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## Tribute for Frederick C. Moss

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# TRIBUTE FOR FREDERICK C. MOSS

*John B. Attanasio*

**F**REDERICK C. Moss retired after thirty-one years of service to this law school. Originally from Washington, D.C., Moss received his undergraduate degree in history from Georgetown University in 1965. He then attended Villanova Law School in Pennsylvania where he was a member of the *Villanova Law Review*. While in law school, Fred clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division as a part of the school's honors program. Upon graduating in 1968, he accepted a position with the Department of Justice in Washington, working in the Criminal Division.

In the spring of 1969, Moss was called to active duty by the U.S. Army to serve in the Vietnam War. After a year in Ft. Carson, Colorado, Moss was assigned to a transportation battalion in Vietnam that ran an Army port on the Saigon River. There, he oversaw the hiring and payment of the company utilizing the port. While in Vietnam, Moss was promoted to Captain.

After his tour ended in 1971, Moss returned to the U.S. and accepted a position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, where he prosecuted both local and federal crimes. In 1975, he enrolled at Harvard Law School in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Law. Moss spent his first two years at Harvard as a teaching Fellow, teaching in Harvard's first-year legal writing program and supervising students in the School's Prison Clinic, receiving his Master's Degree in 1977. Subsequently, he accepted an appointment as Lecturer in Law at Harvard and created, administered, and taught in Harvard's first Prosecution Clinic course. In 1978, Moss accepted a position as a law professor with SMU.

Fred has taught many courses during his time at SMU. Recently, he has taught Evidence, Criminal Law, Professional Responsibility, and Trial Advocacy. He served as Associate Dean for Lawyering Skills and Clinical Education from 1993 to 1994. He has been the Director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's (NITA) Southern Deposition Program from 1991 to now and was Director for NITA's Southern Regional Basic Trial Skills Program from 1981 to 1989. Fred was the 2004 Recipient of the Honorable Prentice H. Marshall Faculty Award for NITA "for his 25 years of teaching innovations and extraordinary contributions to the NITA," and in 2008, NITA presented him with the Robert E. Oliphant Award for his outstanding service. He also sits on NITA's Public Programs Advisory Committee.

Fred has frequently been interviewed by the press to offer comment on controversial criminal cases and has represented the law school very well in this capacity. He has co-authored a treatise on Texas evidence and published a number of articles in his areas of expertise. Throughout his career, he regularly guest lectured at continuing legal education seminars on evidence and professional ethics topics.

Through his career with the law school, Fred inspired and emboldened his students in their pursuit of legal knowledge. Students and faculty alike also enjoyed his musical talents at the law school follies. He has been a very popular professor and will be missed. We wish him well in this new chapter of his life.