

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GORDON BREWSTER BALDWIN

Gordon Brewster Baldwin, Evjue-Bascom Professor Emeritus of Law, died October 15, 2006 at the age of 77 in Turin, Italy while on an opera tour with his wife, Helen. He received a B.A. degree in 1950 from Haverford College where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his law degree from Cornell Law School in 1953, and in the same year he was drafted into the U.S. Army in the Korean War. He was commissioned a first lieutenant and assigned to the Judge Advocate General Office in the Pentagon. While assigned to the Pentagon, he taught principles of international law at the Judge Advocate General School at the University of Virginia from 1954-1957.

Baldwin joined the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty in 1957 and taught admiralty, criminal law, constitutional law and international law. He served as assistant dean of the Law School from 1959-1966 and as associate dean from 1968-70. He held the Mortimer M. Jackson Professorship from 1991-1997, and he was appointed Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law, a chaired professorship, in 1997.

His expertise in international and constitutional law led to a number of visiting professorships. He was Stockton Professor of International Law at the U.S. Naval War College in 1964. He was a Fulbright Professor in Egypt, Iran and Cyprus in the 1960s and 70s and a visiting professor in Japan, Germany, Russia and Thailand in the 1980s and 90s. He held the post of counselor on international law for the State Department from 1975-76 and was delegate to the United Nations Conference on Charter Review in 1976.

Gordon had a distinguished record of public service to the state. He chaired the State Public Defender Board in 1981-82, the Wisconsin Elections Board in 1992, and was appointed to the State Ethics Board in 2000. His advice was often sought by state officials. Former Governor Tommy G. Thompson told the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* that “When a question came up on the constitution – Wisconsin or the country’s – my first information source was always Professor Baldwin. He was like a walking encyclopedia.”

Gordon loved Shakespeare, opera and classical music and – typical of his commitment to community service – he promoted those loves by serving on the boards of directors of the Opera and the Madison Literary Club. He was a devoted member of Rotary – both his father and his grandfather had been members – and he served as president of the Rotary Club of Madison, the Madison Rotary Foundation and as district governor. For these and many other contributions, he was honored by a local newspaper as “Know Your Madisonian.”

Gordon also served the general university community. For over 25 years, from 1971-1999, he was director of education for ROTC on campus. He chaired the UW Parking and Transportation Board. He was active with the AAUP. He served on the board of directors and as president of the University Club – where he invariably ate lunch – except on Wednesday when he attended Rotary.

Baldwin did not limit his activity to the scholarly world of the Law School and the university. He was interested in using his skills as an active lawyer. “Gordon,” notes his colleague Stewart Macaulay, “was not content to stay in the press box commenting on those playing the game. He wanted to join in.” And join in he did – with memorable success in at least two cases: (1) he argued successfully before the United States Supreme Court that the warrantless search of the home of an alleged drunk driver violated the United States Constitution; and (2) he represented the Wisconsin legislature and convinced the Wisconsin Supreme Court that the gaming contracts the governor had negotiated with the Indian tribes were invalid.

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Although Gordon took emeritus status in 1999, he continued to be an active and well-liked member of the Law School community. On his death, the Law School email was flooded with tributes from faculty and staff who wanted to share their pleasant memories of Gordon.

No memorial for Gordon would be complete without mention of the fact he prided himself on being a contrarian. As a member of a faculty known for their informal dress, Gordon always wore a jacket and tie. In a faculty that prided itself on liberal views, Gordon was a staunch conservative. Dean Kenneth Davis has observed that Baldwin's contrarian arguments "made many rethink their positions and we are wiser as a result."

Gordon Baldwin is survived by his wife Helen, the retired Associate Director of the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center, and two children, Schuyler and Page.

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