

Lawyers review role in society

By Rose Fitzpatrick

Five minority lawyers discussed social change in their profession Friday on a panel, "The Role of the Minority Lawyer in Society," sponsored by the UNL College of Law's Minority Affairs Committee.

The panelists were Leona Thurmann from Kansas City, Gene Crump of Southeast Nebraska Legal Aid Society, Virgil Huff from Mission, S.D., Terry Pichota, U.S. District Attorney in Sioux Falls, S.D. and Olivia Guerra who works for Mutual of Omaha. The panel was moderated by College of Law Associate Dean Alan Frank.

Thurmann's concept of "the lawyer as a social engineer," became a point of scrutiny for the panel discussion.

Look for societal solutions

She said lawyers are trained to think in terms of solutions to problems, but they should bring solutions to society as a whole and not just to certain segments of society.

Crump said that as a black man and an attorney his role was to be an effective advocate and to help other minorities get into law.

Crump said being an attorney is like any other job, but that his being an attorney should help other minority members to realize that they also could be attorneys.

Huff said he agreed with being an advocate but stressed the importance of being a good attorney, no matter what problems must be faced.

He said that issues are the key for minority attorneys, but said that different issues face different minorities.

Although Huff is in private practice, he deals with Indian law. He said Indian issues are characterized by government red tape.

Minorities must remember heritage

Guerra said her role as an attorney and a minority was different from others on the panel because she works for

a large corporation.

She said that if minorities want to go to work on Wall Street they should be encouraged but they should never lose track of where they came from.

Taking a job with a big firm doesn't mean you can't help your people, she said adding that she is involved with community organizations.

Huff said a person born in 1980 is in the mainstream and has to live with that. But that doesn't mean that person should sell out his heritage.

Pichota said that anyone staying in an isolated Indian community could not help his people

Frank asked panelists if working for the government caused conflict in pursuing a cause.

Governmental conflicts mixed

Huff said that an Indian lawyer in a tribal situation is not in conflict because issues are oriented toward the tribe. That makes it easier because you do what your government wants and there isn't such a mixture of opinions, he said.

Pichota said that a lawyer can't be a prosecutor and a social engineer but when a lawyer represents government agencies, the lawyer is in an advantageous position to promote change.

Huff said he worked as a prosecutor after graduating from law school and it was an attempt by a small segment of the non-Indian population to use him.

Positive efforts needed

Guerra said some law school graduates are hired by the government first because of a strong affirmative action program.

Also, she said that prestigious law firms take only the top 10 in the class.

And, most minority graduates don't have the money to start a practice.

Frank said there are not many minority students enrolled in accredited law colleges across the nation. He asked panelists if the law college could do more to help minorities enroll.

Guerra said that positive efforts should be made early and suggested reaching students at the high school rather than the college level.

Pichota said the criteria for getting in preclude a lot of Indian students from qualifying.

"How many points do you give a person with a sincere effort to go to law school?" he asked.

Frank said the UNL College of Law does use a subjective test that looks at the whole person and not just test scores.

Workshop . . .

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a presentation the job interview at 1 p.m.

A Cheech and Chong film will end the day. Showings are at 7 and 9 p.m. at the East Union Great Plains room. The cost is \$1.

Friday, the Chicano Graduate Students and the Nebraska Department of Education are sponsoring a bilingual workshop.

Saturday will be an activity day beginning with an 8 a.m. fun run at Pioneer Park. Quevedo said all participants will receive a T-shirt and can register to run one, three, or six miles.

The Mexican-American Cultural Development Group from Scottsbluff will give a dance workshop Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. The workshop will be in the Nebraska Union, room to be posted.

The dancers will perform at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Union Centennial room.

Quevedo said there are about 45 dancers in the group, that has a repertoire including dances from all regions of Mexico, from the ranch style dances of the northern states to Indian-influenced dances of the southern states.

The dancers are sponsored in part by the Nebraska Arts Council.

At 9 p.m. Saturday there will be a student and community dance to the music of Reynaldo Cervantes Y sus Caballeros. It will be at the Ranchito Club on West O Street. Admission is \$2.

Elections . . .

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For the Hare System to indicate a majority vote, Davidson said the cards have to be run through the computer several times. The process is designed with a built in run-off election, he said.

The cards are run through the computer several times until a majority vote is indicated and to double-check the results for accuracy, he said.

Davidson said a lot of people saw the first results when they came through the computers that morning and rumors might have started as to who won the presidential spot. The final print-out results with number total for the entire election was done early Friday evening, he said.

Rocky Yapp, director of the electoral commission, would not say when he was aware of the first election results because of the injunction. Yapp said he was notified at 8 or 9 a.m. Thursday by the ASUN secretary that a complaint had been brought about the election asking that the results be withheld.

Munson said he and Walkowiak come to terms of cooperation and agreement. They now mutually believe, he said, that their position is twofold. First, they hold that the election should stand and the results be made known. Secondly, it is vital to future student elections that an inquiry be made into the electoral process. Walkowiak plans to amend her suit before the court to drop the request that the elections be declared null and void, Munson said.

Earlier Munson had claimed that Walkowiak and Grabowski's suit was conjured up by student groups to gain more time for a cause already lost in student court.

"Students are the ones that lose," Wessels said. The election was scheduled for last week so that the new student regent could participate in last Saturday's Regent's meeting, she said. This is also a crucial time in the university budget process, she said, because the budget is before the legislature now and students are needed in the lobbying process.

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