



EVIDENCE

The *ISL Evidence* is published by the International School of Law, 1441 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, John W. Brabner-Smith, Dean.

It is published as a service to ISL students and their families and to provide information to others with an interest in the school.

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ISL Acquires \$.5 Million Property **There's No Place Like Home!**

Part I

The International School of Law's house-hunting days are over. With hardly a month remaining until the start of the Fall semester, the School negotiated a half-million-dollar property deal with the Washington Bible College for the acquisition of five contiguous "townhouses" and a library building spanning 1441-1453 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.

The Cinderella-hour negotiations followed nearly a year of intensive search for a property which could accommodate a burgeoning student body and faculty and at the same time provide a high standard of law school-related facilities.

The newly acquired premises on the north side of Rhode Island Avenue occupy 28,000 sq. ft. of ground, of which 17,940 sq. ft. are occupied by the six buildings. The four-story Victorian brick structures and library will yield approximately 80,000 sq. ft. or two acres of usable office, dormitory, and classroom facilities including a residence for Dean and Mrs. Brabner-Smith.

The serpentine labyrinth of nearly 100 rooms reveals magnificent "chessboard" parquet floors and an intricate array of inlaid tile mantels, reflecting the style and tradition of the Washington, D.C., homeowner before the turn of the 20th century. Neighbors of yesteryear would have included the Alexander Graham Bells and the Roosevelts.

The new properties represent about 16 times the total space in which ISL operated at the 1717 Rhode Island Avenue address during the 1973-74 academic year.

Work has already been completed at the 1441-1443 addresses to ready four classrooms, an auditorium, SBA, Law Review, faculty and newspaper offices as well as faculty and student lounges and Board of Trustees meeting room.

"Progressive restoration will be the key to future rehabilitation of other buildings," noted Administrative Dean Daniel Smith.

Looking Back; Meigs Again

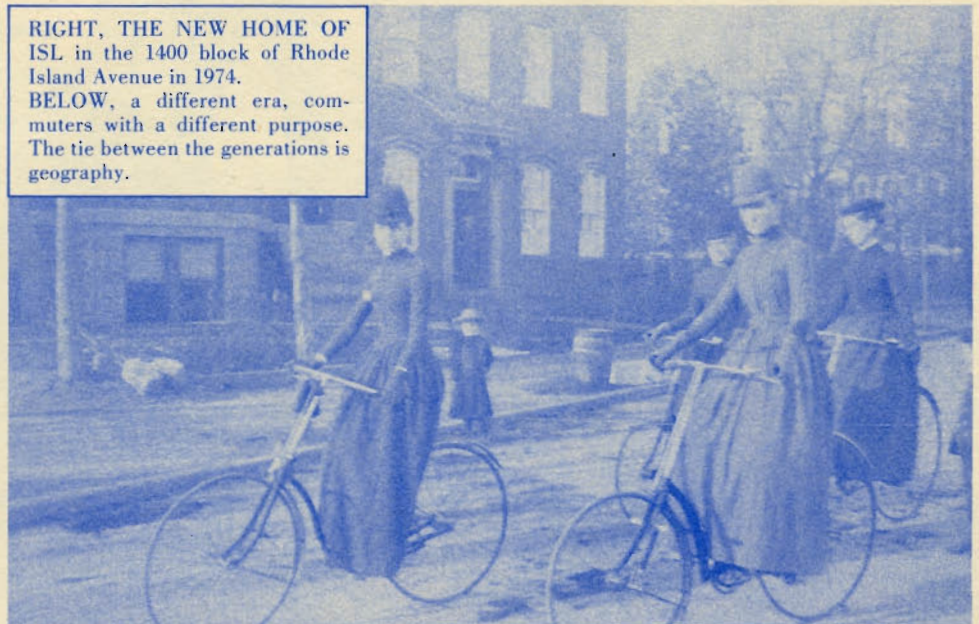
Several 1850 watercolor sketches by Montgomery Meigs, then chief engineer of the Capitol, show that urban development hadn't yet touched the Logan Circle area, a block east of ISL's properties. Val Meigs, School SBA

(continued on p. 2)



RIGHT, THE NEW HOME OF ISL in the 1400 block of Rhode Island Avenue in 1974.

BELOW, a different era, commuters with a different purpose. The tie between the generations is geography.



(Acquisition, from p. 1)

president, is a descendent of the famed nineteenth century draftsman.

The Logan Circle area was to progress from slash run to meadow to farm land. It would become a hangin' ground for a disrespectful Civil War private and then develop as Washington's exclusive West End—home of Washington's neo-elite class of professionals and bureaucrats. Embassies and legations would surround the present ISL home. The nearby Connecticut Avenue downtown business hub would follow.

Maj. Pierre L'Enfant had envisioned Rhode Island Avenue and Logan Circle only as a "special" area on his drawing board—notwithstanding today's 1400 block as a roofline hectic with turrets, spires, pinnacles, pavilions, balustrades, dormers, cupolas and elaborately profiled chimneys.

President Washington's literal right hand at the city planning drawing board would not live long enough to witness the garrot tighten around the neck of Private Lanahan. Nor would he see the 1886 District of Columbia telephone directory listing 1441 Rhode Island Avenue N.W. as the home of "Mary M. Tiers, widow of William H."

