Professor Morrison’s 50th Teaching Anniversary Celebration

CLE Request

**Lecture Title**
50 Years of MN Law

**Lecture Date**
Monday, September 16, 2019

**Lecture Time**
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Lecture Location**
University of Minnesota Law School
Walter F. Mondale Hall
Room 25 (Lockhart Hall)
229 19th Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**Lecture Description:**
On September 16, 2019, Professor Fred Morrison will celebrate his 50th year as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota Law School. Morrison will present his lecture, “50 Years of MN Law,” to share his observations on the evolution of the practice and teaching of law over the last half century.

Morrison will discuss how the most notable changes he’s observed have been to the law itself. In 1968, the current set of Minnesota Statutes was two volumes. Minnesota now has 14 volumes of state statutes. At that time, there was also no uniform publication of state administrative rules. Lawyers would need to request mimeographed copies of agency rules at each departmental office. The growth of federal law is equally important to observe as it brought significant changes to areas such as gender equality, abortion rights, affirmative action, and the “constitutionalization” of the criminal law process.
With the practice of law being state-based, there were primarily individual practitioners or small practices with fewer than half a dozen lawyers. With only 29 faculty members, the University of Minnesota Law School was one of the largest collections of lawyers in the state. Today, most law firms are national or even international with many highly specialized practitioners. This expansion in the practice of law has also added an international dimension to legal education with student enrollment from across the world.

These changes in both state and federal law have influenced the forms of reasoning and presentation necessary to be a good lawyer and advocate. In response, legal education adapted as well and began offering elective classes in areas of fine subspecialty. Clinical opportunities have also grown and now replace the required simulations that were in the curriculum a half century ago. Aside from the curriculum, the change in the physical appearance of the student body has also been significant. Most notably, the 1969 incoming class comprised of less than 4% women while, in stark contrast, the Law School’s Class of 2021 is over 50% women.

**Speaker Biography:**
Professor Fred L. Morrison is a recognized scholar of international law and comparative public law. He teaches constitutional law, international law, local government, and comparative public law. Professor Morrison was the Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly Professor of Law from 1990 to 1998 and was named the Popham Haik Schnobrich/Lindquist & Vennum Professor of Law in 1998. He served as Interim Dean in 1994-1995 and as Interim Co-Dean in 2006-2008.

He has been both a Rhodes Scholar and a Fulbright Professor. He taught at the University of Iowa College of Law before joining the University of Minnesota Law School faculty in 1969.

Professor Morrison also has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Bonn and at the University of Kiel in Germany and at Tsinghua University in China. He has served as the Counselor on International Law for the U.S. Department of State and as counsel for the United States before the International Court of Justice and in the Iran United States Claims Tribunal. He was a member of the Advisory Committee of International Law of the U.S. Department of State and is a member of the Board of Curators of the Max Planck Institute on Foreign Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany, the International Advisory Board of the Walther Schücking Institute of International Law at the Christian Albrechts Universitat, Kiel,
Germany. and is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Ritsumeikan Law Faculty in Kyoto, Japan and of the International Advisory Committee of Frontiers of Law in China. He is a Director of the American Society for the Comparative Study of Law. Professor Morrison is also a member of the American Law Institute and the American Society of International Law. In May of 1997, Professor Morrison was honored with the University President’s Award for Outstanding Service.

Credit Requested:
1 Standard CLE credit