1958 Law School graduates placed

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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All of the 1958 graduates of the Montana University Law School, Missoula, have been placed, Dean Robert E. Sullivan reports. Three of the 24 graduates received coveted appointments as law clerks to federal and state supreme court judges; twelve have entered private law practice; four are employed in legal capacities by federal and state agencies; three are in military service, and two are engaged in business.

The 100 per cent placement record reflects the interest and cooperation of alumni and members of the bar as well as the effectiveness of placement aids instituted by the Law School during the past few years, Dean Sullivan believes.

Since 1955, a placement brochure listing qualifications of seniors in the Law School has been circulated annually to all lawyers in Montana and to other potential employment sources, the dean said. Prospective employers schedule interviews with students and come to the Law School in Missoula to talk to students about job opportunities. As a result of these steps, an increasing number of seniors are committing themselves for employment during February and March.

The Law School is planning to supplement these placement aids with a conference this year on opportunities in law practice. Many good career opportunities are missed because of a misconception among law students about the nature and extent of practice in small towns, the dean pointed out. The proposed conference will try to place the practice of law in small communities in the proper perspective so the members of the class of 1959 will take advantage of the opportunities that exist in Montana.

(more)
The school is also working on the development of a program of summer employment for students who have completed two years of law, Dean Sullivan said.

"Contrary to popular assumption, there are excellent opportunities for law graduates," Dean Sullivan said. "It is part of the function of the Law School to help students discover these opportunities and part of its obligation to the profession to bring graduates to the attention of potential employers. The job is made easier by the fact that the Law School demands high standards of scholarship and character for admission and graduation."

In commenting upon the school's standards, Dean Sullivan cited the accreditation report made on the MSU Law School this year by John Hervey, adviser to the American Bar Ass'n.'s Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, the body that evaluates all law schools approved by the ABA.

The report says of the MSU Law School: "The school sets an example which the majority of the approved schools could well emulate... The school is to be commended for the excellence of the admission and scholastic standards... Your school has done an outstanding job on the character investigation of the applicants. If all schools had been doing that sort of job for the past twenty years, the bar wouldn't have some of the present problems."