"Surveys and Plats" of the District indicate that 1441 still stood alone in 1887. The other buildings to the east comprising the row of smooth-surfaced, red brick Victorian homes, later to become the facilities of ISL, would follow before the turn of the century.—T.S.

NEXT ISSUE: PART II. A Hangin' Party and Hell's Bottom.



ISL Progresses Toward Accreditation Standards

Just two short years ago in the fall of 1972, the International School of Law opened its one door in the Bar Review Lecture Hall of the Federal Bar Building in Washington to 25 students. This fall, about 400 students—including 200 freshmen—will pursue the study of law at ISL's new home in the former facilities of the Washington Bible College.

To many of these students, new and returning alike, probably the biggest school-related concern (much to the Dean's disappointment) is approval of ISL by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association.

Dean Brabner-Smith recently reminisced that when he sought admission to Yale's law school from its college, he asked the then-assistant dean, Robert Hutchins, what the law school would do to help him become a lawyer in Illinois. Hutchins remarked, "That's your problem. We're only concerned with giving you a good education." Says Dean Brabner-Smith, "Some classmates chose to go to local law schools, which materially aided them with the Bars. But the ultimate success of so many who attended Yale while I was there seemed to me to be due to their primary concern to be well-educated, as distinguished from receiving a technical training." The Dean added that ISL is committed to a program of obtaining every recognition and accreditation which will benefit ISL students in their desire for a knowledge of law, "and this includes A.B.A. approval."

Each student is cautioned to select his legal education program in conformity with the rules for the admission to the Bar in the jurisdiction where he/she wants to practice. ISL's program meets the requirements of most states. Some states require a first-year student to register with the appropriate court governing admission to the Bar in that state.

The Fall 1973 issue of *National Bar Examiner* magazine contains information on bar admissions of each of the states and the District of Columbia, including such things as residency requirements, subjects tested, multi-state participation, and the names and addresses of the bar admissions officials. Requirements and procedures vary from state to state. Further, students should be aware of the distinction between taking the bar exam and being admitted to the bar to practice. The exam is only one aspect of admission; many jurisdictions also include an examination of character and personal appearance.

Getting Accredited

The category of approvals obtained by a law school which is popularly considered to be the do-or-die approval is that of A.B.A. However, there are a number of other inspections and approvals a law school must experience, in addition to A.B.A.'s, for it to be a properly established institution of higher learning.

ISL has already successfully been through at least two inspections, including occupancy at 1717 Rhode Island and licensure.

One important step already taken was in getting approval from the local government to grant the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence. This was obtained after a two-day inspection visit by officials of the D.C. Board of Higher Education for Licensure, who patterned their inspection after the type which A.B.A. conducts. The team included two lawyers/educators (professors of law at Georgetown University's Law School and American University's Washington College of Law) and a vice president of Gallaudet College, the latter a consultant on higher education for D.C. and a veteran of many inspections. The team

reported favorably to the Board, and ISL received licensure to grant the J.D. degree.

Around the beginning of the Fall 1974 session, officials from the D.C. Board of Education visited the School, met with professors and administrators and examined the facilities. The purpose of approval by this Board is to meet the Veterans Administration's requirement that the local government education agency accredit a school before allowing veterans benefits to be paid to students. The officials who inspected ISL were the Board's V.A. liaison, Tom Inge, and its legal counsel, David Split. The two have submitted their findings and approval has been given ISL, and veterans may now begin receiving benefits.

The A.B.A. Inspection

ISL will graduate its first class of J.D.'s in June 1975, and the School has set as its goal obtaining provisional approval from A.B.A. by then.

To obtain and retain A.B.A. approval, a law school must meet a number of varied but fairly specific requirements. (A booklet on the A.B.A. Standards for the Approval of Law Schools is available free from the Association's Washington office, 1730 DeSales Street, N.W., Washington.)

The authority to grant and withdraw approval of a law school is vested in the A.B.A. House of Delegates. A school is first granted provisional approval when it establishes that it "substantially complies with the Standards" and can assure full compliance within three years after receiving provisional approval. Students at provisionally approved law schools and who graduate during such approval are entitled to the same recognition and privileges accorded to students and graduates of fully approved schools. After a minimum of two and a maximum of five years under provisional approval, a law school must demonstrate full compliance with A.B.A. requirements and secure full accreditation. During each year of provisional approval, the school is visited by an A.B.A. official.

The application procedure for approval is fairly informal, according to the A.B.A. booklet on Standards. The usual course for an applicant school is to complete a questionnaire to permit evaluation of the school's status in light of the Standards and to request a visit from an inspector. A.B.A. will also provide a consultant to the school during its preparation for inspection. (Before ISL commenced, the A.B.A. executive secretary, Prof. Millard Ruud—now executive secretary of the elite American Association of Law Schools—came from Texas to Washington to give the organizers advice which was essential to developing the School.)

Inspections usually take three days and include visits to classes, inspection of records and transcripts, canvas of the library, a check on the information in the questionnaire, and consultations with the chief executive officer of the school, the dean, members of the faculty and students. The inspectors then write a report to the Council of A.B.A.'s Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, which considers the application and makes a recommendation for action to the A.B.A. House of Delegates.

