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Kim Hasten
Indiana Daily Student

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Law school status top priority

IDS

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Dean Boshkoff tells plans

By Kim Hasten
ids Staff Writer

Making the I.U. School of Law in Bloomington rank higher among American law schools is the goal of Douglass Boshkoff, new dean of the school.

Boshkoff was named dean at the Oct. 27 I.U. Board of Trustees meeting at the I.U. Northwest campus in Gary. The appointment necessitated no drastic move for Boshkoff, as he has been acting dean since William Harvey resigned from the post in November, 1971.

Top notch

Comparing I.U. with the more than 150 U.S. law schools, he said, "I don't think anyone would argue that this law school is in the top 25, and some people would place it substantially higher."

Boshkoff plans to be very selective in hiring law school faculty as his first step in raising Bloomington's ranking.

"There are a lot of important things in running a law school. But if you want to pick out one thing that's crucial, it is paying a lot of attention to the people we hire."

He added it is important to keep those outstanding professors who are already here.

Clinical program needed

The new dean is also interested in seeing the Bloomington law school develop more clinical programs.

In a clinical program, he said, "You take students and put them in a practice or a simulated practice situation, and let them apply what they have learned in the classroom to the solution of a problem."

"Clinical education isn't simply putting a student out in the real world so he can have a taste of it. It involves putting a student in a situation that's the real world, or like the real world and then bringing him back to the classroom and saying, 'Did you do a good job?

Why did you handle something this way?'" Boshkoff said.

Communication important

As the new dean, Boshkoff said he thinks he will make sure the legal community understands what is going on in the law school.

"I think it is very important the University administration, members of the Indiana Bar Association and our own students understand what's going on in the law school, so they can give us the support that we need," he explained.

The law school cannot be good without good support, Boshkoff said. It must go out and convince people such support is really merited, he said. "I think one of the main responsibilities of the dean is to make everyone feel at home in the law school."

Boshkoff left Wayne State University in 1962 accepting a teaching position at the I.U. law school. He has

taught securities regulations, contracts and bankruptcy, among other courses.

Boshkoff received the A.B. degree in economics from Harvard University in 1952, but he did not decide until his senior year to enter law school. Law school "looked interesting," to Boshkoff, so he entered Harvard law school in the fall of 1952.

Graduating in 1955, Boshkoff joined a large law firm in Buffalo, N.Y., and worked in real estate property and banking law.

Wanted to teach

Boshkoff said he wanted to teach law "from the first day in law school. I thought teaching law would be a good life."

Boshkoff returned to Harvard in 1957 as a teaching fellow, having courses in legal methods, legal research and legal writing. After teaching two years at Harvard, he joined the faculty at Wayne State as an associate professor, where he stayed until 1962.