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# Remington Receives Distinguished Service Award October 21, 1994

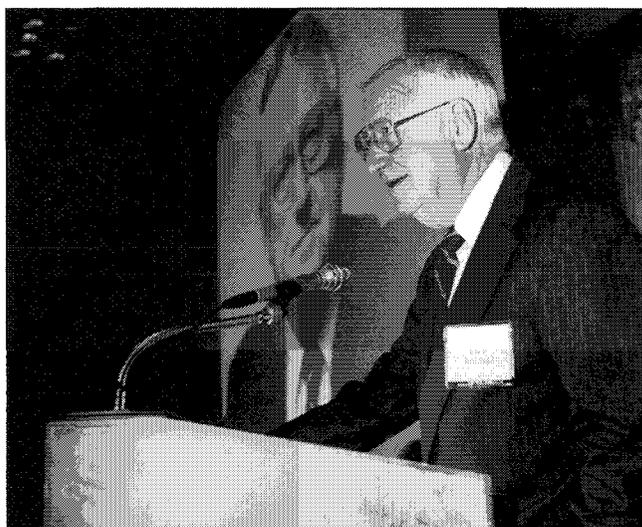
EMERITUS PROFESSOR MARGO MELLI

*Editors note: In the last issue, we noted the death of Professor Frank J. Remington and promised an appropriate memorial to his life and service to this Law School, to his country and to his contributions to the development of criminal law. Perhaps nothing shorter than a book could cover such an ambitious project. The article below, prepared for the presentation of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, captures the high admiration we had for Frank and the great humility he had for his own accomplishments.*

**T**onight, the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association honors both an alumnus of this law school and a long-time member of its faculty in giving the Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award to Frank J. Remington. For almost half a century Frank has been a part of the life of this institution. He entered the Law School in January 1947 and graduated first in his class in January 1949. He began his teaching career on the faculty in September 1949 and retired after 43 years in June 1992.

A Distinguished Service Award is a very appropriate title for an honor bestowed by this Law School on Frank because that is an excellent brief description of his career at Wisconsin: distinguished service.

Frank has given distinguished service to the criminal law, his academic specialty. His research and writing has helped shape its intellectual directions and dimensions. As a result of his experience with the American Bar Foundation Survey of Criminal Justice Administration, he pioneered new ways of thinking about the



**Professor Frank J. Remington**

criminal law. Instead of concentrating on doctrinal issues (although he has certainly made major contributions there) he has viewed the criminal law as an administrative system for the processing of alleged offenders, a system made up of police, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials and characterized by the necessary exercise of discretion. Controlling that discretion, making it accountable and fair, became a focus of Frank's work and a major contribution of his scholarship.

Frank has given distinguished service to his students and his law school. He has always carried a heavy course load. His routine assignment—as anyone who has gone to law school in the last 40 years knows—is a large class at 7:45 a.m. His conceptualization of a criminal justice system which included the exploration of issues with the police and corrections as well as those in the judicial trial of a case

has expanded the criminal law curriculum and made Wisconsin a leader in the criminal justice field.

He has sought new ways of teaching criminal law and founded one of the most successful and prestigious clinical programs in the country: The Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Program (LAIP).

He has promoted programs for minority students. His work was recognized by

the students at the Legal Education Opportunities Program banquet in 1992 with a tribute to "Campus Legend," Frank Remington.

He has done yeoman service in the Law School serving on innumerable committees. He has been a major force in the development of many law school programs and services. One of his most noted successes, was a coup he pulled off as chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee. The Chancellor had announced a plan, called the Madison Plan, to increase diversity on the Madison campus. It involved a carrot; an additional faculty position was made available for any department that had a need it could fill with a highly qualified minority faculty person. Frank and his Appointments Committee came up with not one, but four superbly qualified minority candidates. Although the law school did not have

