

January 7, 2014

ITEM 162-1008-R0114

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Law on David J. Patterson, University of Montana.

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of David J. Patterson from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

David J. Patterson was a David Mason Professor of Law at the University of Montana School of Law from 1968-2009 and taught Professional Responsibility, Municipal Law, Legal Aid, Legislation, Social Legislation and Family Law. Professor Patterson was particularly noted for his supervision and coordination of the "Legal Aid" course, a field-work-type course which exposed students to criminal, civil and administrative matters each academic year including a summer internship with the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge.

David Patterson demonstrated excellence in service to the legal profession by serving as General Counsel to the Montana Association of Counties and chairing the Montana State Bar Ethics Committee (1972-1992), elected member, Trustee, and Chairman Missoula Legal service Committee. He was a charter member of the American Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, and the American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility and through his work with Montana legal Services to improve clinical education. Professor Patterson demonstrated excellence in service to the Montana Courts through serving as liaison to the Commission on Practice of the Supreme Court of Montana, serving as an appellate mediator in cases on appeal to the Montana Supreme Court and by being appointed Reporter to the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Conduct. Also demonstrating this through his October 1998 report concluding that the insurance industry's billing rules, due to their restriction of how lawyers defend a case, cloud a hired attorney's "professional independence." This report showed these restrictions violate the American Bar Associations rules of conduct for attorneys, and started a trend in Montana Supreme Court cases.

David Patterson demonstrated excellence in service to the community through his advocating of pro bono work, particularly on adoption cases, earning him the 2007 Catholic Social Services Stock Award for his support of adoption and children in need of permanent homes. David Patterson demonstrated excellence in teaching and scholarship throughout his career, serving students during their time in law school and also by consulting with them during their practice and by authoring several publications

The faculty of the School of Law is pleased to nominate Professor Patterson for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments