



David Brink Minnesota Life Fellow

David Brink, Minnesota Life Fellow, was a lawyer at the firm that is now Dorsey & Whitney. Mr. Brink served as president of the American Bar Association for a term in 1981-82. He is also past president of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Hennepin County Bar Association.

Q: You've been a Fellow for almost 50 years. What does being a Fellow mean to you?

A: It means a lot to me that there is a group devoted to the study and betterment of the profession.

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: Born and raised in Minneapolis and nearby University Grove, just north of St. Paul.

Q: What type of law did you practice, and how did you become interested in that particular area?

A: Primarily Trusts, Estates, Estate Planning and Tax, though also in varied fields of Litigation and International Law. I was an associate assigned to assist Harry A. Blackmun when he was in private practice with what is now Dorsey & Whitney. I became Blackmun's lawyer when he became a Judge of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and later Justice of the US Supreme Court. I served as head of the firm's Washington office for two or three years.

Q: If you had decided not to pursue a career in law, what would you have done?

A: An alternative career might have been to teach English Literature and Composition in a pleasant small college and write novels (and later poetry) in my spare time.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: The last book I RE-read was my mother's classic, *Caddie Woodlawn*.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: In my free time I work in Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Bar Associations and other organizations devoted to bettering the lives and performance of lawyers, judges and law students. At about the age of 88 I took up poetry in a serious way. I read it, studied it, began to write and teach it, formed poetry clubs and did readings. In February 2016, I published a book of my poems entitled *Beyond the Delta*, which has been very well received. I am working on another book and tending to some disabilities that seem to come with advanced years. I will be 97 later this month. Claim still to possess 51% of my marbles.