Law School to launch overseas summer program

Understanding the new European Union is important in today's world. Learning about it in Europe is a thrill for law students who can experience it firsthand. Drake Law School launches its summer abroad program this May.

Designed to expose students to other countries' legal systems and better prepare them to practice law in a global society, the inaugural four-week session will be held at the University of Nantes in Nantes, France, from May 29 to June 23, 2000.

A global economy has implications for both lawyers and clients. For that reason, students and lawyers alike need to be conversant in international law and cultures, says Law School Dean Peter Goplerud. 

Close to 4,000 law students—including about a dozen from Drake—participated in approximately 125 overseas programs in 1998. That number is expected to increase significantly in the next several years.

Goplerud and Jerry Anderson, the law school's associate dean, were the moving forces behind developing a program that would give law students hands-on learning experiences in an international environment. After visiting several European institutions, Anderson and Goplerud detailed several proposals and presented them to the curriculum committee, which recommended a final program to the entire faculty for approval.

"This is a major step in enhancing the international dimension of our curriculum. It's an investment in the quality of our students' education," says David Walker, law professor and chair of the curriculum committee. "It's an investment in the image and reach of the Law School, and it is part of the ongoing effort to strengthen professional relationships with our colleagues abroad."

Last year, a task force on international law, chaired by law professor Hunter Clark, recommended the development of a summer abroad program to expand on the international and comparative law courses already offered at Drake. In the future, the Law School would like to create an international law center of excellence that would include more participation in international moot court competitions; increased student and faculty exchanges; and symposia featuring international legal scholars and diplomats.

Professor James Adams is the director of the summer program, which will be taught by both Drake and European law faculty. It has been credited by the American Bar Association and is open to students from any ABA-accredited law school.

Room in Legal Center dedicated to Judge Glanton

To Willie Glanton, there was no more logical place for the office furniture of her late husband, Judge Luther T. Glanton Jr., than Drake Law School, the institution that provided the foundation of his profound love of the legal profession.

Glanton, the first black judge in Iowa, graduated from the law school in 1968. His remarkable 32-year legal career included both private practice and serving as a district attorney before being appointed to the district court in 1978 by former Iowa Gov. Robert Ray, BN’52, LW’54.

"Luther was a remarkable human being," said Ray, "He was a great leader. He had a fundamental understanding of people and their problems, and he was able to overcome prejudice and biases. He was respected by the people of his community."

Willie Glanton donated the judge's desk, chair, credenza and several artifacts from his chambers to the Neal and Bea Smith Legal Center. The room where the furniture now sits will be used by clinic students to interview clients as part of their clinic course work.

"Luther Glanton is among our most distinguished graduates," said Dean Peter Goplerud at the dedication ceremony this fall. "This gift will provide inspiration to our students in carrying out the practical experiences of their law school education."

Glanton, who served on Drake's Board of Trustees and was awarded the University's Distinguished Service Award, always had time to visit with law students. He encouraged them to reach their maximum potential in seeking justice for their clients. Nothing could stop them, he emphasized, as long as they were convinced that what they were doing was right.

That was exactly how Glanton lived his life. One of his best known traits was a hearty laugh that — courthouse regulars joked — was how they determined if he was in the building. "How in the world did we get through this ceremony without anyone mentioning that laugh?" asked friend and colleague Roxanne Conlin, LW’66, at the conclusion of the room dedication.