

## The Law and Society Association to Date

THE IDEA OF an interdisciplinary association of people in law and the social sciences becomes concretely visible with this, the first issue of the *Law and Society Review*. The *Review*, a product of the Law and Society Association, reflects the effort of an initially small group, led by Harry V. Ball, who brought this Association into existence.

The first move in organizing the Association consisted of a breakfast meeting of about one hundred sociologists held at the Montreal, Canada meeting of the American Sociological Association in late August, 1964. The Association was there transformed from an idea to a reality. An executive session was held following the breakfast. It was at this session that the Alford-Messinger Report on potential membership was initially designed and directions for incorporating the Law and Society Association were given. Also, plans for this *Review* began at that time and the joint program for the 1965 American Sociological Association meeting was discussed. In addition to Robert Alford, Sheldon Messinger, Robert B. Yegge, Richard D. Schwartz and Harry V. Ball, the original planners were Leonard S. Cottrell, Jr., John E. Coons, Jerome H. Skolnick, Alan H. Barton, Edwin Lemert, and Thomas P. Monahan. This group, with additions, later became known as the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

On November 17, 1964, the Law and Society Association became a corporation not for profit in the State of Colorado.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee was active in 1964-65. Data for the Alford-Messinger report were gathered, plans for the joint meeting of Law and Society Association and the American Sociological Association for 1965 took form, the *Newsletter* (predecessor to this *Review*) was issued twice and the Russell Sage Foundation was successfully petitioned for a grant of \$54,000 to make the *Review* possible. In January, 1965, the *Wisconsin Law Review* initiated a Law and Society section which continues to be published. Political scientists, economists, anthropologists, legal educators, and lawyers were contacted to establish joint meetings with their professional societies.

During the past academic year, 1965-66, the Association continued its efforts toward organization and publication. A special issue of *Social Problems* (a publication of the Society for the Study of Social Problems) was produced and circulated in advance for discussion at three joint sessions of Law and Society Association, American Sociological Association, and the Society For the Study of Social Problems. In September, 1965, a Law and Society Association business meeting was held at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of Professor Herbert Jacob. In November 1965, a business meeting of the Law and Society Association was held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Denver, Colorado, arranged by Professor Laura Nader and Mr. Daniel Weil. During this same period, disciplinary representatives were planning both program integration and membership coordination with their respective professional societies.

By early 1966, the format and editorial structure of this *Review* were designed: The contract for this publication was signed and the final issue of the *Newsletter*, for the first time containing substantive scholarly materials, was circulated among the membership. In the early summer of 1966, a formal structure of the organization was tentatively adopted and the initial Board of Trustees was elected to replace the *Ad Hoc* Committee which theretofore had guided the initial work of the Association.

The present year promises a continuation of scholarly and organizational progress. This *Review* constitutes a major accomplishment. Joint scholarly programs and business meetings of the Law and Society Association and the professional societies are occurring: American Sociological Association – August (three program sessions and a business meeting); American Political Science Association, September (program sessions and business meeting); American Anthropological Association, November (program sessions and business meeting); Association of American Law Schools, December (a program session and a business meeting).

The Board of Trustees met in Chicago October 8 and 9 to prepare further plans and activities of the Association for 1966-67 and future years. It is expected that present developing activities will be supplemented with more rigorous and formal interdisciplinary training.

– ROBERT B. YEGGE, *President*