

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



October 15, 1997
60-97

Twenty-fourth Annual Easton-McCarney Memorial Lecture

Social workers in child welfare face complex legal issues

WATERLOO - Several recent high profile cases illustrate a growing concern across Ontario about the social welfare system's ability to protect neglected children. As a result, social workers are facing far greater legal scrutiny than ever before. This year's Easton-McCarney lecture, "**Social Workers, Child Welfare and the Law: Blaming the Helpers,**" by **Professor Robert Solomon, LLM, LLB**, will alert social workers to the complex legal environment they face. It will also provide information and tactics that can help social workers improve their ability to cope with this change. The lecture will be held **Thursday, October 23, 1997, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** in the **Science Building, room N1001**. Community members are welcome to attend; admission is free.

Professor Solomon is currently the Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Ontario. He has been involved in research, teaching and writing on substance abuse law and policy for more than 25 years. Recently, one of his major areas of concern has been the growth in legal issues facing social workers, health practitioners, psychologists, and addiction counsellors.

The Easton-McCarney Memorial Fund was created in 1973 as a living memorial to two students in Laurier's Faculty of Social Work, John Easton and Christopher McCarney, who died in a car accident. The fund is used to bring distinguished individuals to campus. Lecturers are chosen to reflect social issues of interest to both professional social workers and the wider community.

-3 0-

For more information call: **James Howe, WLU Media Relations Officer (Acting)**
519-884-0710, ext. 3070 jhowe@mach1.wlu.ca or
Kathleen Woodcock, Department of Social Work,
519-884-0710, ext. 2028