

**“O**ne of the nation's foremost law librarians, Alfred J. Coco, has been appointed to the University of Denver Law Faculty,” the *Rocky Mountain News* reported on April 13, 1972.

Alfred J. Coco left his post as librarian of the University of Houston College of Law to accept the DU appointment effective July 1, 1972. Thus, DU Law School gained a new law librarian and a full professor of law.

In addition to his responsibilities at the College of Law, Coco was charged with the task of developing a Law Librarianship degree in conjunction with DU's Graduate School of Library Science. That he did. He directed the Master of Law Librarianship program for both the College of Law and the Graduate School of Librarianship from 1973 until 1985 (when closure of the Graduate School of Librarianship terminated this degree program).

Coco directed the Law Library from his appointment until 1988 when he elected to spend full time as a law professor thus relinquishing his duties as director.

Now, twenty-two years later, Al has decided to retire. At the end of the Spring 1994 semester, he became Professor Emeritus at the College of Law. This allows him to devote his full time and attention to his family

and to library consulting for law firms and other legal institutions.

Al has brought great distinction to the College of Law for his foresight in planning the law library,

including the construction of the current Westminster Law Library, his early recognition and implementation of electronic storage and retrieval of legal materials and his numerous professional and community activities. For example, he served as president of the American Association of Law Libraries, 1977-78, and president of the Southwest Association of Law Libraries, 1965. He has been appointed to perform pro bono work in various appeals before the 10th Circuit. And if this were not enough, he has an impressive history of publications and awards, as well as a long list of institutes which he has organized, and grants for projects which he has completed.

Coco gained his bachelor's degree at the University of Texas, his doctor of jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law and master's of Law Librarianship from the University of Washington.

His wife, Joyce Manning Coco, a distinguished artist in her own right, was engaged with then Dean Robert B. Yegge in 1972 when Coco accepted the offer to join the DU Law faculty. She vowed not to speak to Yegge for moving her from her native Houston to Denver. She now reports that her rage was unfounded. Denver is now at the center of her heart and clearly her home.

The Cocos have two sons, Paul and Brandon. The whole family intends to stay in Colorado the rest of their years, notwithstanding Al's formal retirement and elevation to emeritus professor rank.



Dean Dennis Lynch presents Prof. Coco with retirement gifts from the faculty and staff.

## Coco Retires

by Dean Emeritus

Robert B. Yegge, MA'58, JD'59



Alfred J. Coco and wife Joyce enjoy retirement party.