The A.B.A. House meets twice a year. The earliest ISL could be considered would be during a joint House/Board of Governors meeting in Chicago, February 19-25, 1975. The next meeting of the House is August 11-15, 1975, in Montreal.

ISL Administrative Dean Daniel D. Smith said the School has been in touch with James White, Dean of Indiana University Law School and the current A.B.A. consultant, to



ISL happily boasts the "newest law library in town." The modern facility, open fourteen hours daily, was literally superimposed over the library of the old Washington Bible College

suggest dates for visitation, which will probably occur in December. Dean Smith said ISL is prepared to complete the questionnaire and is "up to snuff on all requirements," except perhaps average faculty salaries which A.B.A. requires to be "reasonably related to the prevailing compensation of comparably qualified private practitioners and government attorneys and of the judiciary." However, the Dean said, he does "not consider that to be in and of itself prohibitive of accreditation."

The six areas which are closely scrutinized by the A.B.A. inspectors are: 1) organization and administration of the school, 2) its educational program, 3) faculty, 4) admission policies, 5) library and 6) physical plant. Following are some of the specific requirements, matched with ISL progress.

Organization and Administration. ISL meets the requirements, including organization as a non-profit educational institution, financial soundness and equality of opportunity. Affiliation with a university is "desirable," but not required. ISL is discussing informal affiliation with a number of established colleges, primarily smaller schools, with the purpose of getting qualified students from these schools who are academically qualified but do not have the advantages of graduating from a university with its own law school. Affiliation would be professional in nature, as opposed to a sharing of resources such as endowment. It could include the library and perhaps faculty.

Faculty. ISL meets the requirements, including a minimum of six full-time faculty, full-time dean, and law librarian. Dr. John Montgomery, who has a Ph.D. in library science, is ISL's librarian; Ms. Fran Adams, with a Master's in the same subject, will be assisting him. In addition, in compliance with the Standards, most of the first-year curriculum is being taught by full-time faculty.

Admissions. Again, ISL meets the requirements. The School generally requires a Bachelor's degree, although A.B.A. allows admission of persons with three years of undergraduate work. The median averages for ISL's second-year class, for example, is 2.7 undergraduate GPA and 531 on the LSAT. But "we don't worship these figures," Dean Smith said. The School also places much weight on personal interviews and recommendations, the latter of which has swayed a decision in many borderline cases. "You can usually tell whether a recommender really knows the individual and, from the language used, whether he thinks the prospective student should be in law school," he said.

Once admitted, students must maintain an overall average of at least 70.

Library. The ISL library, being revamped from a previously smaller library facility, contains all the materials re-

quired by A.B.A. except for two second-series regional reporters and the attorney general collections, which will be obtained by the time an inspection is made. Legal research students will be able to do substantially all of their research in the ISL law library. While not required, the School can make good use of donations of government agency reports, individual treatises, state statutes, state digests, and English and other foreign materials.

Physical Plant. The new ISL buildings are more than adequate to meet the A.B.A. requirements. (See story on page one on the acquisition.)—L.V.

Student Medical Insurance Available from A.B.A.

The American Bar Association's Law Student Division offers combined accident and sickness coverage to Division members and their families. (The *Evidence* has requested enough membership and insurance application forms for the ISL student body which will hopefully be available at the Student Bar Association office by the time this issue is off the press.)

Membership in the Student Division of A.B.A. costs \$3.00 a year and entitles the applicant to enroll in as many as three of the 20 A.B.A. sections. Sections such as Administrative Law, Real Property, and Probate and Trust Law, however, cost an additional \$3.00 a year. Each section provides an opportunity for active student participation, and most sections issue publications on their field of law on a regular basis.

The only qualifying criterion for insurance coverage is membership in the Law Student Division. Mutual of Omaha underwrites the plan, with coverage beginning on the date of enrollment and terminating the following September 1. Eligible dependents are the wife or husband of an insured student and children between one month and 19 years of age.

Insurance rates were due to be increased, but last year's rates should be a reasonable indicator of cost. Last year, a single student could obtain full coverage from September to September for \$50.88 a year. Rates for students with dependent spouses and children were higher (e.g., \$109.20 for student plus spouse and one child), and there was a sliding premium scale for students enrolling in the plan after September.

Under the A.B.A. student plan, benefits are payable to a maximum of \$2,500 for each accident or sickness, based on either a fixed rate or percentage, depending on the charges. This coverage is limited to ambulance service and in-patient care at a hospital.

Major medical expense benefits cover 80 per cent of the expenses for which benefits are not paid under the basic plan, after a \$100 minimum for each accident or sickness up to \$7,500. A partial list of expenses covered under this extension includes treatment by a physician or surgeon, x-rays, use of operating room and related care, lab service, medicines and plaster casts. Those law students with mental diseases or disorders will get no relief for these afflictions under the plan.

Maternity benefits are available on an optional basis to any student and spouse who enroll during October and pay an extra \$100. Benefits cover expenses incurred for full-term childbirth occurring more than nine months after the effective date of the policy for students and spouses, and less than nine months after the policy's termination date. Coverage is \$200 for normal childbirth, \$100 for miscarriage or complications, and up to \$300 for caesarean section.—B.F.

