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MATTHEW  BENDER

Professor Donald G. Marshall (1931–2010)

Professor Donald G. Marshall joined the University of Minnesota Law School faculty in 1967, taught for 38 years, retired in 2005, and passed away on May 28, 2010, at age 79 after a fall in his home in Edina, Minnesota.

Professor Marshall was an outstanding teacher as well as an expert on torts, evidence, corporations, and juvenile justice. He received the Law School's Best Teaching Award for Excellence seven times — more than any other law faculty member. Many of his former students say he was the best teacher ever to enter a classroom at the University of Minnesota Law School. In 1994 he was awarded the Law School's first Law Alumni Distinguished Teacher Award. Over the course of his 38 years of teaching at the Law School, Professor Marshall taught 17 different courses to more than 7,500 law students. Reflecting on those classes, Marshall said that a class “develops a life of its own — a spirit of inquiry, an ethic of civility and mutual respect, [and] a standard of professional behavior.”

Professor Marshall was known for his use of the Socratic dialogue as his method of teaching. His style was one of precision, rigorous analysis, and gracefulness. For him, the genuine Socratic dialogue was “based on respect for the promise of the students' minds and a determination to help them realize that promise by providing intellectual challenge.” He explained his teaching as an effort to prepare his students for the practice of law which should be intellectually based, humanistically motivated, and richly varied.

Professor Marshall earned his B.A. at Williams College and his law degree from Yale, where he was Note and Comment Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. He clerked for Justice Haydn Proctor of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Before entering his teaching career at Minnesota, he practiced law for seven years as an associate and then partner of the Newark, New Jersey, firm of Lowenstein & Spicer. Donald Marshall was survived by three sons and four grandchildren.

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Here is a brief explanation of the standard case citation format:

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