



by Robert F. Steeves, director of APhA's legal division

## pharmacist-lawyers

Pharmacists are showing an increased interest in attending law school and developing a specialized expertise utilizing both professional degrees. In a recent inquiry to United States law schools, we discovered that there are a number of pharmacists currently pursuing legal studies.

Experience and exposure suggests that there are a number of pharmacist-lawyers—perhaps 400 to 500—practicing law or practicing pharmacy or doing governmental work. George F. Archambault, the 109th president of the American Pharmaceutical Association and *American Druggist's* "Man of the Year" is one notable example.

The increased complexity of modern pharmaceuticals and the legal control over the marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals seem certain to create additional opportunities for lawyers generally, and particularly for pharmacist-lawyers.

Pharmaceutical associations find the pharmacy-law combination helpful and even desirable in their executives and so do pharmacy boards. For example, the executive director of the Kansas Pharmaceutical Association, John L. Rose, is a pharmacist-lawyer and until recently, the Wisconsin Board of Pharmacy boasted a pharmacist-lawyer as its executive secretary. Our profession, in the future, will rely to a greater degree upon pharmacist-lawyers to assist in managing its corporate professional and regulatory affairs.

A few pharmacist-lawyers currently practice in positions within the pharmaceutical industry. Many of these

serve as patent counsel where their pharmaceutical expertise is useful. However, patent work frequently requires additional formal pharmaceutical education with the technical aspects of the specialty the patent lawyer chooses.

Much of the trademark, FDA negotiations, labeling, etc., in the pharmaceutical industry seems to be handled by the scientific staffs under the guidance of outside legal counsel specializing in food and drug matters. Thus, many of the general legal staffs of pharmaceutical firms tend to be relatively small and oriented to general corporate legal issues.

Some administrative or quasi-administrative posts in the pharmaceutical industry seem suited for a person with the combined background and it is probably this area which holds the most promise for the immediate future.

Governmental service is another of the areas of opportunity for pharmacist-lawyers. A person with the combined background might be particularly valuable to the Federal Trade Commission in policing the advertising of nonprescription drugs. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's office of the general counsel provides legal services for Public Health Service, Welfare Administration and Food and Drug Administration among others and, employs nearly 275 attorneys. The Patent Office also can and does utilize lawyers with specialized backgrounds.

Education, and particularly pharmaceutical education, presents another

area of opportunity for pharmacist-lawyers. A number of individuals with pharmacy law and training are now on the faculties of the college of pharmacy.

Law school curricula follow the pattern of pharmacy schools—a basic course with some opportunity for selecting electives of particular interest to the individual student. Specialization usually is pursued at the graduate level. Interested students would be well advised to obtain and examine carefully the catalogs of several law schools to determine the electives available and the number of credit-hours of required subjects. Both of these may vary from school to school.

One factor that must be taken into account by the prospective pharmacist-lawyer is salary. Frequently, pharmacists practice community pharmacy while attending law school and after four years of pharmacy practice may be earning \$9,000 to \$12,000 as pharmacists. Beginning lawyers, even with pharmacy degrees, find that an inexperienced lawyer can expect \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Scholastic standing in the law school graduating class is very important to prospective employers and has a lasting influence on the legal career. The choice positions generally go to those in the top 10 or 25 percent of the class.

Legal aptitude, as shown by class standing and the results of the Law School Admission Test (usually required by law schools prior to admission), is also important.

For pharmacy students interested in a legal career, a visit with a practicing attorney or a member of the faculty of the law school if there is one nearby would be helpful and enlightening. Also, inquiries on opportunities in the field of special interest to the prospective law student—government, industry, association, pharmacy school—would provide another guide to help with the final decision. The American Law Student Association, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637,

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Robert J. Campbell, APhA member and pharmacy graduate of the University of Montana, has been elected national vice president of the American Student Law Association for the Twelfth Circuit (Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon). It is the highest office ever held in the association by a person with a pharmacy degree. Campbell has also served as treasurer of his student bar association. As a pharmacy student, Campbell received the Rexall Trophy in 1963 for outstanding senior achievement and was president of the Kappa Psi chapter. Following graduation, he hopes to find employment in the pharmaceutical industry or federal government.