Judge Condon: Erudite And Dedicated to ISL

Around the International School of Law, he's known as "The Judge." That's all it takes to identify David F. Condon, who converted his 20-plus years of judgeship and alter-role as military legal officer into still another dual responsibility in 1972, at the then-brand-new ISL, where he first was associate professor and later professor and director of admissions.

A New Yorker by birth, young Condon early probed the "criminal justice" system of Harlem, the lower Bronx, and Manhattan's lower east side, as an insurance company investigator and special agent. Then came World War II and the U.S. Marine Corps.

The post-war years found David Condon, Esq., with the Disability Claims Service and Board of Veterans Appeals for the Veterans Administration. He then served as counsel to Hon. Paul Max Hertzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

During the next 20 years, the Marine/lawyer was commissioner to the U.S. Court of Military Appeals—a period in which he was intimately concerned with the disposition of more than 8,000 criminal cases.

Judge Condon also wore another hat. The military—active and reserve—closely paralleled his civilian career. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Condon was a Marine Corps private. Two months later, a newly commissioned Lieutenant Condon would see active duty in the first of three wars or conflicts where he was to hold positions including Assistant Chief of Staff for the Fleet Marine Force at the Atlantic and Pacific command level. Coincidental with his service retirement as Colonel in 1972, the Judge brought down his gavel for the last time.

Schooled at Brown University (AB), Fordham University (LLB and LD) and George Washington University (LLM), the Judge added a Masters in MST recently at the American University here.

His professional memberships include the Bars of New York, Federal and the District of Columbia. Historical lean-



ings have earned him memberships in the Military History Society of Ireland, the New York Historical Society, the National Teachers Association and the Organization of American Historians.

As ISL's admissions director, he maintains close ties with the guidance officers of more than 60 colleges and universities nationwide to assure ISL a continuing fine caliber of highly motivated and qualified students, including important minority admissions.

As an ISL professor, the erudite judge has taught torts, criminal and constitutional law, and legal history. His lectures are spiced with colorful legal anecdotes giving "life" to the law—and are drawn from a brilliant legal career spanning more than a third of a century.

Judge Condon and his wife, Mary Louise, also an attorney and a retired Marine Corps Colonel, live in nearby Vienna, Virginia.

International Professor Joins ISL Faculty

The international dimension of ISL studies was measurably strengthened with the recent addition of John Kingsley Ebiasah to the faculty.

Born and educated in Ghana, West Africa, he is highly qualified in the areas of comparative law, African law, human rights and international organizations.

Ebiasah, who received his LLB degree from the University of Ghana, later earned his Master of Comparative Jurisprudence from Howard University Law School here. He also earned teaching credentials from the University of London.



He finds American law students more serious, dedicated and motivated than students of the British common law in Ghana. "By contrast," he says, "the British law is conservative and inflexible to meet the needs of a progressive society like we have in America," adding, "Here, the law is geared toward the needs and aspirations of a highly flexible society."

Ebiasah is a member of the Ghana Bar and has previously lectured in law at the Institute of Professional Studies, Legon, Ghana, and at Howard University.

His memberships include the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. and the International Association of Lawyers. He is a former assistant pastor of the United Methodist Church here.

Mr. and Mrs. Ebiasah, with their two children, reside in the District of Columbia.

Washington, D.C.
**More than Georgetown,
Museums**

The seven law schools housed in the 67 sq. mi. area of Washington, D.C., will graduate more than 1,000 lawyers into the mainstream of legal life next June. Of this number—if past figures are indicative—approximately 20 per cent of the graduates will remain in the metropolitan Washington area to work for the federal government. Another 10 per cent will staff corporations or go into business for themselves in “Uncle Sam’s Company Town.”

Certainly, job availability is an important factor in selecting the National Capital as a first base of operation. But Washington is more than just a place to land your first legal job. It is a city to be enjoyed while you are here.

The opportunities and prices, moreover, are right for students.

Using ISL as your base of operation, for a 40-cent bus fare or a dollar for a cab or Tourmobile, you can lose yourself on Capitol Hill or probe the shelves of the Library of Congress.

The Capitol provides free guided tours of its interior and becomes a starting point for short walks to other major attractions: the Senate and three House office buildings.

The House and Senate Chambers, Statuary Hall, the Rotunda, and the President’s Room are well worth the fare. So is the visit to the nearby U.S. Supreme Court, where your textbook cases will come alive with historical significance.



... the Supreme Court of the United States of America

... birdseye balcony view of Washington at night from a student's apartment in nearby Arlington, Va.



All Work, No Play: Dull

Probably the safest place to play is the four-fifths of a square mile of a city-within-a-city called Georgetown.

For bicyclists, Georgetown is the gateway to a fine cycle path on the C&O Canal, where you can observe the engineering skills of our first President. The National Park Service is working to restore the hurricane-damaged water works of the Canal so that it will again be one of the most fascinating and tranquil canoe adventures in the country today.

The main activities in Georgetown are laughing, seeing, being seen, eating green ice cream, parading cleavages, reeking of patchouli oil and circumnavigating panhandlers.

