Villanova University Belle Air Yearbook - Law School Excerpt - 1988

Class of 1988

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International/Comparative Law is Brought to the University by A World Traveler

Professor John F. Murphy came to the Law School in an unusual way. He originally began teaching here in the fall of 1983 as a visiting professor. Only being here since that time, he considers himself to be a newcomer to the school. Intending to stay only a short time, he surprisingly accepted a permanent position when offered one. For both personal and professional reasons, Murphy decided to stay on at the Law School. Now four and a half years later he says he “enjoys it very much.” Murphy teaches two very interesting fields of law called international and comparative law.

Before coming to this area, Murphy taught and practiced in many different universities around the country and the world. Originally growing up in Larchmont, NY, Murphy obtained both his undergraduate and law degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. While working toward his law degree, Murphy took the extra classes to specialize in international law. Immediately following his graduation, he travelled to India for a year to begin his practice and get experience.

For Murphy that was only the beginning. Internationally, he has been to Paris, France and through the University of San Diego and the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

International/comparative law is a very interesting and rising field within the law practice. With more and more businesses exporting their materials to foreign countries there must be someone for these companies to get legal advice from. Companies such as IBM, which has established itself in cities around the world, needs to know what laws and restrictions apply to them, and what they can do to function in a foreign country without breaking the law. Companies also have cases that involve U.S. laws applied to foreign treaties. Most of the private practice occurs not in the courtroom but in the office. It also involves advising foreign countries about problems they may encounter in the United States.

“In private practice there is no silence, the phone is ringing all the time.”

Considering himself a newcomer to the University, John F. Murphy comes to the Law School after traveling to India, Mexico City and teaching at various colleges throughout the nation.
When talking about the differences between teaching and private practice, Murphy says their are many tradeoffs. He states “I miss the excitement of the cases in the State Department.” When speaking of our Law School, Murphy says there are a lot of great and positive things. “We have a great location. Being on the East Coast gives us a chance to see international law working. You’ve got Washington D.C., New York City with the United Nations, and of course, the State Department.” He also listed being affiliated with the University as a plus. Murphy sees the potential for the University to go from a good law school to one of the “front line” law schools. “The teachers at the law school”, says Murphy, “are involved in research, scholarship and outside activities.” Murphy praises the law school’s placement program and it’s director, Joan Beck.

Professor John Murphy, even though a “young one” as far as the law school is considered, is an excellent addition to the faculty there. He has an enormous amount of experience and offers much to the law program. With international and comparative lawyers becoming in demand, I see no reason why Murphy should do anything but be a success in a successful law school like ours.

by Coleen Bradley

A graduate of Cornell University, John F. Murphy has been at the law school since 1983. After four and a half years he says he “enjoys it very much.”
Many college students across the nation are interested in entering careers in law. What they may not expect is the hassle and complicated procedures they must follow in order to attend law school. Serious applicants must decide to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), which law schools to apply to, and whether or not they are willing to sacrifice three years of time and effort in law school.

Taking the LSAT itself is a costly and perhaps time-consuming affair. The LSDAS service keeps track of all scores and transcript information and costs sixty dollars which is equal to the cost of the test itself. The service also charges about five dollars for each school to which this information is sent.

After the student decides which of the four months he wants to take the exam in (February, June, October or December), he must decide if it is best to invest some money in LSAT preparation courses. Many students realize how important the test can be to their future careers and often choose to invest in such a course. The Shoemaker-Kusko preparation course cost $345 in May of 1987.

After the student takes the LSAT, he can decide which law schools he should apply to. Each law school weighs factors differently when considering admission. These factors may include LSAT scores, GPA, work experience, the personal statement, activities, recommendations, college curriculum, military experience, grade trends, quality of undergraduate school, and diversity in students. Applications cost anywhere from twenty to forty-five dollars, so this too can be very expensive. The average student will apply to between six and ten schools. It is a good idea to apply to two “long shots”, three to five reality schools, and two “safety” schools.

Law school students can expect professors to drill a particular student for the entire class period. If a student does not want to be embarrassed or humiliated in front of his classmates, he must be prepared for every class. Although a career in law may look promising and even glamorous, students should take into consideration the other expenses such as tuition and housing costs that accumulate during law school. All in all, it takes a lot of planning, consideration, and money for those students who are leaning towards a career in law.

Senior Political Science major, Anne Dunigan, is currently planning to attend the University of Maine Law School in the fall. Anne realizes it may be difficult, but is also looking forward to the challenge.

by Mike Mongiovi
If you were to attend the University’s Law School and take a course called Criminal Procedure or Evidence, one of your professors would be Professor Anne Poulin. Professor Poulin came to the Law School in 1981, after spending four years as the assistant United States district attorney in Chicago. Originally hailing from Wood’s Hole, Cape Cod Mass., she obtained her undergraduate degree from Radcliffe “when it was really Radcliffe,” in 1969.

Students going to law school attend all their classes in Garey Hall. The law school possesses a large library of law books as well as a cafeteria.

Professor Poulin continued her education at the University of Maine Law School, describing the college as “a very small school with a warm character.” She decided to continue her education in law, by obtaining a Master of Legal Letters at the University of Michigan. Becoming the assistant United States district attorney in Chicago, was “an interesting way to get to know a city that I didn’t know before.”

Always wanting to teach, Poulin taught in Chicago for a little while before coming here, stating that “the law practice can be confiding, whereas teaching allows you to use your creativity.” When talking about the Law School, Poulin was very complimentary. Professor Poulin commented on how the faculty of the Law School tries very hard to get along with one another. Not only because of the university’s excellent reputation and placement program, Professor Anne Poulin feels that the law school graduates will have no problem finding jobs after graduation.
does the faculty work hard, but so do the students. The students are very supportive of one another, with very little back stabbing and stealing of each other's material. These characteristics are not always found in law schools, where competition is very fierce and some students go to any lengths to succeed.

A 1973 graduate of the University of Maine Law School, she said she was glad to see that more and more women are entering into the law school. “It’s nice to see that almost half the class is now women, where as it used to be much less.” When asked about how she felt about our Law School graduates and their chances for jobs, Professor Poulin believed that the graduates would get jobs, due to the University’s strong reputation and excellent placement services. Noting that all Law School applications across the nation are once again on the rise, the professor stated that the Law School never had the fall in applications that many of the other law schools around the country did.

Coming to this area meant moving her family from Chicago to the Philadelphia area. Her husband is currently working at Widner. Professor Poulin is also a proud mother of three girls, Katherine, Jessica and Claire. The Law School would have the warm characteristics she mentioned, with someone like her there to help law students get one of the best educations.

by Coleen Bradley

Graduating from Radcliffe and then attending the University of Maine’s Law School, Anne Poulin taught in Chicago before coming to the university.

Frank Schwartz  
Joanne Semeister  
Christopher B. Sessa  
Holly L. Setzler  
Cynthia A. Sharo

Kathleen Shea  
David C. Shelton  
Barbara J. Sheridan  
Robert S. Silver  
Edward C. Smith

Thomas Smith  
Jan V. Sobel  
Jeffrey W. Soderberg  
Marilynn L. Soloway  
Deirdre L. Stallworth
Located across from St. Mary's Hall, Garey Hall houses the law school. Many of the professors for the law school are more than willing to help students to get through their three years of law.