

TO: The Faculty

FROM: Bill Whitford

RE: SBA - Criminal Defense Fund

At the urging of several faculty and students, a fund has been established to receive contributions to help the defray the costs of various legal actions arising from the Courthouse incident of May 10th. The attached solicitation letter describes the nature of the fund and the members of the Board who will administer the fund. At the request of the Board, I have agreed to handle the solicitation ~~from~~ of the Faculty. Let me assure ^{you} that I intend to solicit funds only by memo, not by personal appeal.

Will anybody wishing to contribute funds please leave them with me, together with an indication of how the funds should be allocated. An appropriate indication on the attached solicitation letter will suffice for this latter purpose. If no indication is made, the ~~funds-will-~~ contribution will be put into the "Combined" fund.

Checks should be made out to "Student Bar Association -- Criminal Defense Fund", as SEA has agreed to handle the bookkeeping chores.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE FUND

On May 10, 1972, about 500 law students marched to the Federal Building to participate in a rally against the war. Immediately following the rally, a smaller group attempted to dramatize their opposition to the war by staging a peaceful sit-in on the Courthouse steps. The police forcefully dispersed the demonstrators, and seven students were arrested and charged with crimes ranging from disorderly conduct to felonious assault upon a federal officer. All but one were law students. The arrests were not confined to those on the steps but included others not involved in the sit-in.

Competent criminal lawyers including Jim Shellow and Bill Coffee have volunteered their services to defend these students. Many of the students are indigent and will need additional help with the costs of the defense. In order to assure a full and fair hearing of all of the issues, the SBC is asking the students and faculty of the law school to contribute to this fund.

ALSO a civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1983 for an injunction is pending in federal court. It asks that the police be enjoined from "unlawful and unwarranted" use of force and tear gas and that they wear clear identification at all times. Ted Finman is co-counsel for the plaintiffs in this action. There is some hope that the ACLU will eventually undertake the funding of this suit, but many expenses have already been incurred. While the SBC can underwrite some of these costs, more is needed. Ideally, it would be possible to pay Jim Glover, who has spent days on the action, a modest stipend for his efforts.

A Board consisting of two members of the SBC, John McCay and Ed Lloyd, and two members from the faculty, Margo Melli and Ed Kimball, will administer the funds. Those funds designated for criminal defense will be used for the prosecutions arising out of the Federal Building incident only, with highest priority given to the costs of the indigent students' cases. If possible a modest fee may be allocated to the lawyer involved. The funds contributed to the 1983 action will be used solely for that case. Funds assigned to the combined category will be allocated to either of the other categories at the discretion of the Board.

Please indicate below the use to which your money can be put:

CRIMINAL DEFENSE \$ _____

1983 ACTION \$ _____

COMBINED \$ _____

TO: The Faculty

FROM: Bill Whitford

RE: SBA -- Criminal Defense Fund

Although there have been several generous contributions, the overall response to my original solicitation letter on behalf of the Criminal Defense Fund has been disappointing. Yet the need for funds remains great. I am sending this memo in the hopes that many who are willing to contribute has simply overlooked the matter in the rush of exams, etc. It will be my last memo on the subject, in keeping with my commitment not to press anybody unduely to contribute.

I remind you that checks are to be made out to "Student Bar Association -- Criminal Defense Fund". The fund will be administered by a Board consisting of two students (Ed Lloyd and John McCay), Margo Melli and Ed Kimball. Contributions should be allocated to the defense of students facing charges, to the \$1983 civil action, or to a combined fund that can be spent on either of the above. Checks should be given to me.