PTC Progress Report

In the last issue of IDEA, Volume 16, Conference Number, we summarized the history of the PTC Research Foundation up to the time of its transfer to the Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1973. A synopsis of the subsequent developments at the Law Center and the PTC follows. Other news items and future developments will also be reported from time to time in issues of the PTC newsletter, IDEAs, which is mailed to all members and friends of the PTC.

Calendar

Sept., 1973	Franklin Pierce Law Center, New Hampshire's first law school, admitted 98 students.
Oct., 1973	PTC offices opened at the Law Center. PTC Conference: Future American Trading in the EEC (reported in IDEA, Vol. 16, Conference Number).
Feb., 1974	The American Bar Association placed the Law Center on its list of approved law schools.
March, 1974	The Law Center received degree-granting authority from the State of New Hampshire. The PTC co-sponsored, with the New England Law Institute, a seminar for the practicing bar on intellectual property, held at Boston University.
June, 1974	The PTC was awarded a National Science Foundation contract for a study on "Indicators of the Role of Science in Patented Technology."
Sept., 1974	The Francis W. Davis Research Program was established at the Law Center (see p. 60, this issue).

Research Progress

The Law Center and the PTC are actively continuing work on the following research projects, initiated last year.

The Patent System and Innovation:

This joint program between Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Law Center students and faculty involves the updating of previous research on the United States patent system. One

thousand questionnaires were mailed a few months ago to current patentees selected at random from the files of the United States Patent Office. Several hundred of these patentees have responded, returning completed questionnaires to MIT for computer correlation and subsequent analysis by Law Center personnel. The basis of the project is to decipher who is using the patent system, for what purposes, with what attitudes and with what degree of success or lack of success.

In a cooperative research effort, these techniques are about to be introduced in Europe by the British Institute of Patentees and Inventors, which will conduct a similar survey of the role of the inventor in the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community. In addition, members of the Faculty of Law at Lund University (Lund, Sweden) have agreed to participate in this survey by coordinating the study throughout the Scandinavian countries.

To complete the profiling of current inventors and the nature and problems of current inventing and patenting throughout the world, the Academy of Applied Science is planning an extension of the survey in the Far East.

Business Failures Among Innovators:

Substantial headway is being made on introducing to the legal community new bankruptcy proposals derived from the recent Bankruptcy Commission Report. Under the direction of Prof. Kenan Sahin, University of Massachusetts, and Prof. Robert M. Viles of the Law Center, this project is developing a computer model of business failures. It is hoped the model can be used as a tool to study the impact of legal and other procedures upon small business operations.

Professor Sahin is also serving as a visiting lecturer at the Law Center, where he directs a seminar on law and economics. In this capacity, he expresses an economist's view as to various types of legal standards evolved from regulatory and other legal arenas.

The Role of the Technical University in Aiding Innovation:

The Law Center is cooperating with the Innovation Center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in its efforts to encourage student invention and entrepreneurship. It is contemplated that Law Center students, under faculty guidance, will assist in preparing patent applications on the inventions and constructing license agreements between the inventors and new or existing companies.

New Research

National Science Foundation Science Indicators Project:

This research program is directed toward determining the role of basic and applied scientific and technical published literature in stimulating significant patented invention in several technological areas over the past two decades. A report is scheduled for December 1974.

Creativity and Obviousness for Patenting:

The PTC Research Foundation has announced the awarding of its second grant since arriving at its new home in Concord. Prof. Thomas G. Field, Jr. and Ms. Juanita Field, Ph.D., recipients of the grant, will analyze the concept of "creativity" and the legal mechanisms for its recognition. Dr. Field, a psychologist and research associate of the PTC, will attempt to define and to devise a method for measuring sensitivity to, and for, creativity. From his experience in the patent area, Prof. Field will relate these ideas to the present patent laws, with the end view of trying to evaluate one of the three tenets for patenting—nonobviousness—and the attributes of those members of the legal community who are called upon to adjudge it.

Educational Programs

Internship Program:

Franklin Pierce Law Center was founded upon the principle of innovation in the legal field. A first step toward revising traditional law school concepts was the commencement of a specialty in the integration of law with science and technology. A second step involves a comprehensive third-year clinical or internship law practice experience, phases of which are currently being tested by the second-year law students. As part of this endeavor, Prof. Murl A. Larkin, Visiting Professor from Texas Tech University School of Law, has been instrumental in the formation of a Criminal Justice Internship Program, wherein fourteen students have been serving part-time in the offices of county attorneys and the public defenders in the greater Concord and Manchester areas.

International Exchange Program:

The Law Center formalized in October, 1974 an exchange program with the School of Law at Lund University in Sweden,

under the supervision of Dean Rines and Prof. Lars Holmqvist of the Lund Faculty of Law. The two schools will exchange faculty and students for study in Comparative International Law and Technology Transfer, with the first faculty member from Lund expected in 1975.

All the programs mentioned above illustrate the very warm response and excellent cooperation the Law Center has been receiving from local, national and international organizations active in the educational, legal and scientific fields.