

**Collection #
SC 3422
DVD 1372-74**

**NORMAN LEFSTEIN
ORAL HISTORY, 2006**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript folder 3 DVDs
COLLECTION DATES:	2006
PROVENANCE:	Norman Lefstein through ClearPoint Legal Services
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	The transcript and audio files have been digitized.
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Indianapolis American Inn of Court Oral Histories (M 0871)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2007.0003m0002
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Norman Lefstein served as dean of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, Indiana, from January 1, 1988 until June 30, 2002.

Born in 1937, Lefstein earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Illinois in 1961 and a Master of Laws degree in trial advocacy from Georgetown University in 1964. At the University Of Illinois College Of Law, he was a member of the law review and elected to the Order of the Coif. At Georgetown University Law Center, he was a member of the E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship Program in Trial Advocacy. Between earning these degrees, he was in private practice at a law firm.

After earning his master's degree, Lefstein directed a large-scale Ford Foundation research project in which legal representation was furnished to juveniles in three metropolitan cities. He also was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia and worked in the Deputy Attorney General's Office in Washington DC. In 1969 was deputy director of the Public Defender's Service in Washington DC before becoming its director. In 1975 Lefstein became a faculty member at the University Of North Carolina School Of Law in Chapel Hill, and was a professor there until becoming dean of the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1988.

During his tenure as dean, Lefstein expanded financial support for faculty research and scholarship and promoted the growth of a number of the school's activities, including international programs, clinics, internships, and pro bono opportunities for students. He also spearheaded the fundraising and planning of the school's \$37 million building, Lawrence W. Inlow Hall, which was dedicated in 2001.

His professional activities include serving as Chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Criminal Justice and as Reporter for the Second Edition of ABA Criminal Justice Standards Relating to *The Prosecution Function and The Defense Function, Providing Defenses Services, and Pleas of Guilty*. Professor Lefstein also has served as Chairman of the ABA Committee on Criminal Justice Standards. From 1990 to 2007, Lefstein served as chairman of the Indiana Public Defender Commission, a position to which two Indiana governors had appointed him. He also served nine years as chair of the ABA's Indigent Defense Advisory Group, which oversees the ABA's efforts nationwide to strengthen legal services for the poor in criminal cases.

His principal publications are in the areas of indigent defense, criminal justice, and professional responsibility. In 2011, the ABA published his most recent book, *Securing Reasonable Caseloads: Ethics and Law in Indigent Defense*. In addition, he played a major role as Co-Reporter in writing *Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel*, published by the Constitution Project in 2009. He also is the author of *Criminal Defense Services for the Poor*, published by the ABA in 1982.

During the 1990s, Professor Lefstein was chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Federal Death Penalty Cases, and in this capacity directed the preparation of *Federal Death Penalty Cases: Recommendations Concerning the Cost and Quality of Defense Representation*, which was approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States. During this time he also helped found the Indianapolis American Inn of Court.

Norman Lefstein was honored in 2001 as a Distinguished Graduate of the University Of Illinois College Of Law. In 2002, upon his retirement as dean, Professor Lefstein received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon. In 2005, Lefstein received The Champion of Indigent Defense Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

He is currently a professor of law and dean emeritus at the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Material in collection

Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. "Norman Lefstein." Accessed April 25, 2018. <https://mckinneylaw.iu.edu/faculty-staff/profile.cfm?Id=80>.

Ancestry.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains the video, audio, and transcript of an oral history interview conducted with Norman Lefstein, by William Marsh, on 26 July 2006 for the Indianapolis American Inn of Court. The interview was filmed by ClearPoint Legal Services, and the transcript and audio were produced by the Indiana Historical Society in 2018.

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