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UD Law School Wins Prestigious Membership

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UD LAW SCHOOL WINS
PRESTIGIOUS MEMBERSHIP

DAYTON, Ohio, January 20, 1984 -- The University of Dayton Board of Trustees was informed today of the granting of full membership in the Association of American Law Schools for the UD School of Law. Membership in this learned society, which is legal education's principal representative body, was extended less than one year after formal application.

According to Frederick Davis, dean of the UD School of Law, "We were recommended unanimously by the Accreditation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Association." A four-day on site visitation took place last April. On the basis of these recommendations the Association's House of Representatives granted full membership to UD at its annual meeting in San Francisco on January 5, 1984. Announcement by UD awaited notification of the Board of Trustees this morning.

The University of Dayton's admission, coming less than one year after formal application, and only two years after the process was initiated, "was generally agreed to have been in record time," according to Davis. The dean attributes the favorable action and swift response to "the atmosphere of professionalism which pervades the School of Law, an impressive self-study completed by the faculty in the fall of 1982, strong central University support, and a clear commitment to legal scholarship on the part of the faculty."

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Founded in 1900 by thirty-two of the nation's leading law schools, the Association was designed to improve the legal profession through the establishment of quality standards in legal education. Of the 180 law schools approved by the American Bar Association, 149 are members of the Association of American Law Schools.

According to Davis, "although membership in the AALS is not a mandatory requirement in order for graduates to be eligible for admission to the bar (as is the case with accreditation by the American Bar Association) it is well recognized that schools which are members of the AALS have a special tradition of excellence and a deep-rooted commitment to the improvement of the legal profession by way of providing a broader and more intensive legal education than is normally required for admission to the bar."

The accreditation extended by the AALS must be distinguished from that given by the American Bar Association (ABA), although once each organization has fully accredited the school the continuing site inspections (which are made every seven years) are made by joint teams with members from each accrediting authority. Full accreditation was extended to UD School of Law by the ABA in 1979. That accreditation was necessary in order for graduates of UDLSL to be eligible to take the bar examinations in the various states and federal jurisdictions.