THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Donald N. Duquette, J.D., clinical professor of law in the Law School, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2016.

Professor Duquette earned his B.A. degree from Michigan State University in 1969 and his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1974. He served as an assistant professor of pediatrics and human development at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine from 1975-76. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a visiting assistant professor of Law in 1976, and was promoted to adjunct associate professor of law in 1980, clinical associate professor of law in 1982, and clinical professor of law in 1983.

Professor Duquette’s research and teaching focus on clinical law and interdisciplinary approaches to child welfare law and policy. He served with distinction as director of the influential Child Advocacy Law Clinic in the University of Michigan Law School from 1976-2014. Professor Duquette’s book Advocating for the Child in Protection Proceedings: A Handbook for Lawyers and Court Appointed Special Advocates (1990) formed the conceptual framework for the first national evaluation of child representation as mandated by the U.S. Congress. His noteworthy book, Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases (2010), defined the scope and duties of a brand new legal specialty in child welfare law and prepared experienced lawyers for a national certifying examination. Professor Duquette initiated and was co-director of a National Association of Counsel for Children project to develop a national certification program in child welfare law, which gained American Bar Association accreditation in February 2004 and is now available as a specialty in more than 35 U.S. jurisdictions. In October 2009, the U.S. Children’s Bureau made a $6-million, multi-year grant to Michigan Law to serve as the National Quality Improvement Center for Child Representation in the Child Welfare System with Professor Duquette as director. In August 2015, the National Association of Counsel for Children honored Professor Duquette with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his visionary support of the NACC and his lifelong compassion, sacrifice, and commitment to the needs of children and families.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming Donald N. Duquette, clinical professor emeritus of law.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University
May 2016