

# NH Bar honors three longtime lawyers

MANCHESTER – *Editor's Note: This story ran Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, in the print edition of the New Hampshire Union Leader.*

The New Hampshire Bar Association honored three city lawyers yesterday with its Distinguished Service to the Public Award at the association's midyear membership meeting at the Radisson Hotel/Center of New Hampshire.

Jack B. Middleton, David L. Nixon and Kimon S. Zachos were cited for "career-long dedication to public service and more than 50 years of inspiration to the legal profession.

Bar Association President James L. Tenn Jr. said Middleton and Nixon still do pro bono work in the courts and Zachos has been very active in the cultural and social life of the city. "Each has made service to the public a priority" said Tenn. "I think they set a terrific example of what it means to be a lawyer."

New Hampshire Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick said much of the pro bono work Middleton and Nixon do is done quietly. "I get the (pro bono) lists every month," said Broderick, and Middleton's and Nixon's names are on it even now. He said Nixon is especially active in the domestic violence field. "David is very passionate about doing this," said Broderick.

When he is recruiting at law firms for pro bono work, and tells them that Middleton is still doing it, Broderick said: "How can they say no."

Zachos, whose specialty is corporate and banking law and estate planning, has long been active in business, civic and cultural institutions in Manchester and elsewhere in the state. Among his longtime associations is with the Currier Museum of Art, where he has served for decades as a trustee and is a former president of the board.

The three men were honored collectively because they have often worked together to support and improve their city and state and the lives of many individuals. Both Nixon and Middleton have also served in the legislature, with former Senate President Nixon now a state representative.

Broderick said: They're always giving back."

The Bar Association also honored a number of other attorneys and the awards and recipients are:

Vickie Bunnell Award for Community Service, Quentin J. Blaine; Outstanding Service in Public Sector/Public Interest Law Award, Cheryl A. Sessions; L. Jonathan Ross Award for Outstanding Commitment to Legal Services for the Poor, Catherine E. Shanelaris; Outstanding Pro Bono Service Rising Stars, Melissa S. Penson and Christopher R. Paul.

Distinguished Pro Bono Service Awards: DOVE Project, Eric M. Sommers; Home Rescue Team, Karen McGinley; Consumer Bankruptcy, Mary F. Stewart; Low-Income Taxpayer Project, Beth L. Fowler; Equal Access to Justice, Orr and Reno, P.A.; Pro Bono Coordinator, Mary Jo Herman; Rural Access to Justice, John R. McKinnon and Charles L. Greenhalgh; Housing and Consumer Rights, Lawrence M. Edelman; Beyond the Borders, Christian W. Lund.

The speaker at the luncheon was retired U. S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter, also a former New Hampshire attorney general, state Superior and Supreme Court justice, and a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Souter delivered what he described as "not any kind of a formal speech," but rather an explanation of the people and their philosophies that he said have made him the kind of judge he is. He added, with characteristic humor: "I've kept the egotism with reasonable limits."

As he traced his evolution from college student to Supreme Court Justice, he spoke of several judges whose philosophies he took as his own. New Hampshire Judge Laurence Duncan was one of them, he said, describing Duncan as a fact-based judge and an "exemplar of common law judgment."

In constitutional cases, he said, some of the questions are what the constitution means. But often, he said: "They are not questions about (constitutional) meaning. They are how-to-do-it questions."

He said there is a menu of conflicting values and most decisions must reconcile the tension of freedom and order.

He ended what he had called a story by saying: "I'm a common law judge." And then he added: "Thanks for welcoming me back home."