

1981 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

At the annual business meeting of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association, Thomas E. Fairchild ('37) and Gordon Sinykin ('33) were presented with this year's Distinguished Service Awards. The Awards are made annually to individuals who have made "... an outstanding contribution to the profession ..." While the requirement speaks of a singular contribution, the directors of the Association noted that each of these recipients had made his entire career a contribution to the advancement of the legal profession.

A native of Milwaukee, Thomas E. Fairchild today sits as the Chief Judge of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Coming to this Law School after studying at Princeton and Cornell, he was admitted to practice in 1938. After practicing in Portage, and with the O.P.A. in Chicago, he returned to Milwaukee to practice. From 1948-51 he served as Wisconsin's Attorney General, from 1951-52 as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, and from 1957-66 as a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In 1966 he was picked by President Lyndon Johnson to join the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Gordon Sinykin was born in Madison and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin. In Law School, Mr. Sinykin served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review and was elected to the order of Coif. After practicing here for two years he became an executive counsel to Governor Philip LaFollette. He returned to practice in 1938, but left to serve in the U. S. Navy during World War II. While on duty he witnessed the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri. In addition to practicing law, Mr. Sinykin has found time to serve a variety of community organizations, assist in law revision projects with the state and with bar associations, as well as lecture at the Law School. For seven years he served as president of the Wisconsin Bar Foundation.

It is with deep respect and appreciation that the Association honors these two distinguished alumni. Their achievements exemplify the expectations of this School and our hopes for every graduate.



Judge Thomas E. Fairchild



Gordon Sinykin