It is said of Georgetown that the freaks hate the cops, the cops hate the faggots, the merchants hate the sidewalk vendors, the restorationists hate the developers, the residents hate the drunks, the French Poodles hate the German Shepherds, and nobody much cares for the dog droppings that decorate the sidewalks.

But cast your vision above the sidewalks and bistros of Washington. Look for the beauty here and cloak yourself in the city's culture and history for a truly memorable experience.

If you make Washington "happen" to you, you'll know why so many young attorneys elect to stay here following graduation.

What better place to launch a legal career!—T.S.

Above all, meet your Congressman. He'll probably be very happy to see you, and you may for the first time discover that no person is an untouchable in Washington. While you're visiting, be sure to ask his administrative assistant for information on the many free VIP tours which his office can provide for students.

The political and sightseeing capital of the nation is also fast becoming the cultural capital. No longer is Washington just a place where Congress meets, the President lives, and the Redskins play football. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in 1971, is the world's finest cultural facility, housing four major theaters. The first national park for the performing arts, the nearby Wolf Trap Farm Park in suburban Virginia, provides a modern open-air auditorium for ballet, opera, symphonic music, jazz and drama.

Notable Washington theaters include the National, historic Ford's Theater, Arena Stage and the Washington Theater Club, to say nothing of the dozens of dinner theaters, suburban theaters and back-alley groups. Most offer student rates. Call first.

The Nation's Capital is also the premier city on the American art scene, being the only city with seven major art galleries including the recently opened Mall gallery which cabbies recognize as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. At least, most of them do.

Washington is many different things to many people, but it is the perfect host if you stay on the beaten track. It is a city with racial overtones but then again, so it was a century ago. Don't try to resolve the problem, if any, yourself. Chances are your moral myopia will backfire.

... below, a Georgetown stretch of the 185-mile C&O Canal, early American engineering feat and challenging towpath for cyclists.



ISL Law Review Born in July 1974

The first issue of the *ISL Law Review*, with the theme of "The Law Above the Law," will be published in April 1975.

Among the authors of lead articles are former Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark, who served the Court as Associate Justice from 1949 until his retirement in 1967, and Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, internationally noted theologian, author and intellectual, who has studied and taught all over the world and who is the new head of the ISL Law Library.

The *Law Review* was organized on student initiative this past summer. What began in late May as rather informal and all-invited committee meetings on Friday nights, produced a hard core of workers which gelled in July (complete with articles of association, by-laws and manual of operation) to form a Law Review Board of Editors and staff.

Initially, the *Review* was to be an intramural effort, produced by students and funded largely by the Student Bar Association. However, late in the summer, the ISL Board of Trustees recognized the *Review* as an operation of the school, thus relieving it of intramural status on the assumption that the end product will be a professional, scholarly work meeting the high standards set for such efforts.

In addition to the Montgomery and Clark articles on "The Law Above the Law" (*jus*, rather than *lex*), there will be a number of case and editorial notes by ISL students on various topics which will be published.

Full membership in the *Review* is limited to third-year students who completed a publishable case or editorial note during his/her candidate status during second year. The commitment to the *Review* is for two years. Those eligible for membership are students with an above-80 grade point average and who have taken legal research. Next year's candidates must participate in a writing competition, a requirement which was waived during this first year of the *Law Review's* operation.

Members of the 1974-1975 Board of Editors of the *ISL Law Review* are: Robert J. Crotty (third year), editor-in-chief; Sidney H. Howard (first year), business editor; Elizabeth Oyster (second year), production editor; John Davies (third year), topics editor; Doug Congdon (second year), topics editor; Sherwood Day (third year), articles editor; and Lois Vermillion (second year), articles editor. Arlene Fischler (second year) is secretary to the Board. Curran C. Tiffany, ISL Trustee, is the *Review's* advisor and provides liaison to the administration; and Mrs. Jean Fisk, an attorney with extensive law review experience in Oklahoma (and Trustee/Con-Law Professor James Fisk's wife), will be assisting the *Review's* Board, members and candidates in organizing and producing the *Review*, in her capacity as ISL director of publications.

Can You?

... or do you want to, write articles or submit photographs for publication? Can you draw, e.g., editorial cartoons? Can you do layout and design? The *ISL Evidence* needs and welcomes your contributions. Articles and photographs on almost any law-related or school-related topic, particularly those involving students and faculty, will be considered for publication. Compensation is your own by-line.

D.C.'s Best Title Search

It all started in the 30's, when a young real-property teacher, temporarily in the Capitol City to get the government's new home-loan insurance program on the road, met up with a still-younger lawyer, John M. Conroy, who was searching the title for one of the first FHA loans ever made. The older lawyer told Conroy that he was trying to set up "Fanny May," a mortgage bank which would buy insured mortgages. This would inevitably boom the home purchase market and the title search business, he thought.

Last month, almost 40 years later, John Conroy Sr., who now has five law offices in suburban Maryland, answered the phone. "John, this is Brab. I've forgotten all about title searching. The International School of Law has just acquired the occupancy rights of the old Bible College property on Rhode Island Avenue. We will have to take title soon, and I don't want to pay you the usual fee for the search or title guarantee. We need the money for books. But we have a good real-property class." "That's it," replied Conroy, "have each member of the class make a title search from the last insured title date, and have the teacher check it."

