Law Center Report

This issue goes to press following two significant and highly successful conferences furthering the service of the Law Center to the technical business community and its interfaces with the law: the first, our interchange between representatives of a cross section of American industries and the current principal administrators of the European Economic Community law bearing upon business (antitrust, environment, patent, product liability)[1] — and the second, concerned with medical devices and legal responsibilities, particularly in connection with the FDA medical device amendment of 1976.[2]

Detailed reports on the contributions to and the results of these meetings are expected to appear in coming issues of IDEA.

Participants from abroad at the EEC conference on European Trading and Technology Transfer included Mr. Jean Verges, Director General for Competition (EEC); Mr. L. Krämer, Counsel for the Consumer Protection Service, Commission of European Communities; Mr. Bryan Harris, Head of Intellectual Property Division of the Commission; Mr. Norman W.P. Wallace, Vice President of the European Patent Office; Mr. S. P. Johnson, Head of Division of Prevention of Pollution and Nuisances of the Commission's Environment and Consumer Protection Service; Professor Francois Savignon, Co-

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[1] See IDEA, Vol. 18 #4, p. 155. Co-sponsored by our PTC Research Foundation, the European Economic Community, The Academy of Applied Science, the University of Strasbourg Law School CEIPI, and the Max Planck Institute at Munich concerned with competition and intellectual and industrial property law, October 5-7, 1977.

[2] Co-sponsored with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Biomedical Engineering Center for Clinical Instrumentation, October 26, 1977.

Director of CEIPI, University of Strasbourg Law School; and Dr. A. Pagenberg of the Max Planck Institute for Patent, Copyright and Competition Law at Munich.

In particular connection with our growing relationship with the Max Planck Institute, we are pleased to announce a new series of publications of the Institute, supplemental to their *IIC Journal* entitled *IIC Studies* and embracing indepth reports on significant research studies of the Institute. The first of the *IIC Studies* is now available. It is a study by Dr. H. Ullrich presenting a most interesting comparison of American and West German approaches to the concept of "obviousness" of invention as an ultimate test of patentability.

In addition to industrial officials and their counsel, and Law Center faculty and student participants, the conference was addressed by Dr. Thomas Meloy, Chairman of Meloy Laboratories; Mr. Andrew Mulligan, Director of Media and Information of the Washington delegation of the EEC; Mr. Anthony Albrecht, Director of the Office of Atlantic Political-Economic Affairs of the U.S. Department of State; and Mr. Howard I. Forman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Product Standards of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

As a result of the EEC conference and needs that it seems to have begun to meet, we are engaged with faculty from the Harvard Law School and administrators of the EEC in planning a joint summer institute in EEC law at the Law Center in May, 1978.

The medical devices symposium represents a first major activity in a commitment of the Law Center to interdisciplinary study, teaching and research in health and food and drug law. Panel participants included Law Center faculty members, Professors Michael S. Baram and Thomas G. Field, Jr.; Director David M. Link of the Bureau of Medical Devices and Diagnostic Products of the Food and Drug Administration; Carnegie Mellon's Dr. Alvin S. Weinstein, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Public Policy; Mr. Harry DeNeau, Assistant Secretary of the Travelers Insurance Companies; Robert W. Mann, MIT, Whitaker Professor of Biomedical Engineering; Woodie C. Flowers, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT; Dr. Philip A. Drinker, Director of Clinical Engineering, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; and Dean Henry C. Meadow of the Harvard Medical School.

Robert H. Rines
President