

## 2018 Distinguished Alumnus

# Lewis “Red” Mills, LLB ’54

Retired Dean, Attorney, Veteran



Lewis R. “Red” Mills, a native of St. Louis, earned his bachelor’s degree in geology from Brown University and doctor of science of jurisprudence from the University of Wisconsin, with a focus on American legal history. In 1954, Red married Gloria “Cupie” Keitel. While in law school, Red was awarded the Order of the Coif and was an associate editor of the Law Quarterly.

After earning his doctorate, Red enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Paris from 1956-57, where he attained the rank of private first class. Upon his separation from active duty, he joined the firm of Husch, Eppenberger, Donohue, Elson & Jones. He then joined Grand, Peper, Martin & Roudebusch, where he stayed until he joined the faculty of Washington University School of Law in 1964. Here he taught courses in corporate law, securities regulation, agency, creditors’ rights and legal history. He also published articles in the Columbia Law Review, the Duke Law Journal and the University of Wisconsin Law Review, among others. He was acting dean of our law school from 1972-1973. Red returned to the practice of law at Peper, Martin, Jensen, Maichel & Hetlage in 1973 until 1997, when he joined Thompson Coburn; there his practice primarily focused on ERISA litigation. He is now retired.

Over the course of his legal career, Red’s practice has included a wide range of subjects and appearances in both federal and state courts. His more recent cases have involved termination of retiree medical benefits, cash balance

retirement accounts, and the scope of ERISA preemption, as well as the doctrine of equivalents in patent law. Red has also served as a mediator and arbitrator in various matters.

As an alumnus, Red has served on the Alumni Board of Governors and the Law Eliot Society Committee and created the Lewis “Red” Mills Endowed Scholarship and The Lewis “Red” Mills Endowed Veteran’s Scholarship. Red is also an honorable overseas member of the Commercial Bar Association in London, England.

Red lives in St. Louis and has two children, Andrea Van Cleve and Lewis R. Mills, and five wonderful grandchildren.