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University of San Diego School of Law

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

REV. ALFRED F. GEIMER*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW is short on tradition, perhaps, but long on accomplishment. In the brief space of seven years, the school has acquired a handsome physical plant, a solid law library and an outstanding faculty. It has become recognized as one of California's finest law schools.

Already the School of Law has been accredited by the California Bar and approved by the American Bar Association, and its place is secure in the legal and educational segments of California's third largest city, as well as in the community as a whole.

The School of Law is part of the University of San Diego, which in less than a decade and a half has proliferated from a dream in the mind of one man, the Most Rev. Charles Francis Buddy, Ph.D., Bishop of San Diego, into a majestic monument to Roman Catholic ideals and energy.

With the development of San Diego during and after World War II as one of the fastest growing major cities in the United States, Bishop Buddy saw the need of an institution of higher learning to meet the educational and spiritual demands of our youth. He set about with characteristic energy and singleness of purpose to provide opportunities for higher education.

Founded in 1949, the University of San Diego today is a beautiful and impressive institution of graceful Spanish Renaissance buildings situated on a spacious 218-acre campus with a commanding view of much of the city of San Diego and the sparkling blue Pacific Ocean.

Bishop Buddy still guides the destinies of the University he founded, as its president. The School of Law has several claims to distinction, one of them being that it is one of the two diocesan law schools in the United States.

The School of Law first opened its doors in April of 1954 with an

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enrollment of 32 students and a faculty of nine, and in the subsequent years has grown very much like the mighty oak from the acorn. In the fall of 1961 the enrollment had burgeoned to 180 students and the faculty had doubled to 18 professors.



*Very Rev. Martin McManus
Dean*

In 1957 the school acquired its own building, a stately three-story edifice in the handsome Spanish Renaissance pattern for the entire campus, named in honor of St. Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry VIII.

Grow though it has, the enrollment of the law school still does not begin to tax the capacity of More Hall. The school was foresightedly designed to accommodate 500 students. It has seven classrooms, a fully equipped Moot Court and the law library.

The school is justly proud of the law library, which occupies the entire top floor of More Hall. Its 20,000 square feet of floor space affords plenty of working space for the students and for the shelving of books. Now containing more than

26,000 volumes, the library is far from crowded. It was designed to hold 100,000 volumes. Windows on all four sides of the library and massive skylights in the ceiling make the large room a well lighted and attractive place to work. Studying almost becomes a pleasure, as well as a necessity! This is believed to be the only law library in the country with natural light from five directions.

Father McManus, the dean, characterizes the school's purpose as:

giving the students a sound legal education in an environment conducive to the development of high ethical standards compatible with Catholic philosophy. Recognizing the objective moral order, the School of Law of the University of San Diego is dedicated to awakening in the student an appreciation of natural law, which is enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and codified in the Constitution of the United States, as the basic law upon which the United States Government is founded.

The school offers a full-time day program and a part-time night program, requiring three years and four years of study respectively. Instruction is presented primarily in the casebook method with special attention given to the study of California law. Eighty semester units of work are required for the Bachelor of Laws degree. An average of 70 on a scale of 100 must be maintained by the students each semester to remain in school.

A bachelor's degree from an approved college or university is required for admission to the School of Law, as well as a satisfactory score on the Law School Admission Test.

There is a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity on the campus and a University of San Diego Student Bar Associa-

tion which, under the direction of the faculty, works closely with the bench and bar of San Diego to afford the student maximum opportunity to participate in legal activities of both a religious and civic nature, such as the annual Red Mass, the Moot Court and the Naval Justice Program.

These events are of particular interest in the program for each school year.

The Red Mass is celebrated in the Immaculata Chapel on Sunday of Law Week. The bench and the bar of San Diego participate in addition to the faculty and students of the University, who are attired in academic dress.

The Moot Court at the University of San Diego has proved of such particular interest in the community that newspapers

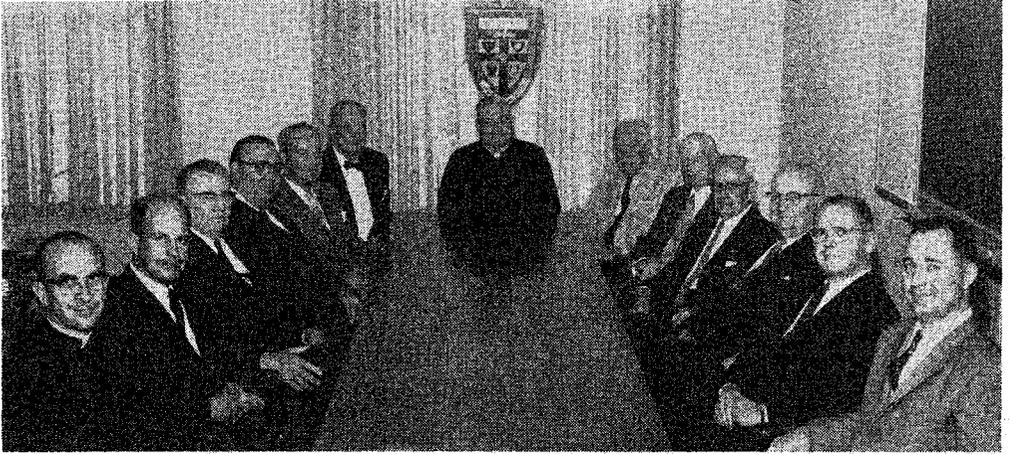
and television stations have covered the proceedings. This year for its practice trials, the Moot Court convened in the three courtrooms of the U. S. District Court in the Federal Building in downtown San Diego. Three superior court judges presided at the three trials. Virtually the entire student body of the law school attended the trials to serve as a jury panel.

Another innovation at the School of Law is its Naval Justice Program, which is offered primarily for naval personnel of the many installations in the San Diego area, one of the major bastions of the U. S. Navy.

While training students in the law is the primary mission of the University of San Diego School of Law, the institution also



Swearing in a Witness at a Moot Court Trial



Faculty of the School of Law—Rev. Alfred F. Geimer, Prof. Louis T. Marlas, Prof. Stanley Wallach, Prof. Joseph A. Sinclitico, Jr., Gen. Leo D. Hermle, Judge James M. Carter, Very Rev. Martin McManus, Dean, Judge Dewitt H. Merriam, Gen. William J. Miller, Prof. Carroll H. Smith, Prof. Joseph S. Brock, Gen. George Hickman, Prof. Phillip P. Martin, Jr.

makes its facilities available to the community and its legal profession. For example, a seminar for peace officers of the county is offered several times each year in the school's Moot Court room. The seminar proved so popular earlier this year that 400 officers attended on off-duty time to receive a briefing on the legal ramifications of the laws relating to search and seizure. There were demonstrations of the rights and wrongs of searches, conducted by members of the district attorney's staff and demonstrated by members of the San

Diego Police Department, and a question and answer period. The law school's facilities also are made available to the California Bar's Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar, which periodically offers short courses for the lawyers of San Diego in More Hall.

In its first seven years the University of San Diego School of Law has established a solid foundation for serving the legal profession of California. It is looking ahead eagerly to the task of building on that foundation.