Law School Saddened by Loss of John J. "Jack" Curtin, Jr. '57

Boston College Law School

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Newton, MA—Boston College Law School is saddened by the loss of John J. "Jack" Curtin Jr. '57.

A longtime partner at law firm Bingham McCutchen and a Boston College “Triple Eagle” (BC High, Boston College, BC Law), Curtin taught trial practice as an adjunct faculty member at the Law School for over four decades, influencing generations of young lawyers in the classroom. He and his wife Mary founded John J. and Mary Daly Curtin Center for Public Interest Law in 1999, and also established the Curtin Fellowship Program for students working in the public interest.

Curtin was also instrumental in founding the School’s ICTY program, where students were placed at the International Criminal Court at The Hague for many years.

The Curtin Award, given out at BC Law’s Public Interest Law Foundation auction each year, honors an attorney “who has shown commitment to pro bono work and whose work exemplifies the school’s mission to train a diverse student body not purely to be good lawyers, but to be lawyers who lead good lives.”

Curtin received a bachelor’s degree in history from Boston College in 1954 and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University in 1991.

A former chair of Bingham McCutchen’s Litigation Area, Curtin served as a past president of both the American Bar Association and the Boston Bar Association, and founded the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation in 1983. He received a number of awards, including a lifetime achievement award from American Lawyer and our own St. Thomas More Award in 1991 and 75th Anniversary Celebration Award in 2006.

“Jack’s contributions to our community were enormous,” said BC Law Dean Vincent Rougeau. “He was a tireless advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, and his life is a shining example of what we hold most dear at Boston College Law School. It was a life spent in service to others in a myriad of ways. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary and his family.”