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NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY-

RATTIGAN AWARDS MADE TO 21 STUDENTS

Winners of the 1975 John P. Rattigan Student Essay Award Competition were announced recently by Dr. Elliot L. Sagall, president of the American Society of Law & Medicine. Response to the contest was so overwhelming that Committee Award Chairperson Richard G. Huber, Dean of the Boston College Law School and Director of the ASLM Student Programs Division added fifteen Certificate of Merit awards to the three cash prizes and three Honorable Mention awards.

Selected to receive the First Prize award of \$300 was Park Elliot Dietz of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, School of Hygiene and Public Health, and Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Dietz's essay focused on recommendations that schools of medicine and other health sciences adopt a clinical approach to teaching law and medicine as a natural part of the curriculum.

The \$150 Second Prize went to Joseph G. Rimplinger, Jr., for his paper on "Dying, Death and the Law: Some Ethical Considerations." Mr. Rimplinger submitted his essay while a student at the University of South Dakota School of Law.

William S. Eikus of Harvard Law School received the \$100 Third Prize for his paper on "Huntington's Chorea: The Legal and Ethical Issues." A complete list of students cited for Honorable Mention and Certificate of Merit is available upon request. The enthusiastic response by graduate students and faculty to the 1975 competition has prompted the Rattigan Fund Committee to recommend a similar contest for 1976. A formal announcement with rules and instructions to authors has been mailed to the Deans and libraries of all U.S. colleges and universities with educational programs of interest in areas where law and medicine interrelate.

As its second major educational endeavor, the Rattigan Fund Committee hopes to inaugurate an annual Lectureship in Legal Medicine in the Fall of 1976. The proposed lectureship would hopefully per-

MALPRACTICE/PRODUCTS LIABILITY TRIAL DEMONSTRATION SET FOR MARCH 10th

The Third Annual Malpractice/Products Liability Trial Demonstration, cosponsored by the American Society of Law & Medicine and the Boston University Center for Law and Health Sciences will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 1976 at the B.U. School of Law's Alumni Auditorium starting at 9:00 a.m. This year's mock-trial will be based upon a fact pattern involving an intrauterine device (IUD) failure followed by hysterectomy. The plaintiff will allege lack of informed consent in performing the hysterectomy against the physician, and breach of warranty and failure to warn against the manufacturer. The Honorable James Lynch, Associate Justice of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will preside.

As with the two previous trial demonstrations, the participants will include some of the country's most prominent trial attorneys. Among them will be Boston Attorneys Paul R. Sugarman, Enid M. Starr, Barry C. Reed, Charles J. Dunn, Jr., Leo M. Lazo, Thomas E. Cargill, Leonard H. Giantz, Bernard A. Dwork, John A. Norris, Patrick R. Carroll, Thomas F. Lambert, John F. Dunn, and David A. Barry. Physicians participating will include ASLM President Elliot L. Sagall, Donald B. Barkan, and Valentina Donahue. Program co-chairpersons are George J. Annas and Douglas Danner, both of whom will serve on the faculty. A background memorandum of law is being prepared by attorneys Patricia Levine and Barbara F. Katz. Also participating is Professor Robert Rose of MIT. The written fact pattern will be printed in the program brochure to be mailed next month.

Registration fee will be \$12.50 for ASLM members, and \$15.00 for non-members. Students enrolled at a college or university will be admitted for \$2.50 with proper identification. Members of the ASLM's Student Division will be admitted for \$1.00.

For further information and a copy of the fact pattern for the trial demonstration, write the Director of Programs and Information, American Society of Law & Medicine, 454 Brookline Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, or telephone (617) 734-8316.

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GENETICS AND THE LAW PUBLISHED

The Society is pleased to announce the publication of *Genetics and the Law*, edited by Aubrey Milunsky, M.B.Ch., M.R.C.P. and George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H. The 532 page volume contains the proceedings of the National Symposium on Genetics and the Law co-sponsored by the Society and the National Genetics Foundation. The Symposium was held in May, 1975 and attracted a large and diverse audience. Each speaker at the symposium wrote a paper for this volume, and each paper (30 in all) is followed by a discussion of its major arguments. Chapters in the book include articles on the fetus by Margery Shaw and Harold P. Green, articles on the XYY karyotype by Alan M. Dershowitz and Ernest B. Hook, articles on screening programs by Jon R. Waitz, Philip Reilly and Kurt Hirschhorn, and articles on genetic counseling, sterilization, in-vitro fertilization, eugenics, and public policy by other recognized experts. Of special interest are the articles on cloning by Seymour Lederberg and Leon Eisenberg, and the articles on genetic policy by Salvadore E. Luria, Daniel Callahan and Marc Lappe. The book also contains a bibliography of 500 selected articles for further reading.

