



"I do think the issue is who is going to make the final decision, the government or the individual."

— SARAH WEDDINGTON,  
Roe v. Wade attorney

## Roe lawyer: Case based on Constitutional rights

By ISABEL MOLINA  
Collegian Staff Writer

Using personal anecdotes and experiences, the lawyer for "Jane Roe" in the 1973 Supreme Court case which legalized abortion described her feelings about arguing *Roe vs. Wade* and its implications.

Sarah Weddington became involved in the legal battle over abortion when several women from a "consciousness-raising group on problematic pregnancies" approached her with a question.

"(They) said the law in Texas is that abortion is lawful only to save the life of the woman and for no other reason. And they said there were a lot of women who were going to Mexico for illegal abortion. They said there are some good places, but there are some really bad ones. . . . Can we tell them where the good places are to go? I did not know the answer to that question, but I said I would go to the library and look it up. And the journey to the library has been 20 years long," Weddington said.

Weddington discovered that in early American history abortion was considered at most a misdemeanor and no federal laws prohibited it.

In the 1850s medical professionals urged restrictions on abortion, citing risks to a woman's health, Weddington said. And when medical professionals called for an end to such restrictions in 1969, they did so because they hoped to regulate safe, legal abortion practices, she added.

While further researching the question, Weddington discovered several court cases which cited the right to privacy. "Now frankly, if I said to any of you, where in the Constitution did they use the word 'abortion?' You would say to me, 'It's not in there.' And if I said to you, where in the Constitution is the word 'privacy?' You would say, 'It's not in there,'" Weddington said.

When the Constitution was written, privacy was a developing concept, she said. Those who wrote and ratified the document were concerned with governmental intrusion into personal issues although they included no explicit statement of privacy, she said.

Weddington said she decided to use that concept - the individual's right to privacy - to argue in court against Texas laws restricting abortion.

To argue the case on this basis she needed to prove three issues: Abortion was a fundamental right; pregnancy impacted on a woman's well-being; and the state had no compelling reasons to regulate abortion.

## Faculty Senate members review rental agreement

By KEVIN NAFF  
Collegian Staff Writer

A University administrator will have a second opportunity Tuesday to explain to Faculty Senate members the recent lease agreement between University Trustee Mimi Coppersmith and Penn State. Any future action the Faculty Senate may take, however, remains unknown.

The Faculty Senate Committee on Academic and Physical Planning will meet with University Vice President for Finance and Operations Steve Garban to discuss the recent lease agreement, which some faculty members perceive as a possible conflict of interest.

On July 28, Garban and University President Bryce Jordan met with Faculty Senate Chairwoman Janet Atwood and Senate members Thomas Merritt and Peter Deines to discuss transaction procedures and the conflict of interest issue.

The meeting was prompted by faculty member concerns about the transaction, said Merritt.

Coppersmith has declined to comment.

The second meeting with the standing committee is intended to give Garban the opportunity to explain the same information to the full committee and answer any remaining questions.



Collegian File Photo

Mimi Coppersmith

While Faculty Senate standing committees can propose legislation, it is unclear whether the group will take any action following the Sept. 12 meeting, Atwood said. She added the committee could decide to have the matter reviewed further or simply do nothing. "I have no idea how they will handle it," Atwood said.

As part of the transaction, Coppersmith would receive about \$390,000 and possibly an additional \$180,000 from

the University for leasing about 10,000 square feet of office space in The Towers, 403 S. Allen St.

Trustees approved the transaction at their July 15 meeting, with Coppersmith abstaining from the vote.

Academic and Physical Planning Committee Chairman Robert Heinsohn said faculty members, including some members of Faculty Senate, approached him with questions and concerns about the lease.

"People have conveyed to me (that) the administration and trustees' actions should have been conducted differently," Heinsohn said.

"There are perceptions of conflict of interest. (Coppersmith) is vice-chair of the trustees and is doing business with the University - a profitable venture for her," he said.

Merritt, however, saw no conflict. "I don't think there was a conflict of interest, the issue was mentioned but there was no breach of procedure as the board operates," he said.

During the July meeting with Faculty Senate members, Garban discussed the procedure by which Coppersmith was awarded the contract rather than focusing on any possible conflict of interest, Atwood said.

Deines said, "It was a very good meeting, it gave us a good idea of the wider context - the space crunch at the University. I don't have any misgivings."

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## Possible conflict-of-interest questions surround Coppersmith's transaction

By SHARON L. LYNCH  
Collegian Staff Writer

Questions about a potential conflict of interest surround a recent Penn State business transaction with University Board of Trustees member Mimi Coppersmith following the close of a half-million-dollar deal between the two parties.

In Coppersmith's most recent transaction with the University, she leased

about 10,000 square feet of space to Penn State in The Towers complex, 403 S. Allen St.

Leading members of the Faculty Senate recently requested meetings with top administrators to learn more about Coppersmith's deals with the University.

But while faculty members voiced their concern over appearances, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Steve Garban downplayed

the discussions, saying they were just a matter of exchanging information.

Despite verbal and written requests for an interview, Coppersmith has declined to comment on the appearance of a conflict of interest. The veteran trustee recently underwent surgery at the University's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and has been recovering at her home.

