

Thomas L. Shriner, Jr.
Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP
Recipient of Judge Myron L. Gordon
Lifetime Achievement Award

William J. Mulligan & Joseph D. Kearney

Tom Shriner—trial attorney, appellate advocate, teacher, Bar and community leader, and individual dedicated to his family and his work—is a most deserving recipient of the Judge Myron L. Gordon Lifetime Achievement Award..

Shriner is an erudite and vigorous barrister. Over the past three-plus decades, Tom has participated in at least 200 cases in federal and state trial courts, including scores of matters in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. They have included representing the West Allis Schools in the Milwaukee Suburban School Desegregation case in our Court, congressional redistricting, and alleged red-lining litigation.

Tom's experience as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable John S. Hastings of the Seventh Circuit prepared him to be an appellate advocate. Shriner has participated in well more than 100 appellate cases, including matters in the U.S. Supreme Court and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In more than 60 criminal cases, Shriner has accepted pro bono appointments personally from the Seventh Circuit or supervised young attorneys from Foley & Lardner, for decades spending several hundred hours a year on such matters.

Shriner—the son of a teacher—seems to have been born to explain. His CLE presentations have been innumerable. Although a graduate of Indiana University School of Law, Tom, on a pro bono basis, teaches courses at Marquette University Law School, including Advanced Civil Procedure, Federal Courts, and a Supreme Court seminar, requiring him to be at the school (in the dean's estimate) some 150 times in the past three and a half years.

Tom Shriner has been one of the original leaders of the Eastern District Bar Association and continues to be active in its programs, served on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin, chaired the State Bar's first Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice, and was president of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association.

Tom has been active beyond the profession. In addition to active participation in local and partisan elections, he has served as Chair of the Shorewood Police Commission, the Shorewood Board of Appeals for zoning matters, and the chair of the committee to rebuild the Shorewood Library. Shriner has been active in his parish and has been Chair of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

A story demonstrates Tom's dedication to both his family and work. Before the era of cell phones, Tom was vacationing at Disney World with his wife, Donna, and their four boys. As they toured the park, his boys would say, "Where's Dad?" After frantic searches for Dad, who had disappeared, the family would find Tom at a pay phone, wordsmithing a brief. After the calls ended, Tom would rejoin and enjoy the family group.

Tom Shriner is respected and admired for his prodigious knowledge of the law, great wit, smile, and willingness to help others.