So this became an 11th-hour exam problem for the summer property class. With a score of first-year law students descending on his records, even the Clerk of title records in the District of Columbia got into the spirit—going so far as to open the records office on Saturday for Reg Barry. "There'll never be another search like that," said an official, adding, "I hope." Professors Aunon and Terrar are "grading the papers." The older lawyer who was working to get FHA established in the 30's is more commonly referred to, around ISL in the 70's, as "The Dean."

Vermillion, Seagears Head ISL Evidence

Colorful as her name and banana-yellow "Ghia," Lois Vermillion has been appointed Managing Editor for the 1974-75 editions of the *ISL Evidence*.

A journalism graduate of The American University here in Washington, Ms. Vermillion brings a wealth of editorial background to the *Evidence*, including four years as editor of the *Potomac Basin Reporter*, monthly environmental publication of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

Formerly as staff reporter for McGraw-Hill Publications, she has covered the U.S. Congress and government regulatory agencies.

The second-year ISL student and native of Washington, D.C. also serves on the *ISL Law Review* as an articles editor and commutes daily from nearby Silver Spring, Md. She eventually aspires to journalistic reporting of the Supreme Court and additionally plans to offer *pro bono* legal aid in the public interest.

Appointed associate editor and business manager, Thomas Seagears is active in the National Press Club, and Sigma Delta Chi, professional society for journalists.

Beginning his journalism career as a television and radio script writer for Smokey the Bear, Seagears was formerly an account representative-writer with J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency in New York, and public relations director for the National Newspaper Association here.

He also served as a public relations advance man for former President Nixon in the 1968 campaign and subsequently served as assistant publicity chairman for the Inaugural Gala. He was most recently a freelance writer before entering ISL last Fall.

Seagear's twin brother, Murray, has his own established law firm in Fairfax, Va.

Davies Bags Eastern "Dear," Western Moose

Senior John Davies proved his prowess as a "great white hunter" over the summer.

He bagged a trim, 120-pound dear sans antlers in Cleveland and topped it off by downing nearly half a ton of Mulligan Bull Moose in Alaska later in the month.

The busy ISLr's local quarry was Eastern Air Lines flight attendant Randi Wockenfuss whom Davies married in Cleveland on August 2.

The honeymooning couple then trekked to Alaska where they met while Davies was stationed as aide-de-camp to the Chief of Staff for the Joint Alaska Command. The ecology-conscious Davies, on a "for meat only" hunt near Seward, bagged his Mulligan, famous for its tasty steaks.

Mr. and Mrs. Davies, who now reside in an 8x35-foot house trailer in Alexandria, plan their return to Alaska following his graduation from ISL, at which time the former SBA president will enter the general practice of law.



Randi Wockenfuss Davies

Top U.S. Debater Joins ISL First-year Class

Suzon Franzke, a member of the U.S. Olympic Debating Team, looked up at the Dean from the fireplace mantel she was painting in the student lounge and answered, "Yes, my LSAT was low, but I was accepted at four other law schools approved by the A.B.A."

"Why did I come here? This school places emphasis on moral and ethical standards, not on elegant furnishings. The professors are obviously dedicated to developing the students, and most of them have had wide practical experience. Then I had to come all the way from South Carolina for a personal interview. Other law schools don't bother to see what they are getting."

The blond Carolina freshman, with seemingly enough enthusiasm to carry a number of first-year students along (after all, it is contagious), works for a Florida law office and is on an "educational leave of absence," according to Dean Brabner-Smith. "Both the law firm and the dean of her college gave her the highest recommendations. She is not only at the top of woman debaters in the United States, but Suzon is also a Red Cross swimming instructor. The Olympic team is debating Switzerland, Yugoslavia and China this year. Miss Franzke is concerned whether she can carry 16 hours and meet these commitments, all of which are abroad," said the Dean.

Notes on Transfer Students

ISL's Williams Holds M.L. King Fellowship

Lawrence Williams, a transfer student to ISL from a California law school and a graduate of Howard University, holds the 1974 Martin Luther King Fellowship of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

An ex-Marine, Williams knows the District of Columbia well and has been representing the nearby Adams Community School Board as liaison officer with the D.C. Board of Higher Education. He has also aided the Neighborhood Legal Services Program.

No Cut-throat at ISL

Stephen J. Crum from Florida is one of ISL's transfer students. The School recently received a complimentary letter about his internship in the office of Florida Public Defender J.O. Johnson, who wrote, "In my opinion, Mr. Crum is indeed an outstanding young man who shows every potential of developing into a leading member of our legal profession . . . I want to express my gratitude for your faculty and program in the grooming Mr. Crum has received at your institution."

When asked about the difference between the southern law school he attended and ISL, Crum said his grades were about the same, but the student climate is far different. The law school had an aura of "cut-throat competition" and boasted that its students always passed the bar. Crum said the school maintained this bar-passing record by flunking half its students.

Crum lives in the same block as President Chesterfield Smith of the American Bar Association. "President Smith was always active in Florida Bar affairs," Crum said, adding, "he has great sympathy for those students who want to study law but cannot because of their LSAT scores."

What's in an LSAT Score?

