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# University of California (Boalt Hall) Technology Assessment and the Law

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## EDUCATION IN JURIMETRICS

*A portion of the Winter 1972 issue of Jurimetrics Journal was devoted to reporting on various courses offered in the field of jurimetrics. The following is a supplement to that issue.*

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BOALT HALL) TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND THE LAW

**Richard M. Buxbaum\* and  
Howard A. Latin†**

The primary functions of this multi-disciplinary seminar are to expose students and faculty to the problems and possibilities of technology policy planning and to the relevant concepts, language and limitations of each other's fields of study. For the academic year of 1972-73 the seminar examined the social, legal and economic implications of information processing and computer technology. There are seven faculty members from law, computer science, business administration, electrical engineering and urban and regional development as well as two members of the California Bar who were active participants. A number of other faculty and professionals served as resources for the approximately forty enrolled students.

In order to provide an intensive experience and to simulate realistically the problems facing decision-makers who frequently possess varied backgrounds and limited access to information, the seminar was divided into a series of seven research projects directed towards assessing the

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impact of particular applications of computer technology. The development of an extensive bibliography and initial problem-definitions was sponsored during the preceding summer by the Earl Warren Legal Institute. After an introductory set of lectures on computers given to those law students who lacked any technical background, the seminar met as a whole at monthly intervals.

Study-teams of students and faculty examined each of the following topics:

*Police Records and Privacy*—proposals were developed and eventually some were submitted to the Berkeley City Council after a study was performed of information-sharing between local, regional and national law enforcement agencies and of the potential consequences for society as a whole.

*University Records Systems*—an assessment was made of the actual file formats and procedures of the Registrar's office with a view toward suggesting measures aimed at insuring privacy of confidential information.

*Land Use and Development*—a study was made of the Lake Tahoe Regional Development Agency's use of a computer model to limit commercial development in the Tahoe Basin. Students are participating in litigation preparation in response to challenges to the system's validity and constitutionality.

*Cashless and Checkless Society*—Project SCOPE, a prototype electronic funds transfer system being implemented in San Francisco was used as a basis for an evaluation of the impact of such systems on the commercial and consumer environment.

*Police Resource Allocation*—A team worked with and contrasted the Berkeley and Oakland Police Departments in their use of information and models for the allocation of manpower and physical resources.

*Trade Secrets in the Computer Industry*—both the primary use of trade secrets, to protect valuable innovations, and secondary uses, to limit competition and employee mobility, were considered in the context of computer peripherals manufacturing. The product of the study was a report and proposals for legislation intended to strike a balance between appropriate concealment and anti-competitive practices.

*Competition in the Computer Industry*—an attempt was made to investigate alternative definitions of the market and of potentially meaningful sub-markets with an ultimate goal of assessing IBM's position. The final product will eventually be an article defining the information requirements for a comprehensive analysis of the industry, and a series of proposals for compulsory information disclosures in concentrated industries.

The course will be offered for the third time in the Winter and Spring Quarters (Spring semester for the Law School) of the 1973-74 academic year. It will focus on the technologies relevant to the general problem of air pollution.