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Doctor Juris degree to be awarded first time at University of Montana commencement

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NEWS

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stewart
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DOCTOR JURIS DEGREE TO BE AWARDED FIRST TIME AT UM COMMENCEMENT

Only one of the 32 law school graduates at the University of Montana will wear the traditional Master's Degree hood during Sunday (June 5) Commencement. The other 31 will wear the larger Doctor Juris hood for the first time.

The Doctor Juris Degree is not a new one to the field of academe, but it has not yet earned the renown held by the LL.B. or Bachelor of Laws Degree.

Robert E. Sullivan, dean of the UM School of Law, pointed out the LL.B. degree was developed in the 19th century when law schools required no bachelor's degree as a prerequisite to law study.

Now all American Bar Association approved law schools require bachelor's degree requirements be completed within the first year of law study.

The one UM law graduate earning a LL.B. degree at the UM this spring was granted his bachelor's degree during his first year of law school; all of the other 31 held bachelor's degrees when they entered law school.

Dean Sullivan said the Doctor Juris degree signifies the completion of a program of prolonged academic training for a profession, above and beyond the previous general education in the humanities and sciences culminating in the award of a bachelor's degree. It indicates academic endeavor generally comparable with other professional degrees, such as Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Dental Science.

With its first granting of the J.D. this spring, the UM law school will join a list of 60 other University law schools which grant the J. D., including Stanford, Denver, George Washington, North Dakota and Willamette.

The 1966 list of 32 graduates from the UM law school includes the first

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woman graduate since 1954. Six of the graduates are destined for government service on both state and national levels, nine are slated for private practice in Montana, six will take care of their military obligation before entering the profession actively, and 11 others will become law clerks to state supreme court and federal judges, the Judge Advocate General Corps or the faculty of the UM School of Business Administration.

CUTLINE--

THE NEW J.D. HOOD will be worn for the first time in a Montana commencement by 31 of the 32 University of Montana law graduates Sunday (June 5). Miss ~~Roberta M.~~ Walsh of Great Falls, the first woman to graduate in law since 1954, is pictured modeling the hood for the Doctor Juris Degree. Although he will also receive a J.D. degree, Lawrence H. Severdrup of Buffalo, New York, models the hood used for the LL.B. or Bachelor of Laws Degree. Both hoods carry the symbolic color of law, purple, on the trim, just as it is carried on the trim of the robe and chevrons. Both hoods also carry the University colors of copper, gold and silver inside. The J.D. hood is more than twice as large as the LL.B. hood, which is equivalent to the academic master's hood. Severdrup, who plans to practice law in Libby, may have set a record at the UM law school. He finished the tough law curriculum in the normal three years, at the same time raising a family of eight children.