"Axiomatic . . . it is too late to do much to alter the character of students of law school age." An American Bar Association committee proposal, made when Leon Jaworski was A.B.A. president, calling on law schools to screen applicants on the basis of character "was virtually hooted down" by law schools. These are recent comments of Dean James Rahl of Northwestern University's Law School.

ISL Dean John Brabner-Smith once taught at Northwestern. He believes, conversely, that the influence of the faculty, the staff and older students does materially affect the character of new students—at least at ISL. He suggested we make a case study of a few who were accepted with low performance records who would be refused admission elsewhere because of those records.

John Haituka of Hawaii, a third-year ISL student, is one interesting case study on point. John's undergraduate GPA was 2.8 and he scored relatively low on the LSAT. His first three semesters proved difficult, but through perseverance, willingness to work and the courage to be vulnerable by asking the aid of other students, his grades have improved and he has overcome the "freeze" during exams and oral class discussion. More importantly, he has shown that legal aptitude is not necessarily measurable by a single test, nor does it depend solely on past performance. He illustrates that fundamental belief of America's heritage: that a person of good character, properly motivated, can succeed.

Advocacy Here's Paint in Your Hair

Two autumns ago, a score of hopeful and prospective barristers began their course of study at the International School of Law, with less than a handful of faculty and staff to guide them.

Many of these young men remain today to form the nucleus of the third-year, senior class which will graduate with their Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees next June.

The study of law was a difficult enough task for the doctoral candidates; being a student in a newly organized law school made the task even more vexing.

Seemingly insurmountable obstacles lurked at every academic turn. Licensure, accreditation, a library, corporate funding and other intricacies of organization presented monumental problems surpassed only by student morale.

Nevertheless, the original students and the several who would join them the next semester doggedly persevered, meeting at first in a makeshift classroom in Washington's ill-defined Foggy Bottom area.

A dedicated faculty, and a dean named Brabner-Smith who wouldn't say "no," tackled the obstacles with alacrity while students digested the books.



DEAN BRABNER-SMITH: The man who wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

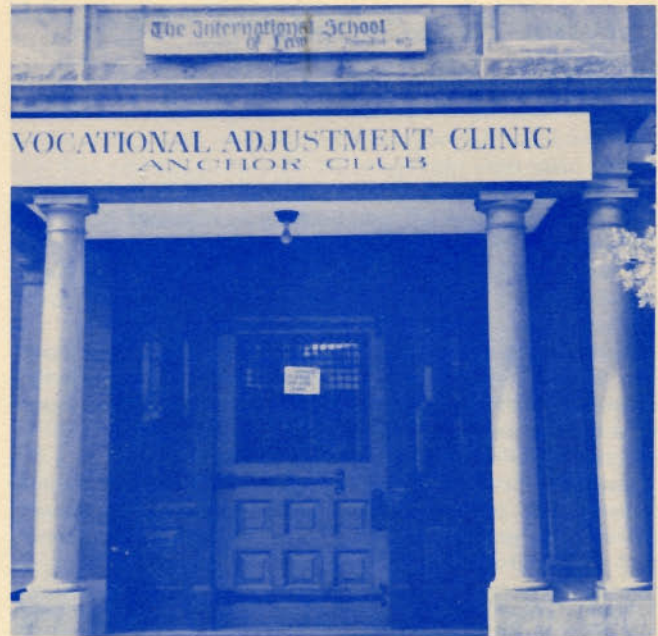
Before the Fall 1972 term was over, the School hurriedly moved to still another temporary headquarters—this time occupying a third-story "walkup" in one of Rhode Island Avenue's classic but long-abused residential homes.

The first two floors of the dwelling were rented by a vocational rehab clinic for down-and-outers gambling for a comeback—which prompted the classic remark of one of the older students: "I was never sure which floor I belonged on."

The ascent to the dimly lit, third-floor classrooms was steepened when one pondered that following classwork, there was still a long hike in the night to a "borrowed" library at GWU or the Georgetown School of Law.

In the meantime, ISL's own library was growing in amoebic fashion as evidenced by the dozens of book-filled mail pouches and cartons strewn the stairwell and entranceway to the leased 1717 Rhode Island Avenue facility.

The books continued to flow in—including tens of hundreds trucked down from Gotham by student volunteers.



Several thousands of dollars would later be expended by the school to offer a complete study retreat.

In the Autumn of 1973, nearly 150 newcomers swelled the ranks of the incoming class of '76, most of whom are still with us. These young men and women along with the nucleus force—paint brushes and hammers in hand—helped improve the classroom atmosphere. Combined attendance at day and night school meant the two classrooms were rarely empty.

A handpainted, rustic board inscribed to read, "International School of Law, founded 1972," was the only external evidence that legal minds were at work on the third floor. The "Vocational Rehabilitation Clinic Anchor Club" sign dominated our little board.

The founders and administration continued to plug for academic licensure which came from the District of Columbia government at Christmastide of 1973.

Morale soared. The third-floor ascent became less breathtaking . . . the lack of facilities less confining for the Spring 1974 semester.

Most ISL students were away this past summer when the Washington Star-News published a feature on the opening of still another new law school in July. These students still hadn't returned for fall classes when the same newspaper carried the obit on the close of the ill-fated Commonwealth School of Law, nearly a month to the day of its "opening." Those of us who read the article appreciated even more the expertise of the organization men behind us.

