

applying to attorneys in 39 states of the USA. Attorneys surveyed in Texas said the topic of the CLE seminar was the main attraction followed by its length and the travel time required. Some large law firms have entered the CLE market, charging outside lawyers a fee to attend their seminars. Bar associations are another factor in the CLE market and have an advantage due to their nonprofit status and ability to get noted speakers for free.

Review finds MCLE basically sound

L Socy J, December 1993, p 57

In August, 1993, the Legal Education Committee of the Law Society of NSW completed a comprehensive review of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Scheme (MCLE). The committee prepared an issues paper focusing on nine key issues and proposing 14 recommendations. The Committee found that the MCLE Scheme and its administration was sound and no significant amendments were necessary. However, it did recommend that the Guidelines be enhanced to clarify that MCLE is only one of several obligations which a practitioner seeking to renew his/her certificate must fulfil, and to emphasise that the MCLE scheme is only a minimum requirement, and that the Society encourages its members to undertake more than the 10 hours MCLE a year.

CURRICULUM

Statement of the Association of American Law Schools on the MacCrate Report

AALS Newsletter, No 93-4, November 1993, p 8

Welcomes the report believing it is an important contribution to the continuing dialogue about the focus of legal education. Advances the understanding of the historical context in which this dialogue has proceeded. Law schools have been involved in experimenting how to synthesise the teaching of theory and practice.

Believes the ongoing dialogue about preparing individuals for lawyering must be predicated on a broad conception of the lawyer's role, now and in the future. The education of lawyers must be more than the acquisition of knowledge and skills - it must include the cultivation of creative thinking and imagination, an appreciation

of the commonality of the human condition, and development of a sense of judgement and responsibility.

Also says that the AALS will actively participate in the establishment of the proposed American Institute for the Practice of Law.

Reshaping first year legal doctrine: the experience in the law schools

R Chester

20 Fla St U L R, p 599

In a previous article, which the author wrote together with Scott Alumbaugh, they recommended that first year curriculum be organised according to any unifying principles the subjects revealed. For example, Torts, Contracts and Property could all be taught together as "Civil Obligation"; or Criminal and Civil Procedure could be taught as the one subject "Procedure". In this article the author goes on to develop these ideas for upper level subjects where the courses would be designed around doctrinal problems actually faced by lawyers. He discusses the example of New England Law School's "Practicing Business Law", and the track system used at George Mason University Law School. He further examines reforms instituted by Yale, CUNY-Queens, Harvard, and Georgetown all with varying degrees of success. He concludes with the process and the political steps necessary for law schools to effect such major changes in their curriculum.

ENROLMENT POLICIES

Study finds MBE valid, reliable

S P Klein

[see Assessment Methods]

EVALUATION

Law Society visitations

7 SPTL Reporter, Winter 1993, p 1

English law schools, already devoting energy to the Research Assessment Exercise, the Academic Audit and the Teaching Quality Assessment now find that the Law Society intends to embark on a series of visitations. They will cover staffing, staff development and resources generally. The article expresses alarm that the standards will be set too low, and not in consultation with academic lawyers.

Research assessment exercise

7 SPTL Reporter, Winter 1993, p 2

Reports on meeting which clarified a number of aspects of this exercise, including the grading of law schools, and differences between scholarship and authorship.

Teaching quality assessment exercise

M J Allen

7 SPTL Reporter, Winter 1993, p 25

Article is critical of the English HEFCE Teaching Quality Assessment Exercise. Sees defects as being that there is no clear conception of what amounts to high quality educational provision, that the process prevents comparability between assessors, that there is no weighting as between the various things looked at on a visit to a law school, and that the visit is but a snapshot and therefore not necessarily accurate. The author regards the assessment process as arbitrary lacking legitimacy.

FACILITIES

[no material in this edition]

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Academics are hopeful on Clinton

K Myers

15 Nat L J, January 11 1993, p 32

The law school community is feeling optimistic about a Clinton presidency, hoping it will result in increased financial aid for law students and strategies to draw more law students to public interest law. Insiders are hoping that Clinton's proposed national service program to repay student loans will be extended to the law school community as well.

Law students today are believed to be more idealistic, which bodes well for public interest work.

GOVERNANCE

Timing questioned as bar group calls for accreditation change

K Myers

15 Nat L J, March 8 1993, p 4

The Illinois State Bar Association has called for amendments to ABA standards for law school accreditation which would require schools to offer students more training in clinical skills. This suggestion