

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Approved by the Regents

May 19, 2006

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Layman E. Allen, LL.B., professor of law, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2006, after an extraordinary career of teaching, administration, and research.

Professor Allen received his A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1951, his M.P.A. degree from Harvard University in 1952, and his LL.B. degree from Yale University in 1956. He served on the faculty at Yale Law School from 1958-66 and joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1966 as an associate professor in the Law School and senior research scientist in the Mental Health Research Institute (MHRI). He was promoted to professor in 1971 and maintained his appointment in the MHRI until 2001.

Professor Allen is best known for his work in mathematical logic, instructional gaming, and artificial intelligence. He is justly credited as one of the pioneers of game theory, and has focused most especially on legal applications of formal-analytical methods. His early work, at Yale Law School in the 1960s, paved the way for extending formal decision-making methods to legal rules. More recently, his research has focused on formal mathematical approaches to questions of constitutional and statutory interpretation. Indeed, he has developed an exhaustive interpretive model of several constitutional amendments in the Bill of Rights. His work appears in numerous mathematical journals, and he has served on the editorial boards of *Jurimetrics Journal*, the *Journal of Legal Education*, and the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. In addition to these scholarly achievements, he is the author of the widely popular book, *WFF 'N PROOF: The Game of Modern Logic*, a classic that went through several editions in the 1960s.

During his 40-year career in the Law School, Professor Allen's classes in symbolic logic and legal communication and legal relations became staples in the curriculum and have inspired generations of mathematically minded law students. His commitment and integrity made him a model for students and colleagues alike.

The Regents salute this accomplished scholar and educator for his long and dedicated service by naming **Layman Allen professor emeritus of law**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2006