Faculty Scholarship Named Among the Most Influential

Law review articles written by UW Law Professors Stewart Macaulay and Marc Galanter were selected as two of the 20 most important works of American legal thought since 1890 in a recently published book by two Harvard law professors, David Kennedy and William W. Fisher III. The book recognizes Wisconsin as the place that brought scholars from various disciplines into contact with one another and brought social science to legal scholarship.

Macaulay and Galanter are included along with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., John Dewey, Karl Llewellyn, Lon Fuller, Duncan Kennedy, Ronald Dworkin, Catharine MacKinnon, and others—the most recognized names in American legal history.

An additional Wisconsin connection is author Kimberlé Crenshaw, who co-authored a law review article on critical race theory. Crenshaw received her LL.M. from the UW Law School as a William H. Hastie Fellow and clerked for Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Crenshaw is a Professor of Law at both UCLA and Columbia Law Schools.

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Law School’s Global Legal Studies Center Approved

A global Legal Studies Center within the UW Law School’s Institute for Legal Studies received final university approval on December 21, 2006. The new center is a joint initiative of the University of Wisconsin Law School and the Division of International Studies.

The primary purpose of the center is to implement the Law School’s strategic goal of pursuing and expanding global opportunities. It also accelerates internationalization at UW-Madison and creates new opportunities for collaboration across campus, especially between the professional schools and area and international studies.

“We are very happy that our commitment to global legal studies has been recognized,” comments Dean Kenneth B. Davis, Jr. “The new center’s goals advance the Law School’s Strategic Plan, and the center will be directly involved in implementing it by facilitating research, fostering partnerships and exchanges, and developing the curriculum in the area of global legal studies.”

“This is a milestone in our

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Cliff Thompson Serves As Acting Dean at MSU

UW Law School Professor and Dean Emeritus Cliff Thompson has been named Acting Dean at Michigan State University College of Law. “Dean Thompson brings with him a wealth of experience in legal education. Most importantly, he has served as dean at the sort of high-quality Big Ten law school we are on the road to becoming,” says Kevin W. Saunders, Senior Associate Dean for the law college.

Thompson is a former dean for the University of Hawaii, the University of Idaho and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College, graduating magna cum laude; his master’s from Magdalen College, Oxford University; and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Scholarship (continued from page 1)

The Canon of American Legal Thought (Princeton University Press, Dec. 2006) reprints 20 articles the authors identify as having been most influential in shaping American legal thinking and a distinctly American style of reasoning across the twentieth century. In deciding what law review articles to include, Fisher and Kennedy consulted many colleagues and students over the years, looking for articles that represent methodological innovation and that are consistently used in teaching.

The Canon includes Macaulay’s “Non-Contractual Relations in Business” and Galanter’s “Why the Haves Come Out Ahead: Speculations on the Limits of Legal Change.” In Yale Law Librarian Fred R. Shapiro’s 1996 Symposium on the Trends in Legal Citations and Scholarship: The Most-Cited Law Review Articles Revisited” (71 Chi.-Kent. L. Rev. 751), both articles place in the top 15 most-cited articles of all time.

The Macaulay and Galanter articles are each introduced by an essay from Fisher or Kennedy, discussing the author and the intellectual climate of the era. The editors divide the canon of American legal thought into a number of schools, including Legal Realism, Legal Process, Law and Society, Modern Liberalism, Law and Economics, and Feminist Legal Theory.

Macaulay and Galanter are included in the Law and Society section, the movement closely identified with the UW Law School and Professor Willard Hurst. A number of current UW law faculty, including Professors Kathryn Hendley, Thomas Palay, David Trubek, and William Whitford, also are cited in this section.