Law Center Report

The slightly delayed publication of this issue of IDEA has had the fortuitous result of enabling this report to include rather significant events, some but recently consumated.

The Law Center itself, the PTC, and the Academy of Applied Science are now fully moved to permanent quarters in the magnificent Washington and White Streets building complex in Concord, New Hampshire. This has served to bring the law students, faculty and researchers into closer consort and, more particularly, into more intimate contact with the legal, inventive, business and general communities involved in Center activities.

For the innovative and business communities, successful conferences on Arbitration of Patent and Other Technological Disputes and on Overcoming Legal Barriers to the Utilization of Solar Energy have been conducted; jointly with MIT and the Academy in the former case, and with GOVERNMENT R&D REPORT, in the latter. Joint activities have been developing with segments of the New Hampshire Bar and Bench, including participation in our extensive trial advocacy program, advanced legal education for trial lawyers, and preparation of the annual survey of New Hampshire Law.

Our programs of "legal aid" through our Innovation Clinic and Small Business Institute, for the benefit of inventors, small innovating companies, and other creators of intellectual property, have proven effective and of growing significance. Similarly, the Environmental Law Research Service offered by our advanced students is being increasingly used by legal, governmental and business groups.

International student exchanges in programs currently dealing with competition law, technology transfer, trademarks and patents, have taken place with the University of Strasbourg Law School, CEIPI, and the Max Planck Institute in Munich (see IDEA, Vol. 18, No. 2, p. 1); and expanded joint research into these areas is in planning.

Our association with Carnegie Mellon and its Center for Entrepreneurial Development has become close, intimate and mutu-

ally fruitful, including special faculty lecturing interchanges, and interdisciplinary engineer-enterpreneur-lawyer student and faculty projects, ranging from patent problems to product liability and new venture activities.

With MIT, we are planning a vital fall conference to study FDA regulation of biomedical instrumentation. And with the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories, we are studying ways to gain acceptance of their technology for the radiation preservation of beef and techniques for introducing the same into the commercial market.

Joint business school-law school interchanges have been commenced with the Tuck School of Dartmouth College with a very successful two-day mock public utility hearing.

Our PTC has started meeting with local corporate and other supporters in different geographical areas (Pittsburgh and New York City having recently been covered by highly informative luncheons) in order to evolve research projects matched to actual needs of our membership, and to explore ways of more effectively servicing those needs and financing those programs.

This fall we are planning, jointly with our colleagues at the University of Strasbourg and the European Economic Community itself, the co-sponsorship at the Law Center of a first-of-its-kind direct interchange between the presidents of a cross-section of American industry and the new key officials of the EEC charged with the administration of business and related legal interfaces in the common market. The objective is to invoke face-to-face discussion of problem areas and to provide inputs that may better accommodate our industrial needs, consistent with meeting common market administrative objectives. One of the subjects in these discussions will be the significance of the coming EEC patent. What route should American industry take to try to protect its proprietary rights; the National patents? The PCT route? The new EEC patent?

To help answer these questions, specialized short courses (in English) are being offered by CEIPI of the University of Strasbourg Law School for two weeks in September and one week in December directed to the European Economic Patent. Details will be announced in the Spring issue of IDEA.

Parties interested in attending, should either contact our PTC Office or CEIPI, directly at Strasbourg.

Robert H. Rines
President