

David B. Isbell – Selective Curriculum Vitae

- 1956 Graduated from Yale Law School, where I had been Articles and Book Review Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. (Also the leader of an informal singing group called the *Oversextette*, since regrettably defunct).
- Fall 1956 Did a three-month lecture tour of India for USIA.
- Feb 1957 Joined Covington & Burling as an associate.
- Fall 1959 Left Covington for what was meant to be a three-month leave of absence to do a pilot study for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Before the three months elapsed, was promoted to Assistant Director, and remained in that position until September 1961, when the Commission's current term expired and the Commission issued a five-volume report on the status of Civil Rights in America – a report for which I served as editor-in-chief as well as one of its authors.
- Sept 1961 Returned to Covington.
- Became active in the local affiliate of the ACLU, first as a volunteer lawyer and then as a board member. Served on that board until 1985.
- 1963 Joined the board of directors of Southeast Neighborhood House, a settlement house in Anacostia which soon became an active participant in the Federal Poverty Program. Remained active on that Board until, six or seven years later, it was decided that all the members of the Board should be neighborhood residents.
- 1962 Started teaching a seminar in civil liberties law at the University of Virginia School of Law. The seminar had been started by Charlie Horsky, on the Dean's invitation, in the mid-50's, but when Charlie went to the White House as President Kennedy's advisor on National Capital Area affairs, he suggested me as his successor, and the Law School, happily, accepted his suggestion. I have taught that seminar every year since then.
- 1964 Elected as National Capital Area affiliate's representative on the National Board of the ACLU. Served on that Board, first as affiliate representative and thereafter as a member elected at large, until 1992.

- 1965 Became a partner in Covington & Burling.
- 1965 or '66 Drafted the Firm's first formal policy on public service, and was appointed the first chair of Firm's Public Service Committee. The policy rested on three stated premises, namely, (a) that public service is an integral part of the practice of law; (b) that every firm lawyer should have the opportunity to engage in whatever sort of public service project he or she found interesting; and (c) that the firm had the same interest and responsibility for the public service projects involving the practice of law in which its lawyers engaged as it had in their remunerative work (so that pro bono cases must be cleared for conflicts, the firm's name should appear on briefs filed in pro bono cases, and a partner should be in charge of every pro bono representation).
- 1972-73 Served as chairman of the ACLU affiliate.
- 1975-76 Served as chairman of the D.C. Bar Committee to Consider Possible Bar Support for Public Interest Activities.
- 1974-80 Served as a member of the D.C. Bar Legal Ethics Committee.
- 1978 Elected to the D.C. Bar Board of Governors.
- 1971 Elected to second term on D.C. Board of Governors
- 1982 Won election as President-Elect of D.C. Bar.
- 1983-84 Served as President of D.C. Bar. The accomplishments of that year that I'm proudest of were getting the IOLTA program adopted by the D.C. Court of Appeals; suggesting to the Court the adoption of the provision for licensing of Special Legal Consultants; supporting the CJA bar in its campaign to have CJA fees raised to the Federal level; and appointing the Committee, chaired by Bob Jordan, that studied the Model Rules of Professional recently adopted by the ABA and recommended the adoption of a modified version thereof to replace the D.C. Code of Professional Responsibility.
- 1982- 96 Member of the ABA House of Delegates, initially ex-officio (as an officer of the D.C. Bar), and then as an elected delegate of the D.C. Bar.
- 1990-93 Member, D.C. Bar Foundation Board, 1990; Vice President 1992; President 1993.

- 1985-86 Served as a member of the D.C. Bar Committee on Referendum Impact.
- 1986(?) Member, Special ABA Committee on Ancillary Businesses (an issue about which the Litigation Section of the ABA was much agitated, and which ultimately resulted in what is now Model Rule 5.7).
- 1987-88 Chair, D.C. Bar Admission Rules Study Committee. This Committee's report received the Bar's Best Project Award for 1987-88.
- 1989-95 Member of the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and from 1991 to 1994, Chair of same. During my time as chair, the committee issued some 26 Formal Opinions – a rate of production unequalled since or before, at least in recent years – including several Formal Opinions whose rulings have since been incorporated in the Model Rules. During that time, the Committee also proposed several changes to the Model Rules that were adopted by the House of Delegates.
- 1995 Undertook on behalf of the Firm to prepare a summary of the District of Columbia Law of Lawyering, to be included in the Cornell Legal Information Institute's newly established American Legal Ethics Library, on the Web. The first edition of the D.C. portion of this work was completed, under my direction, and posted on the Web as part of the American Legal Ethics Library, in February 1998. Thereafter, I updated the D.C. Summary and, at Cornell's request, added a summary of Federal and District of Columbia law regulations governing conflicts affecting government employees, future, current and former, and completed this update in December, 1999. In 2002 I persuaded the D.C. Bar to put on its website both a link to the D.C. Summary in the American Legal Ethics Library on the Web and in addition a winzip(?) copy of the whole work. I completed a second update of the D.C. Summary in May 2004, and this was also provided to the D.C. Bar for posting on its website. In 2003, the D.C. Bar presented me an award for "exceptional personal service to the the membership," in recognition of this work.

- 1992-2005 Board member and treasurer of the Disability Rights Council, an offshoot of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. My wife Florence B. Isbell and I were the plaintiffs in the DRC's first case, a lawsuit (quickly and satisfactorily settled) under the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring movie theatres to install assisted listening devices for the hearing-impaired. (The DRC was merged into the Equal Rights Center in 2005.)
- 1992-2005 Founding chair of the Executive Board of the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, which, during these years, recruited more than 1,900 volunteer lawyers, gave them training in veterans law and placed with them more than 2,400 appellants before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims who would otherwise have been without counsel. In recognition of this service I was presented a Distinguished Service Award by that Court in 1994, and in 1999 the Harry A Schweikert, Jr. Award by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, "in recognition of his successes in promoting a positive awareness of the needs and contributions of disabled individuals." In 2007, the Pro Bono Program set up an internship in veterans law named after me and funded by contributions made to the Program of fees received under the Equal Access to Justice Act by lawyers and firms that had undertaken successful representations under the Program.
- 1995-98 Co-Chair, D.C. Bar Task Force on the Workplace Experience of Gay and Lesbian Lawyers. The Report of this Task Force was the recipient of the Bar's 1999-2000 Frederick B. Abramson Award.
- 1996 Commenced teaching the required course in Professional Responsibility at Georgetown University Law Center. Still doing so, in the Spring semester, while also continuing to teach the Civil Liberties seminar at the University of Virginia in the Fall semester.
- 2006 Received from the District of Columbia Bar the Thurgood Marshall Award, "in recognition of his exemplary legal career dedicated to service in the public interest which has made a significant difference in the quality of American justice."

Other Awards (Not necessarily deserved)

- 1988 ACLU-NCA Henry W. Edgerton Civil Liberties Award, for "Extraordinary leadership and devotion to civil liberties."
- 1991 NLADA Award "For significant contributions to civil liberties, civil rights and advocacy for poor people."

- 1995      Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia Servant of Justice Award, "For unswerving dedication and achievement in providing access for all persons, regardless of income, to representation before the District of Columbia courts."
- 2001      Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Wiley A. Branton Award (together with Florence B. Isbell, who did deserve it), "for their lifetime commitment to the cause of Civil Rights."
- 2009      Georgetown University Legal Center's Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award.