

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

David A. Moran, J.D., clinical professor of law in the Law School, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

David Moran received his B.S. degree in 1984 from the University of Michigan, his B.A. and M.A. in 1986 from Cambridge University, his M.S. in 1988 from Cornell University, and his J.D. in 1991 from the University of Michigan. From 1991-1992, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Ralph B. Guy, Jr. on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and from 1992-2000, he worked as an assistant defender for the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit, Michigan. After teaching and serving as an associate dean at Wayne State University Law School, he joined the University of Michigan Law School as a clinical professor in 2008. He has served as the co-founder and director of the Michigan Innocence Clinic since 2009.

Professor Moran co-founded and has directed the Michigan Clinical Law Program's Michigan Innocence Clinic since its inception in 2009. Under his supervision, law students litigate claims of actual innocence by prisoners in cases where DNA evidence is not available. In its first nine years, the clinic's work resulted in the exoneration of 15 men and 3 women who have served a total of more than 250 years of wrongful incarceration. As of June 2023, the clinic program exonerated or freed 40 wrongly convicted defendants. In addition, to his work in the clinic, he has taught courses in criminal law and criminal procedure. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court six times. Amongst his most notable cases is *Halbert v. Michigan*, in which the Supreme Court struck down a Michigan law that denied appellate counsel to assist indigent criminal defendants who wished to challenge their sentences after pleading guilty.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **David A. Moran, clinical professor emeritus of law**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025