The book is a unique contribution to the medicolegal literature in general, and the area of genetics and the law in particular. The ethical, medical and legal problems associated with genetic advances are dealt with in depth, making the book "must" reading for all those involved in genetic research and policy making, and all those concerned about the way genetic advances are affecting our lives and our future as a species. As the editors note in their introduction, "There is nothing inherent preventing the law from responding in a productive and humane manner to genetic advances." The book is a general reference volume that can also be adapted for classroom use.

The book is published by Plenum Press, 227 West 17th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011 and sells for \$24.00. Inquiries should be directed to the publisher.



by
Gregory T. Halbert, J.D.
Washington Correspondent

The United States Senate recently approved legislation to revise and extend research programs carried out by the National Heart and Lung Institute. The bill, known as the National Biomedical Heart, Blood Vessel, Lung, Blood and Research Training Act of 1975 also makes changes to the National Research Service Awards program to authorize greater financial assistance to schools that enroll substantial numbers of minority students.

The National Heart and Lung Institute, successor to the National Heart Institute, was established in 1972 after Congress made the findings that heart and blood vessel diseases cause more than 50% of all deaths each year in the United States. Lung diseases, especially emphysema, are the fastest rising causes of death, with chronic respiratory diseases affecting an estimated 10 million people.

The Institute engages in activities in four general areas. The primary function is to conduct research into the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart, blood vessel, lung and blood diseases. It also makes research grants-in-aid to universities and hospitals, conducts clinical training and has authority to establish research and demonstration centers across the country.

A major project for the past three years has been to coordinate a nation-wide education program for detection and treatment of high blood pressure, termed the "silent epidemic." Because recent surveys indicate that more people are now aware that they have high blood pressure, the Institute will now focus its education efforts at informing people of the treatment alternatives for the disease.

The new law will continue these programs with only few changes. However, the changes that are made may prove to be controversial. The number of demonstration centers has been reduced from fifteen to ten. Also, the appropriations authorization is reduced in the 1975 Act by over \$100

million from the level set in 1972. Although agencies rarely, if ever, are given the full appropriation that is authorized, there has been mounting criticism of the current Heart and Lung Institute appropriations which could well be reduced in coming years.

Dr. Eugene Braunwald of the Harvard Medical School and a member of the National Heart and Lung Advisory Council in a December, 1975 letter to Senator Alan Cranston protested the relative decline in funding of the Institute over the past three years. He pointed out that while the death rate from cardiovascular diseases has declined in recent years it still is three times greater than the similar figure for cancer, the second leading cause of mortality. Yet in this same period, the National Cancer Institute appropriation as a percentage of the total NIH research allocation more than doubled while the Institute's budget remained the same. Dr. Braunwald noted that the expectations from the 1972 law, "for stepping up research in these vital areas" were not realized.

The National Research Service Awards will be expanded to provide assistance to colleges and universities that have "enrolled a substantial number of minority students" as determined by the Secretary of HEW. The Secretary is authorized to grant stipends of up to \$25,000 to visiting scientists who agree to assist minority schools to develop programs in biomedical sciences. The Secretary may also make grants directly to such schools to develop undergraduate programs relating to biomedical sciences.

The Senate passed the House version of the Act with amendments. A conference committee will meet to resolve the differences in this month. Although President Ford has not indicated whether he will approve the law, it passed by overwhelming vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and observers in the Senate expect that he will approve it.

Rattigan Awards (continued from page 2)

mit an outstanding scholar or practitioner of legal medicine to share his knowledge and expertise with students and others with interest in medicolegal issues.

To continue and expand the unique program and services of the John P. Rattigan Memorial Fund, the committee will grate-

fully receive financial support in any amount so that special projects supporting medicolegal educational programs at the graduate school level can be maintained. Contributions to the fund will be applied exclusively to the above goals and objectives.

A complete financial statement for the period of December 1, 1974 through November 30, 1975 is available by writing to the Rattigan Memorial Fund Committee, American Society of Law & Medicine, 454 Brookline Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02215.