

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky M.A.**, clinical professor of public policy in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Ambassador Levitsky received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1960. He completed a Master of Arts degree in 1963 at the State University of Iowa. Ambassador Levitsky had a 35-year career as a United States diplomat. He was the United States Ambassador to Brazil from 1994-98 and before that held such senior positions as Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, Executive Secretary of the State Department, U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, Deputy Director of the Voice of America, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights. Ambassador Levitsky also served as director of the State Department's Office of UN Political Affairs and as officer-in-charge of U.S.-Soviet Bilateral Relations. Earlier in his career he was a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and a consul at U.S. Consulates in Belem, Brazil and Frankfurt, Germany.


Ambassador Levitsky joined the Ford School in September 2006, first as a Noted Professional (lecturer), and beginning in 2009 he was appointed as a clinical professor of public policy. He taught graduate courses in the areas of foreign affairs and international relations, drug, crime and terrorism policy, and U.S. national security. In addition to teaching and mentoring students, Ambassador Levitsky also served as a senior associate of the Ford School's International Policy Center and senior advisor to the Weiser Diplomacy Center.

Prior to joining the Ford School, Ambassador Levitsky spent eight years teaching graduate students as professor of practice in public administration and international relations at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He has also taught at The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Ambassador Levitsky is the recipient of numerous Department of State Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards and Presidential Meritorious Service Awards. He received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, is a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy, the U.S. Foreign Service Association and the Drug Free America Foundation, and its Institute on Global Drug Policy.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Melvyn Levitsky, clinical professor emeritus of public policy.**

**Requested by:**



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**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**May 2025**