

Clinical Education



Legal Aid and Defender Society

The Legal Aid and Defender Society and its two subsidiaries, the Model Cities Legal Services Program and the Prisoner Legal Counseling Project, continued to grow during 1972-73. More than 250 students were enrolled during the year in these programs. At the beginning of the year, personnel employed in supervisory and administrative positions were the director, Robert D. Peckham, counseling program director, four staff attorneys, and four secretaries. A cut-back in Model Cities funds reduced this number by one attorney in January 1973, and the Model Cities program was phased out completely on June 30, 1973.

During the year, the Society handled more than 500 civil cases, 380 criminal cases, and the prisoner counseling project at Jackson, Georgia conducted more than 1,800 interviews of inmates during the first year of its existence.

Beginning in the summer quarter 1973, a new grade credit system is in effect. Instead of the present arrangement of three quarters Legal Aid work for two hours per week and three hours academic credit, students will work six hours per week for one quarter and receive three hours credit. The concentration of the instruction into one quarter will permit, over a year, more students to enroll in this clinical program.

Directors Peckham, left, and Cook

The Prosecutorial Clinic

The Prosecutorial Clinic began its third year of operation under the temporary directorship of Assistant Professor Donald Wilkes. B. Thomas Cook, Jr., assumed the full-time directorship of the Clinic in November, 1972.

The Clinic's original funding from the Council on Legal Education and Professional Responsibility terminated on August 31, 1972. Through a concerted effort begun by Professor Wilkes and Clarke County District Attorney Harry N. Gordon, funds were allocated by the Governor's State Crime Commission for the future funding of the Prosecutorial Clinic. In June, 1973, the University of Georgia was award-

ed \$11,788 in Law Enforcement Assistance funds by the State Crime Commission for fiscal year 1974. The funding will allow the Clinic to employ a secretary and part-time student help as well as to operate outside the School of Law in offices provided by the Board of Commissioners in the Clarke County Courthouse.

Twenty second-year students were admitted to the program in September 1972, bringing the total membership to 39 second and third year students. Graduation claimed four students in December and two students in March. Six new second-year students were admitted in June 1973.

In past years, the primary activity of members of the Clinic was representing the State in the Magis-

trate's Court of Clarke County for commitment hearings and preparing briefs to the Georgia Court of Appeals on criminal appeals. These activities still constitute a great portion of the clinical work of the member students, but additional and more advanced activities have been added. After certified students have obtained experience in the Magistrate's Court, they have appeared in the Superior Court of Clarke County on behalf of the State to argue against motions to suppress evidence and to argue for the revocation of probation of probation violators. Plans are being developed for experienced certified students to join with the Clinic director on criminal jury trials in the Superior Court. Hopefully, this program will be implemented during the 1973-74 academic year.