

one student of each other—and to Southwestern. The rest go to institutions scattered throughout the prairies of Canada and the United States, the Midwest, and the East Coast.

When viewed against the background of Adventist membership in the Pacific and Southern Unions—the two largest in North America—the locations of the colleges and universities, as well as their variation in size, is easily understandable.

When seen in the context of all North American higher education, the picture, overall, is far from

bleak. Seven of the 12 senior colleges showed growth over the five-year period, and two more remained virtually unchanged. In 1993, nine of the 12 showed increases in enrollment over 1992. So, though small, Adventist colleges continue to grow. In the end, size may not count for much anyway. Think of Plato's academy.

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the State of Arizona in and for the County of Maricopa. Presiding Judge Michael O. Wilkinson concluded his judgment by declaring that "the Court accordingly hereby enters Judgment in favor of defendants and against plaintiffs, with all parties to bear their own attorney's fees and costs."

The Arizona Conference brought the suit against these three Adventist health-care institutions in June of 1990 after the defendants made a series of decisions involving Tempe Community Hospital in Arizona that led to a bad investment of money in which the Conference felt it had a vested interest. However, the judge, ruling in favor of these three health-care institutions, awarded no compensation to the Arizona Conference.

The court's judgment ratified a "Settlement Agreement" drawn five days earlier by the parties to the suit, signed by Henry Bauman, the Arizona Conference president, and three other plaintiffs, as well as by the heads of the three defendant institutions, including Ralph Dupper, president of Adventist Health Systems/West. This "Settlement Agreement" states that all parties involved agree not to appeal any judgment that would be entered by the Court in the Lawsuit.

Although the suit itself was unusual, the events and decisions leading up to the controversy were not completely unprecedented. History for the case began in the 1950s when an Adventist physician, Ernest E. von Pohle, established a clinic in Tempe, Arizona. He nurtured it into the Tempe Clinic-Hospital, then developed it into the Tempe Community Hospital, a corporation of nine persons, including Dr. von Pohle, to which Dr. von Pohle eventually sold his Clinic-Hospital.

In 1961, the denomination became involved through the placement of representatives of the Ari-

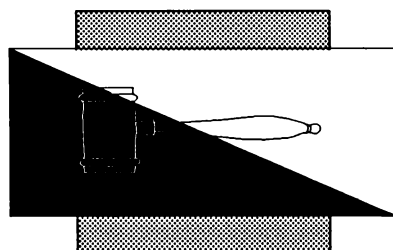
Senior College Enrollments—FTE

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Loma Linda	3,298	2,082	2,261	2,291	2,577
Andrews	2,310	2,373	2,512	2,442	2,305
Walla Walla	1,382	1,489	1,492	1,607	1,648
Pacific Union	1,568	1,533	1,451	1,358	1,434
La Sierra	-----	1,201	1,214	1,232	1,331
Oakwood	1,156	1,187	1,155	1,238	1,294
Southern	1,277	1,289	1,297	1,257	1,293
Southwestern	587	563	604	660	681
Columbia Union	811	864	738	751	657
Atlantic Union	649	647	580	697	644
Union	538	543	520	486	497
Canadian Union	234	235	277	296	309

Compiled by the North American Division Board of Higher Education. These figures refer to enrollment in the fall, at the beginning of the respective school years.

Arizona Conference Suit vs. AHS/West Settled

by Sharise Esb



The unusual case of a conference bringing a civil suit against Seventh-day Adventist institutions—Adventist Health Systems/West, Pacific Living Center, Inc., and Tempe Community Hospital, Inc.—was officially settled January 10, 1994, in The Superior Court of

zona Conference, Pacific Union, and General Conference on an expanded, controlling "membership," that selected the hospital's board of directors.

The next decade, the 1970s, were organizationally crucial. In 1973, an action was taken approving the directors of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Health Services, Inc. (the equivalent of the present Adventist Health Systems/West) to become this "membership," responsible for selecting the board of directors of the Tempe Community Hospital. The Tempe Community Hospital board was now ultimately controlled by a board responsible for Adventist health-care institutions throughout the western United States.

In the expansive 1980s, the hospital established almost 30 years before by Dr. von Pohle and his associates was sold to St. Luke's Hospital for \$10 million. What happened to that money eventually led to the lawsuit. The \$10 million was put into a new corporation known as Pacific Living Centers, which was to establish and operate retirement centers and skilled

nursing facilities, including some in Arizona.

Due to what Adventist Health Systems/West attributes to changes in Arizona laws and health-care regulations and a decline in the Arizona economy, Pacific Living Centers had to sell its facilities. The upshot was that the Arizona Conference, and the Adventists in Arizona whom it represented, no longer had the community hospital in Tempe that Dr. van Pohle had nurtured into existence, nor any other Adventist health-care institutions resulting from its \$10 million dollar sale. The Conference felt that a large Adventist presence had been lost in Arizona from decisions made by these health-care boards. The disputes as to who decided what soon began, eventually leading to the June 1990 lawsuit, and finally the 1994 settlement agreement and court decision.

Following these events, Herman Bauman, president of the Arizona Conference, released a letter that summarized the agreement ratified by the court, explaining that, "The lawsuit has consumed valu-

able resources including time, attention, money and energy from all sides." He concluded three and one-half years of litigation among Adventist institutions, by saying, "Regrettably, the litigation has created a certain amount of hurt feeling and distrust among many people associated with the litigation and events surrounding it. It is the sincere desire of the Arizona Conference and AHS-West to put the entire litigation behind them and to move forward from this day together to focus their energies on the mission of the church."

Echoing the conclusion of Herman Bauman's pastoral letter to Arizona Adventists of a month before, Adrian Zytoskee, a vice-president of Adventist Health Systems/West, ended a public memorandum on the court decision with the plea: "Please join all parties involved in praying that the Lord will bring complete healing to this unfortunate situation."

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