



In Appreciation: Hungdah Chiu

By Professor Emeritus
David Bogen (1936-2011)

In 1974 the School of Law decided that it could finally afford to hire full-time faculty who focused on courses beyond the required curriculum. We needed a scholar. And Hungdah Chiu was a scholar *par excellence*. On the day we hired him, his publication record already exceeded that of the rest of the faculty. He continued this extraordinary productivity until illness led to his retirement, publishing at least 27 books in English and Chinese and more than 130 articles, a record of scholarship unmatched in the history of the school.

Professor Chiu created the international law program at the school—helping found the first international law journal here, advising the Jessup competition and the international law society,

Right: Professor Chiu receives the Order of the Brilliant Star from the Republic of China, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou.
Far right: Professor Chiu, early in his career.



and sharing his knowledge across a wide range of international and comparative law areas. He retained his traditional formality and strong accent, but students who took the time to know him found a real “*mensch*” who delighted in offering a helping hand. He and his wife Yuan-Yuan invited students far from home to dinner at his house over the holidays. Several of his students published books under the auspices of the East Asia Legal Studies Program.

Hungdah and the East Asia Legal Studies Program hosted a number of research scholars who became leaders in education and government in Taiwan, including its current president Ma Ying-jeou. Professor Chiu's humility belied his extraordinary contributions to the Republic of China and through that to the world. His advice and counsel played a critical role in three stages—the move from martial law to a democratic government under new amendments to the Constitution, the establishment of a framework for operating in the United States and internationally after the U.S. recognized the People's Republic on the mainland as the government of China, and the rapprochement between the Republic of China, Taiwan and the People's Republic. He spent the 1993-94 academic year in Taiwan as minister without portfolio advising the government on a broad range of matters. After his return to Maryland, the Republic of China, Taiwan appointed him an ambassador-at-large. In recognition of his service, the Republic of China awarded him the Order of the Brilliant Star with Special Grand Cordon in 2009, one of the highest awards in the nation.

Professor Chiu led several academic associations, serving as president of four of them: the Association of Chinese Social Scientists in North America, the American Association for Chinese Studies, the Chinese (Taiwan) Society of International Law, and the Chinese (Taiwan) Branch of the International Law Association. An avid traveler and stamp collector, he particularly enjoyed the stamp issued at his urging by the Republic of China, Taiwan to honor the biannual conference of the International Law Association in Taiwan.

Hungdah Chiu combined prodigious scholarship with public service, and he did it with integrity, generosity, reason, and patience. We will miss him.