The Law School

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The law school began the academic year 1948-1949 with an enrollment of 347 students. This compares with a student body of 362 in the preceding year. Distribution among classes is as follows: 140 are first year students, 120 are second year students, and 86 are in the senior class. While the decrease in the total student body is only 15 students, of particular significance is the fact that last year's entering class comprised 182 students while this year's entering group numbered only 140. This suggests that
the peak of the post-war enrollment of the law school may have been passed. The size of the freshman group, however, still made it desirable to pursue the plan of dividing the first year classes into sections so as to broaden opportunities for individual participation by the students in the classroom discussions. The student body continues to consist of a relatively high percentage of veterans of World War II. Veterans comprise 80% of the total fall enrollment, and 87% of the first year class.

During the period of peak post-war enrollment, the law school student body increased to approximately three times the normal pre-war registration figure. This condition, with its heavy demands upon the time of faculty and staff, has inevitably caused postponement of certain desirable plans for the development of additional research and teaching programs which the law school has been vitally interested in undertaking. The trend toward a smaller enrollment, if continued, indicates that the law school may expect to approach a point of stabilization in the size of the student body, which will make possible the realization of some of the further aims of the law school. Plans for achievement of these objectives are being currently studied by the law faculty. Noteworthy among such projects are plans for broader and more intensive work in civil law method, codification, and comparative law.

The conclusion of the current fall semester will mark the graduation of the first group which entered under the new curriculum plan inaugurated in September, 1946. Forty-nine students are candidates for the Bachelor of Laws degree in February of 1949 under this plan. Attendance during two summer sessions in lieu of the second semester's work of the normal third year has made such acceleration possible. This particular group of graduates will also have complied with the increased requirements of the group unit plan of the new curriculum under which a number of subjects have been added, especially in the field of public law; and the semester hour requirements for the degree increased to 87 hours.

The faculty at the opening of the 1948-1949 session consisted of eleven full-time members and three part-time lecturers. The following matters of faculty personnel should be noted.

Associate Professor Melvin G. Dakin, B.S., J.D., State University of Iowa, continues on leave of absence during the 1948-1949 session. Mr. Dakin is serving as Assistant to the President of the University.
Charles A. Reynard, B.S., LL.B., Ohio State University, has been appointed as Visiting Associate Professor of Law for the current year to offer courses in Taxation, Administrative Law and Constitutional Law. Mr. Reynard comes to the faculty from the University of Utah School of Law where he taught from 1946 to 1948. To the teaching of his important courses in the field of public law he brings a wealth of practical experience from his extended service with the government in work as Regional Attorney for the United States Department of Labor for the period from 1939 to 1946.

With the opening of the fall semester, the undersigned resumed his duties as dean of the Law School following a year's assignment with the United States Military Government in occupied Germany as one of the civilian judges in the Farben case at the Nurnberg trials of major war criminals.

During the academic year 1947-1948, Professor Henry George McMahon served with distinction as the acting dean of the Law School. Professor McMahon has been granted a leave of absence of one year as of February, 1949, to accept a temporary appointment at attorney for the newly consolidated city-parish governments of East Baton Rouge. The law school is proud of Mr. McMahon's willingness to render this public service by lending his legal abilities to assist in the establishment of this new plan of local government during the critical period of transition and reorganization. The loss to the law school will be minimized under an arrangement whereby he will continue to conduct the class in Louisiana Practice as a part-time lecturer during the period of his leave.

Milton M. Harrison has been appointed Assistant Professor of Law and has assumed the faculty editorship of the Louisiana Law Review. In the latter capacity, Mr. Harrison succeeds Professor Wex. S. Malone whose contribution in the development of the Louisiana Law Review merits the appreciation of all friends of the law school and of the legal profession in Louisiana. The gratifying progress made by the Review in recent years indicates broad areas for future work in the further development of Louisiana's legal literature.

Part-time appointees to the faculty during the current academic year, chosen from the Baton Rouge bar, include:

Alvin B. Rubin, B.S., LL.B., Louisiana State University, is teaching the course in Sales and Real Estate Transactions during
the fall semester and will conduct the seminar in Law Office Practice during the second semester.

R. Gordon Kean, A.B., LL.B., Louisiana State University, is giving the course in Local Government Law during the first semester.

G. Frank Purvis, Jr., LL.B., Louisiana State University, is offering the course in Insurance during the fall semester.

Pending the selection and appointment of a permanent librarian, Miss Peggy Harper, B.A., B.S. in L.S., Cataloger of the Law Library, has been designated as the acting law librarian for the session of 1948-1949.

The final arguments in the Robert Lee Tullis Moot Court Competition were held on December 9, 1948, before a bench of judges consisting of Justices John B. Fournet, Amos Lee Ponder, Joe B. Hamiter and Harold A. Moise, members of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and Honorable Carlos G. Spaht, Judge of the 19th Judicial District Court. In the written briefs and in the presentation of oral argument, it is considered that this year's final case was one of the most successful in the history of the Competition. The winning team consisted of Alvin B. Gibson of Ponchatoula, Louisiana, and Herschel N. Knight of Jennings, Louisiana. The other participating team was composed of Joseph B. Olinde of New Roads, Louisiana, and Twain K. Giddens, Jr., of Shreveport, Louisiana.

With the appearance of this issue of the Louisiana Law Review, the faculty announces the appointment of the following incoming officers of the Student Board: Editor-in-Chief, Robert T. Jordan of Shreveport; Associate Editors, Stuart D. Lunn of Shreveport, George W. Pugh of Napoleonville, and Wilton H. Williams, Jr., of Shreveport.

Paul M. Hebert, Dean