

Richard Zitrin

Lecturer at UC Hastings College of the Law

San Francisco, CA, US

Contacts: zitrinr@uchastings.edu / 415-581-8802 / Office 212-198

Biography

Professor Richard Zitrin is a graduate of Oberlin College, A.B. (1968), and New York University School of Law, J.D. (1974). He has taught Legal Ethics since 1977—since 1994 at UC Hastings—and has authored three books and dozens of articles in the field, including a current bimonthly column, The Moral Compass, for American Law Media. He founded and was the first Director of USF’s Center for Applied Legal Ethics. He was coordinator of USF’s ethics curriculum and also taught Trial Practice. He has taught ethics orientations around the country, including for several years at Fordham.

Professor Zitrin has also chaired the California State Bar’s ethics committee; been awarded the ABA’s Pro Bono Publico Award in 2006; continually remained in private practice, trying 50 cases to verdict; become a CA certified specialist in legal malpractice law in 2010; and been technical advisor to the film Class Action (snagging a SAG card and a 13-word role opposite Gene Hackman).

Richard Zitrin was born in Brooklyn and raised in New York. He taught school and spent two years as a political operative before going on to law school and a part-time NYC cab-driving gig. He has lived in San Francisco since 1973, where he completed his last year of law school while working on a multiple-count murder case and practicing criminal law under the then-liberal student practice rules.

In his free time, Professor Zitrin can be found playing saxophone or full-court basketball, at the ballpark or in his Italian restaurant, or watching movies with his wife or three adult children, all of whom live in the Bay Area.

Expertise

Education/Learning, Legal Services

Areas of Expertise

Legal Ethics , Trial Practice, Alternate Dispute Resolution

Affiliations

State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization : Certified Specialist, Legal Malpractice, Bar Association of San Francisco Committee on Minority Scholarship : Chair, State Bar of California : Member, New York State Bar : Member

Event Appearances

Seven steps to heaven for new lawyers (and old)

Bar Association of San Francisco First Annual Barristers Conference

Judicial Ethics and the Supreme Court (Panelist)

American Constitution Society and Alliance for Justice

Ethical issues in working with the poor

Bar Association of San Francisco

Vignettes from the movies: one lawyer's experience

ABA Legal Specialization Conference Annual Luncheon

California's proposed rules of legal ethics

UC Hastings Faculty Colloquium

Education

New York University School of Law

J.D. Law

Oberlin College

A.B. Government

Accomplishments

Award of Merit

Awarded by the Bar Association of San Francisco, for efforts to ensure the success of the Bar's legal services programs.

Pro Bono Publico Award

Awarded by the American Bar Association.

State Bar of California annual diversity award

Awarded by the Bar Association of San Francisco Foundation.

Honoree

Conferred at the Bar Association of San Francisco Foundation's First Annual Gala, for volunteer work.

Certificate of Merit

Awarded by the Bar Association of San Francisco, for promoting "equality and justice for all."

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