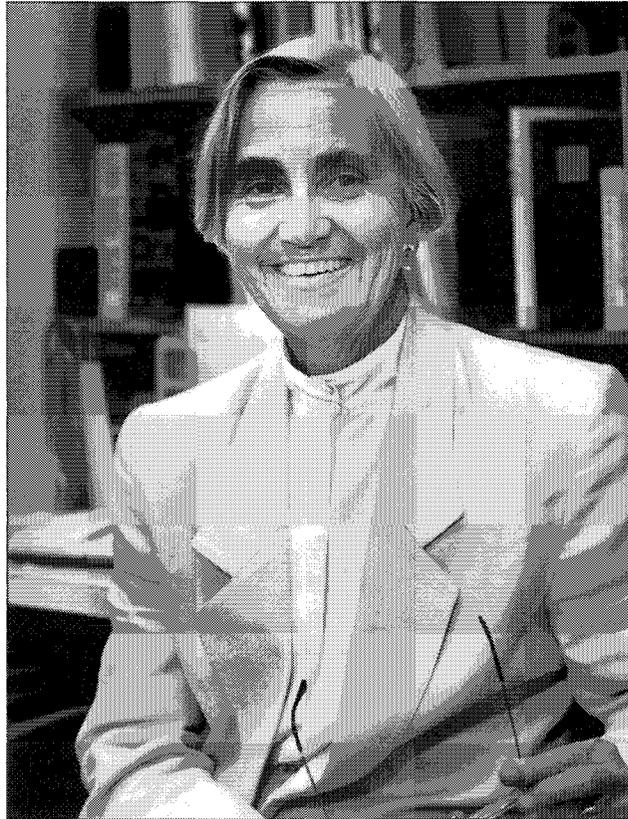
four vacancies, we got all four appointments.

Frank has given distinguished service to the state of Wisconsin, epitomizing the Wisconsin Idea of cooperation between the university and the state. He chaired the drafting committee that developed the Wisconsin Criminal Code. Wisconsin was the first of the common law states to systematically codify its substantive criminal law. He then helped create the Wisconsin Jury Instructions Committee to aid in implementing the Criminal Code. That committee combined the talents of trial court judges and university faculty to establish model instructions in criminal cases, an innovative approach to standardization of the law at the trial court level.

He has given distinguished service to the criminal justice system at the national level, serving as a consultant on the American Law Institute Model Penal Code project, as director of the American Bar Foundation Survey of the Administration of Criminal Justice, as reporter for the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and as consultant to numerous national projects, including the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice and the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder (Kerner Commission). In these and countless other ways, he has played a major role nationally in the development of the criminal law in the latter part of the 20th Century.

Frank has given distinguished service to his community—his country, his university. For his service as a pilot in WWII he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. From 1954–1961 he served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

For the University he has advised many chancellors, served on countless committees including the Committee on Non-Curricular Life of Students, which he chaired, and the Committee on Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action in Faculty Employ-



*Professor Margo Melli*

ment. For many years (1959–1986) he served as the Faculty Representative to the Big Ten, a position that fitted well with his life-long interest in sports. Being Faculty Representative led to his involvement with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and service, among other activities on its Infractions Committee, which he also chaired for several years. As Frank's next door neighbor (my office was next to his) I often marveled at the stream of visitors to see him that this generated.

Finally, Frank has given distinguished service as a colleague—which is an awkward way of saying he is a splendid one. I should know. I have known Frank Remington since we both began law school back in January 1947. I have worked with him on a variety of projects, the Wisconsin Criminal Code being the most famous. I have served with him on more committees than either of us would like to remember. For 20 years or so my office was next to his.

Frank is a considerate and intellectually exciting co-worker. His feedback on drafts or manuscripts is legendary. He never criticizes what you have done. He just leans back in his chair and begins to suggest other things you might have said. He is a bottomless pit of ideas.

As a committee member he is invaluable. He has a remarkable ability to cut through the haze generated by his fellow committee members and get to the core of the issues. I remember countless meetings in which everyone—myself included—would have much to say around the issue. Frank characteristically had little to say at first. But when he spoke up, he often had the issues sorted out and the beginning of a solution to propose.

In spite of his involvement in so many things, Frank is never too busy to help you sort out issues in a problem, to listen to you blow off steam at some aggravation or just to chat about the state of the world.

My favorite story about Frank as a colleague has nothing to do with the law, but it does involve another of Frank's interests—sports. As you know, Frank is a superb athlete. I am not. But at the age of 45 I decided to take up downhill skiing because my four children—ages 5–11—wanted to ski and I knew I would have to take them. So one weekend, the Mellis went up to Ironwood, Michigan and armed with borrowed equipment, I was going to learn to ski. The Remingtons were there also and Frank tried to be of some help, taking me up the chair lift and grabbing my elbow as I started to fall getting off. The next Monday morning Frank stopped in my office.

He sat down, looked me in the eye and said, "This noon I think we should buy you some good ski equipment."

"That's a waste of money," I said. "I have no athletic ability."

"That's what I mean," said Frank. "You need all the help you can get."