The Washington summer had been its usual hot and humid self; the faculty felt the heat even more. Several deals on "permanent" property acquisitions had proven unsatisfactory over the past year. The situation was tense. Students would be returning shortly—not only the 200 already enrolled, but also another 200 already accepted into the freshman class.

The eleventh hour was here. And passing.

Then, as if by divine order, the school bell tolled in late August when the transaction for the present properties was closed. The returning and new class of ISL'rs had a home. And an even more splendid home the newly acquired six buildings will be in the future.

Yes, there is restoration work to be done. A lot of it. But we now have numerous classrooms, a ballroom-sized auditorium complete with an out-of-tune baby grand, and rooms galore for administrative and staff offices, and dormitories.

. . . paint-pushing advocates

The necessary paste, putty, paint and plaster repair work yet to be done is not new to the early and miniscule student body of ISL. We've been that road before, and we can do it again.

Those remaining of the original score of pioneering students who weren't afraid to take a chance will appropriately graduate just one year prior to the National Bicentennial of '76. They will graduate from a proud, short-sleeved heritage of faculty and students with guts as big as their hearts.

New students will notice a number of "old-timers"—students, faculty and trustees—darting hither and yon between classes with variegated shades of paint in their hair and discoloration of their fingernails. Forgive them. They got that way from almost 3,000 man-hours of hammering or sawing or perhaps from stripping nearly a century of wax and old paint from the interior walls and floors of our "new" and soon-to-be-refurbished facility. Incidentally, nearly two thirds of those hours were voluntary contributions of muscle, talent and love.

Occasionally, you'll hear the whirl of a drill and the staccato crack of a hammer as another room is readied to complete the School plant.

The oldtimers are aware that the American Bar Association inspection will soon be upon us. The ISL administration, in meeting rigid ABA requirements, has fulfilled its promise to provide a full-scale library operation, the necessary complement of full-time professors, and the extremely important physical plant.

The state of repair of the building facility will most certainly be weighed in A.B.A.'s decision to grant full accreditation so that the 1975 graduating class of men and women and eventually YOU may qualify to take bar examinations on a nationwide scale, with the minimum of red tape.

Take it upon yourself to fully inspect our new facilities. If you should happen to notice an unused paint brush stiffening in the corner, don't be bashful about cleaning it up, or, better yet, putting it to use. Paint parties make great legal rap sessions.

Most important, your constructive involvement can help pave the coveted path to the School's A.B.A. approval and help assure your own legal future.

After all, that's what we're here for, isn't it?—T.S.

Bookstore to Benefit Students

Frank Lembo, ISL senior, has been tapped to manage the School's new bookstore, according to Dean John Brabner-Smith.

"Besides creating jobs for students, the co-op nature of the bookstore operation adds still another important dimension to the rapidly expanding operations of ISL," said Lembo. He emphasized that profits would be funneled back into student activities.

"In addition to carrying the law books required for ISL courses, the bookstore will also serve as an outlet for students wishing to sell their used texts on consignment," Lembo added.

Several thousands of dollars of text and case books were on hand to serve student needs for the Fall term. A full-service operation to include case supplements, outlines and stationery supplies is anticipated by the start of the Fall 1975 semester. The student-manned store will operate on the main floor of the ISL building at 1441 Rhode Island Avenue.

Lembo brings a strong background of business experience to the store's operation, having been a real estate broker and teacher in Ft. Pierce, Fla. He is married and resides in Alexandria, Va.



Orientation speakers hold a rapt audience of incoming first year students.

Dean "Brabs" Opens 1974 Orientation

At the opening orientation assembly of the new law class of 1977 on September 30, 1974, ISL Dean John Brabner-Smith reviewed the policy of the School to select its students on the basis of character, as well as on grades and LSAT scores.

The Dean said this policy was already paying off, and gave an illustration:

The disappearance of books from law school libraries has become a serious problem. There have been instances where the annual loss was so great, that the students had to contribute annually to a "library fund" to replace the missing books. "At our law school, the librarian reported very few books missing out of 10,000 during the past year," the Dean said. He expressed a hope that the students may continue to boast of "going to the law school that has no problem with book pilfering."


The Dean also referred to the ISL policy of small classes—generally not more than 50 students per class. He said this was the same idea Yale had adopted, borrowing the Oxford "Colleges-within-the-University" system. The students get to know one another better in small groups and have intra-mural competition in sports, debating and other activities. He suggested that the four first-year class sections compete with each other and with the second- and third-year classes.

Our Policy

The *ISL Evidence* is funded by the International School of Law. It was organized by students and is written and edited by students, with the promotion of a sense of community at ISL as one of its major goals. The publication will also provide a forum for exchange of ideas and articles of interest to practicing and inchoate lawyers.

The *Evidence's* editorial policy departs from that of most student news publications which run toward the revolutionary. It is one of support for the School, rather than agitation.

Our office is on the third floor of 1443 Rhode Island Ave. Drop by; we need your support.



The purposes of the International School of Law are to provide sound training in the law—the positive law of our nation and of nations (lex) and an education in “the law above the law” (jus)—the concepts of justice, including the classical and Judeo-Christian foundations of our jurisprudence

