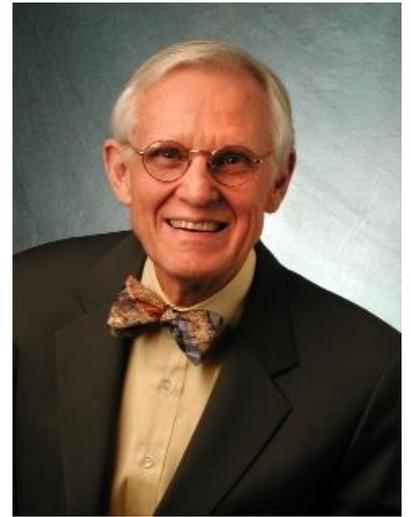


Richard “Rick” Collins

Wyoming High School Class of 1956



Education & Background

Wyoming High School Activities:

300 Point Service Letters 9-11; Intramurals 9-12; Football 10-12;
Baseball 10-12; Junior Play; Forensics 9-12; Choir 9-12; Octet 10-12;
Band 9-12; Oxford Team 9-11; National Honor Society

Yale University: Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry, 1960

US Navy: 1960-1963, Final Rank: Lieutenant

Harvard University: LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws), 1966

Employment

Current Professor of Law, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
1975-1982 Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO
1971-1975 Director of Litigation, DNA (Navajo legal services), Window Rock, AZ
1967-1971 Staff Attorney & Deputy Director, California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) and
California Indian Legal Services (CILS)
1966-1967 Law Clerk, Hon. Charles M. Merrill, US Court of Appeals, San Francisco, CA

Life Achievements

After graduating from Yale University and then Harvard Law School, Rick developed a passion for law and the rights of the underserved and underprivileged. Deeply interested in the implications of American constitutional law for Native American Indians, Rick dedicated the first 15 years of his legal career serving as an advocate to the Native American Indians. He strongly related, and helped fight for, issues of tribal sovereignty, religious freedom, anti-discrimination, and taxation.

Rick helped forge new American Indian law using the American judicial system, and has been instrumental in the outcome of many landmark cases. He successfully argued several important cases in the US Supreme Court, most in a pro-bono capacity, which significantly and positively enforced the rights of Native American Indians. In addition to numerous publications, articles and speaking engagements that have helped shape judicial decisions, Rick is often consulted by others for his expertise in litigation.

Following his remarkable legal career, Rick joined the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Law where he specializes in, among other courses, Constitutional Law. Rick also taught American Constitutional and Human Rights Law at Wuhan University in Wuhan, China, as a US Fulbright Scholar grant recipient. Receiving the Teaching Excellence Award on three different occasions, Rick is one of the longest-serving and most-respected law professors at the Colorado School of Law.

Rick remains as a pro bono consultant to Native American Indian tribes. He continues to mentor younger scholars and professors, helping them to advance in ways that serve larger causes of inclusion and social justice.

Rick and his wife, Judy, have three grown daughters. Ever-gracious, Rick and Judy are well-known for opening up their home to friends, visiting professors, and supporters of the arts, as well as entire classes of first-year law students! In addition to his passion for law and civil and human rights, Rick loves, and is a great supporter of, music and the arts. He has served on several boards, including the Colorado Music Festival, is an alumni of the Yale Glee Club, and still travels all over the world to perform with the Yale Alumni Chorus.

Notable Quotes About Rick

“In my long experience and even longer knowledge of Rick’s legal career, he always distinguished himself, not merely in the excellence of his legal work but even more importantly in his enthusiastic commitment to the native people for whom he worked (for modest salaries). Rick always conducted himself as a gentleman, with dignity and unimpeachable honesty in everything he did. Rick, who was in the top tenth of his Harvard Law School graduating class, could have had his pick of jobs with prestigious law firms anywhere in the country or with important government agencies. Yet he chose to work—with modesty and grace, never with self-righteousness—for people who had long been denied their rights under the law. In doing so, he made a significant contribution to their dignity and well-being.” From: George Duke, Law Office of George Duke, former employer.

“Rick’s leadership in [Board of Directors for September High School, Boulder, CO (an independent and non-profit high school)] was an important aspect of our decades of success in serving youth who are otherwise not thriving elsewhere. Rick’s ambassadorship in the local community, leadership at the board table, and commitment to the values of intellect, creativity, and community have done much to make our mission possible.” From: John Dunn, Head of School, September High School.

“I saw Rick help Native American tribes, organizations and individuals in a number of nationally significant legal cases that helped change things for the better for Native American people.... He is nationally known as one of the best Indian law scholars in the nation.... He is one of the longest serving and most respected law professors at the Colorado School of Law.” From: John E. Echohawk, Native American Rights Fund.

“Rick is also beloved by students as a superb teacher who takes the time to get to know and mentor students every year.... Each year that he teaches first year law students, Rick invites his entire class to his home for a dinner.... Rick is truly a man committed to advancing the potential of others.” From: Melissa Hart, Professor of Law, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.

“...the black letter law is a mere vehicle through which Prof. Collins shares his own wisdom—about fairness, about the creation of one’s moral framework, and about the proper obligations one has to his fellow citizens.” From Damion LeeNatali, Former Student.