Garban will meet with the senate's

Please see CONFLICT, Page 10.



Collegian Photo/Bernie Senger

An intriguing modern sculpture adorns the front of The Towers complex, 403 S. Allen St. Questions have arisen about a possible conflict of interest after University Trustee Mimi Coppersmith, who owns the building, leased 10,000 square feet of its space to Penn State.

## Diplomats forced to flee Beirut

By MOHAMMED SALAM  
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The U.S. ambassador and his last 29 American staff members were forced out of Lebanon yesterday by Christians, including about 1,000 massed outside the embassy, who claim the United States supports Syria.

Two helicopters landed at the compound about 7:30 a.m. and a third hovered overhead, apparently providing cover, while the 30 Americans were evacuated, a witness said.

It is the first time an American ambassador has been pulled from Lebanon since the sectarian civil war began 14 years ago, and the move at least temporarily ended the American diplomatic presence in the country.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler angrily blamed the Christian army commander, Gen. Michel Aoun, for the move, saying he threatened to expose U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy and his staff to a "good dose of Christian terrorism."

She said that before the evacuation, an unidentified telephone caller had threatened to shoot down the U.S. helicopter that brought supplies to the embassy and that an unidentified protest leader said people in the embassy entered and left "at their own risk."

The Americans will return when "conditions permit," Ms. Tutwiler said. On arrival at the U.S. military's Rhine-Main Air Base outside Frankfurt, a weary McCarthy told reporters last night that "as soon as those questions of security and safety can be resolved . . . it would be important for us to resume the work that we were doing in Beirut."

McCarthy and his staff flew in on a U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane from Cyprus. They are expected to leave West Germany for the United States today, but no further details were immediately available.

## Transfer of DER responsibilities meets disapproval

By JOE TARR  
Collegian Staff Writer

A bill that would transfer many responsibilities from the heavily burdened Department of Environmental Resources to the Department of Health received disapproval from representatives of both organizations at a hearing yesterday.

The legislation would transfer the Sewage Facilities Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Public Eating and Drinking Place Act, as well as other statutory functions to the health department.

State Rep. Camille George, D-Clearfield, proponent of the bill and chairman of the House Conservation Committee, said there have been many complaints from citizens and businesses concerning the way DER is managed. Many cases handled by DER have resulted in careless procedural mistakes, or long delays in the issuance of permits, he said at a meeting at Elby's State College Inn on Route 322.

"The Department of Environmental Resources has been given more responsibilities every year, and there are those who believe it has become

unwieldy and unmanageable," George said.

Representatives from both departments agreed DER functions need to be evaluated and changed, but disapproved of having the Safe Drinking Water and Sewage Facilities acts transferred to the health department.

Arthur Davis, secretary of DER, said changes need to be made in the department but questioned if transferring many of the duties would be the right solution.

"I believe the remedy lies in strengthening management so as to improve our ability to serve the people of Pennsylvania, not in dismembering the agency," Davis said. "Some of these organizations could be lifted or moved, but what is the effect on the organization after some of these duties are lifted?"

Suzanne Yenchko, director of environmental resources for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, said she is in favor of transferring some of DER's current duties, but not all.

The regulation of swimming pools, restaurants, public eating and drinking places, organized camps, could be more effectively controlled by the Department of Health, Yenchko said.

However, the monitoring of waterworks permit, water pollution, sewage treatment plants, and drinking water should all remain DER functions in order to link them with other water enforcement programs, she said.

The director suggested a private managerial study to determine and make recommendations for any changes.

The bill is not scheduled to be voted on by the state House or the Senate but there will probably be more hearings to discuss the legislation, George said.

Robert Zimmerman, a health department representative, also agreed some functions could be transferred but that the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Sewage Facilities Act should remain under DER management.

He said DER has more technical know-how and personnel to handle those areas, adding that transfers would require considerable coordination of related programs between the departments.

"Both departments would need to develop or maintain duplicate skills related to environmental engineering and regulation - areas for which there is an affinity in DER and an absence in the

Department of Health," Zimmerman said.

Throughout the hearing, George strongly emphasized that sewage and drinking water regulations should be transferred to the health department, because that is where a lot of complaints against DER have been targeted.

"I think this administration has gone above and beyond what can be expected," George said referring to the current DER management.

The legislation would also require the transferring of personnel from DER to the health department.

"If you receive the same staff and the same mandates you are likely to operate the same way," Zimmerman said, criticizing the bill.

George said he did not think the current problems would continue in the health department because the personnel would be working under a different philosophy.

DER was formed in 1970 and each year it has been given more and more responsibilities, he said. If the bill is passed as it is, DER would continue to regulate mining areas, forests, parks, water, and air among other things, making sure they are kept up to state standards.

THURSDAY

### FYI

Students with cars parked in Parking Lot 44 by Beaver Stadium must move their vehicles by 6:30 p.m. Friday due to Saturday's football game. Cars can be parked in Parking Lot 80 until 4 a.m. Monday, at which time students may move their cars back to lot 44.

### WEATHER

Today through tomorrow, considerable cloudiness through the period. There is a slight chance of a shower tonight. High today 77, low tonight 63. Warmer and more humid tomorrow, high 82.

.....Ross Dickman