watch 'real judges in real cases'

By Terri Willson

Is a manufacturer responsible for the death of a man because of marketing the defective motorcycle engine he had used?

Can the government legally prove that a lawyer is guilty of perjury before a grand jury?

Is a title insurance company adequately regulated by state law to curb federal anti-trust laws, while competition allegedly tries to monopolize the insurance market?

These three cases were discussed Tuesday when the College of Law for the first time hosted a three-hour circuit court session at the Law School Auditorium. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit analyzed the specifics of these cases before 385 law students.

College of Law Dean Henry Grether said the session was "the best thing that has happened at Law School," adding that it may become an annual event.

Student Bar Association President Gene Crump said in his three years of law school the event stands out singularly in his mind as being "the most beneficial thing ever done by Law School administration."

### Real judges

He said it is exciting because circuit court judges are right below U.S. Supreme Court judges in jurisdiction.

"They were real judges in real cases," he said. "The outcomes of the cases were not measured by the same things as they are in law school moot courts, such as eye contact, but outcome depended on the attorney's actual presentation of the cases."

He said the judges read written briefs describing both sides of the arguments before the lawyers began their oral arguments.

"There is no preconceived winner in the cases," Crump said, adding that the cases still are being considered by judges.

According to senior law student Roger Prokes, a circuit court session is a special thing to see. He said it gave students first-hand experience to see a circuit court in action.

Prokes said conducting "real life cases brought law students closer to the real world." He said procedural errors witnessed during the session helped "drive home the difference between a well-prepared competent lawyer and an ill-prepared one who makes mistakes."

Presiding over the cases were Judges Donald Ross and Donald Lay of Omaha and Judge Floyd Gibson of Kansas City, Mo.

### Engine trouble

In the first case, Hughes vs. American Jawa, LTD., Hughes' lawyer tried to indicate that there was not sufficient clearance space between the piston and the cylinder wall in the motorcycle's engine, causing the wheels to lock.

According to Grether and some law students, the second case, United States vs. Phillips, was by far the most exciting one. Phillips, an Oklahoma attorney and state senator, allegedly said he controlled the area district attorney and said it would be easy to conspire with organized crime to establish prostitution, gambling and illegal

liquor sales in a Kansas City, Mo., nightclub, Shangri-La.

Phillips was hired by the nightclub to represent them in another matter, and the alleged conversation was taped by the nightclub owner. While Phillips denied the statements before a grand jury, the tape was used as evidence to prove his guilt. But since the tape was made without Phillips's knowledge, the dispute was over

legality of its use as evidence.

In the third case, Lawyers Title Co. of Missouri vs. St. Paul Title Insurance Co., Lawyers Title alleged that the insurance company was trying to drive Lawyers Title out of business. Allegedly St. Paul's was selling policies in St. Louis at rates lower than policies sold in other parts of its sales territory and at prices lower than its costs.

## School move to hurt agency

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Dave Dierenseld, supervisor of the students working at the county agency said "the loss of students will be a loss to the agency. . . students have been an asset here." He said students work on cases which normally would not receive as much attention.

Students gaining practicum experience are not paid, but receive four hours class credit for 16 hours of work per week, Dierenseld said.

Besides gaining experience, students have a much better chance for employment because the agency has a better opportunity to get to know the individual, Dierenseld said.

"That's the way I became employed here. I had my foot in the door," he said.

### Four cases

Edward Tucheck of the Catholic Social Service said four cases are assigned per student ranging from adoption and foster home cases to juvenile delinquency. When the school is moved, student work will be absorbed into the regular staff load, he said, but salaries will not be raised.

Two students now are working at the Lutheran Family Social Services Center. The move of the UNL School will result in "slight adjustments," at the center, according to Steve Bryant, its director. Students are incorporated into programs previously established, he said, and reduce the work load of full-time employees. Students in social work also have worked with the YMCA, the Lincoln Parks and

Recreation Dept. and other social agencies.

Married students living in Lincoln will have to commute to classes in Omaha but may appreciate the opportunity for practicum in Lincoln, he said. Bryant said many other students will either have to move to Omaha or change their major.

### Resolution adopted

The Lancaster County Public Welfare Advisory Council adopted a resolution Oct. 21 asking NU President D. B. Varner and the NU Board of Regents to secure enough money to accredit the UNL school and pay for the undergraduate program.

Schrekinger said Varner considered the resolution but no changes are foreseen. This is the only action that can be taken by the council, he said, since they only have advisory capacity.

The school's national accreditation is threatened by the Council on Social Work Education, a national organization in charge of accrediting schools, in five areas.

These are:  
-Overall lack of support of the school by the university.

-Lack of adequate faculty resources.  
-Lack of continuity in the school's leadership because of "recent faculty turnover."

-Lack of sufficient cohesiveness among the faculty.

-Lack of congruity between the missions of the Lincoln and Omaha campuses and the apparent inability of the school to respond to both.

## Foreign handicrafts shown

International Week continues today with a bazaar and displays from more than a dozen foreign countries.

Clothing, coins and more handicrafts will be displayed and sold from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Countries represented include Mexico, Pakistan, Indonesia, Taiwan, Nigeria, Germany, the Netherlands and several African nations.

Gupta Sookram, display and bazaar

coordinator, said that most of the displayed items are the personal property of UNL foreign students and others are provided by Mission Village Manor of Freport, New York.

International Week will conclude with a talent show Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Ballroom.

Sookram said dancing, singing and various foreign rituals are included in the talent show, open to the public.

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