

In need of some legal advice? 3 lawyers are at your service

By **ALEX MARSHALL**
Staff Writer

How would you like to have your own personal lawyer at your disposal, just like a large corporation or some rich big shot? If you found yourself in a sticky situation and needed some legal advice, you'd swivel in your leather desk chair, reach for the phone and talk to "your" lawyer while you chomped on a cigar.

Well, as a matter of fact, you do have your own lawyer — three of them — Dorothy Bernholz, David Kirkman and Carol Badgett. You have to share them with 23,000 other students, but they are your lawyers — your student activity fees pay their salaries.

They are Student Legal Services and are located in Suite 222 in the Student Union. And if you need their advice, just walk in or call any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their telephone is 933-1303. No appointment necessary.

These three lawyers represent over 200 students a month — "Which any lawyer will tell you is a lot of clients," Bernholz said.

Bernholz is the director of SLS and is one of the two full-time lawyers there; Carol Badgett works part-time. Bernholz has been with the program since its start in 1975.

What exactly can your lawyers do for you?

With 23,000 possible clients, there are some limitations. But they can represent a student, free of charge, for the following situations and problems.

They can help you in landlord/tenant disputes. This accounts for the largest percentage of their cases, Bernholz said. A student might come in and say he did not get his security deposit, or the apartment he lived in was not being maintained properly. SLS will go to court if necessary, although mediation is always tried

first.

SLS can help you recover damages in small claims court for matters involving less than \$1500. They can even carry out an uncontested divorce.

SLS also does "expungements" for students who have arrest records. SLS can strike the record from the books, if the student was found not guilty or the charges were dismissed.

Most importantly, your legal counsel can give you lots of advice, both before and after you get in trouble. Students have even called them from jail, Bernholz said.

"Our best service is the advice we give," said Bernholz. "We try to get information out to the students. We don't want somebody to wait until they get in trouble to see us. We practice preventive law."

The SLS office has pamphlets

See SLS page 16



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Dorothy Bernholz of Student Legal Services

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