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Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre Completes First Year

The Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre, a research and education center within the Law School devoted to coordinating and developing interest in Canadian-U.S. legal issues, has successfully completed its first year. By supporting faculty development and Canadian collaboration across a wide spectrum of Canadian law, a strong academic base already has been established that can expand, according to Professor Thomas E. Headrick, the Centre's first director.

Among many new projects, the Centre now has a program for students who want to specialize in Canadian law and is laying the groundwork for the development of a professional certificate program. It organized a major conference on the Free Trade Agreement in March, and will continue to respond to the interest in Canadian issues within Western New York's legal and business communities.

Professor Robert S. Berger is serving as director while former Dean Thomas E. Headrick, who formerly served as director, is on sabbatical. The administrative and resource base for the Centre is located in 408 O'Brian Hall. An administrative director, Laura Mangan, was appointed on a half-time basis to coordinate and develop activities.

"The Centre is off to a good start," says Headrick, with initial support for the Centre coming from a special pilot grant of \$40,000 from the New York State Legislature that was sponsored by State Sen. John B. Sheffer II of Amherst and Assemblyman William B. Hoyt of Buffalo. According to Headrick that

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support runs out this fall and the Centre "needs an infusion of new resources if it is to continue operating." New sources of support are actively being sought.

During its first year, the Centre has taken great strides in the following areas:

● **Development of Faculty Expertise.** The Centre supported six summer research projects focusing on a diverse range of legal and historical topics dealing with Canada:

1) Church/State Relations Under the Canadian Charter of Rights, by Professors Alan D. Freeman and Elizabeth B. Mensch;

2) Central Aspects of 20th Century Canadian Development, by Professor Arthur Bowler, Dept. of History;

3) Social Rights and the Canadian Health System, by Professor Virginia A. Leary;

4) The Changing Regulatory Structure for Canadian Financial Institutions, by Professor Thomas Headrick;

5) Constitutional Litigation in Canada, by Professor Robert S. Berger;

6) Post-War Developments in Canadian Labor Law, by Professor James B. Atleson.

● **Canadian Legal Studies Workshop Series.** Fourteen events in all, these workshops were held weekly from January through April 1990, bringing together faculty members and students from several departments throughout the University and from the legal community. The program began with lectures in Canadian history and branched out to a variety of topics covering a wide range of key facets of the Canadian legal landscape. Five of the workshops were presented by faculty from York and Toronto universities.

● **Symposium on Free Trade and Subsidies.** The Legal Studies Centre, along with the Canada-U.S. Trade Center and support from the University Canadian-American Studies Committee, sponsored a spring symposium on "Subsidies Under the Free Trade Agreement." Negotiations continue between the United States and Canada over the meaning, scope and control of governmental assistance under the Free Trade Agreement and about the concept of a "level playing field" for Canada-U.S. trade. The conference drew experts from both countries and could have significant impact on the evolving international negotiation and the economic welfare of our region. Conference papers are being

published through the Canada-U.S. Trade Center at UB.

● **Visiting Professorship.** The Centre initiated a program of Visiting Professorships from Canada to teach a course in Canadian law. Professor Jamie Cameron, of the Osgoode-Hall, York University Law faculty, taught Canada-U.S. comparative constitutional law during the fall semester.

● **Certificate Program in Canadian Law.** The workshop series, the many separate courses on Canada-U.S. law in the curriculum, and courses in Canadian history, Canadian politics and Canada-U.S. trade will form the basis of a

certificate program in Canadian law which will be the first step toward educating lawyers for cross-border practice. The Centre hopes to put this program into place next year. Future plans include expanding into more specialized training in Canadian law and developing a program for Canadian lawyers to qualify in American law.

● **Building the Network in Canadian Legal Studies.** The Centre has begun to establish connections with similar programs at other U.S. universities. Because each program has a different orientation, together they can make a substantial contribution of U.S.

understanding of Canadian law.

● **Enlarging the Canadian Connection Within Western New York.** The Legal Studies Centre has made contacts with other groups to seek ways in which our people and resources can be directed to the region's overall objectives. These groups include the Canadian Consulate, the Greater Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, the Can Am Business Council, Western New York Economic Development Corp., New York State Bar Association, U.S.-Canada Law Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, Canada Commerce Group and UB's Canada-U.S. Trade Center. ■

Participating in a day-long Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre seminar were, from left to right, Dr. James E. McConnell, Director of UB's Canada-U.S. Trade Center, Dean David B. Filvaroff, Professor Thomas E. Headrick and Rep. John LaFalce.

