Law Center Report

In keeping with the unique role of the Law Center as a training ground for legal teaching and research in the interfaces between law and technology, we have initiated for our first year class a novel survey course entitled "Policy In A Technological Society."

Embracing an introduction to our legal system for encouraging and protecting the creative efforts of inventors and authors, the course outlines our patent and copyright systems and the practical problems of innovation in today's society, tying them into the related research studies of our PTC Research arm and our programs in these areas with the Center for Entrepreneurial Development of Carnegie Mellon University, the MIT Biomedical Instrumentation Center, Dartmouth's innovation center, the Max Planck Institute at Munich, and the CEIPI exchange program at the University of Strasbourg.

This is followed by sessions on tort law as a control mechanism — negligence and nuisance — and product liability (Professor Joseph Vittek); public control of technology: federal, state and local regulation of science and technology (Professor Michael Baram); and a comparative analysis of private and public law with a focus on consumer safety (Professor Thomas Field).

Our objective is not only to expose modern lawyers to these areas, but to seek out law students with the background and flare for practice therein and to enable early course planning for potential careers centered in such areas as patent and copyright law, product liability and regulatory law concerned with technology.

Assisting in the subsequent advanced patent training, is Mr.

Robert Shaw of the MIT patent department, who supervises student practical patent application preparation and prosecution work, particularly in connection with academic interchanges with the innovation programs at Carnegie Mellon and Dartmouth and the activities of our own innovation clinic. And through the efforts of Ms. Nancy Metz in assisting the president as a staff research associate and administrator, students are prepared for participation in suitable research projects of the PTC.

By this program, complemented by advanced courses, we hope to provide the legal profession, in its public and private sectors, with a continuing cadre of new lawyers having substantial background in technology and law, and hopefully enriched by internship experiences in this growing and vitally important field.

Robert H. Rines
President