

**2019 American Bar Foundation Fellows Outstanding State Chair Award:  
Wisconsin State Co-Chairs**



**John S. Skilton** is a lawyer practicing with the law firm of Perkins Coie in Madison Wisconsin. He obtained a BA degree from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) as a history major in 1966. He graduated from the UW Law School in 1969 (where he served as Articles Editor of the Law Review). In 1969-1970 he served as a law clerk for United States Court of Appeals Judge Thomas E. Fairchild. He has practiced law, specializing in commercial litigation, continuously in the State of Wisconsin (and throughout the United States) since August 9, 1970.

Throughout his career, Mr. Skilton has expended a significant amount of professional time on professional and *pro bono* activities, with an emphasis on delivery of legal services issues. He has served as President of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association (1985-86); President of the State Bar of Wisconsin (1995-96); and as Co-Chair of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (2004-2005) (the Committee of lawyers called for by President Kennedy during the civil rights crises of 1963). He has also served on the Board of the American Inns of Court Foundation (1996-1999). He has also served as the Chair of the ABA Delivery of Legal Services Committee (1997-2000) and Chair of the ABA Consortium on Justice (2000-2003) and was a founder and the first President of Wisconsin's Equal Justice Fund. More recently he served as the State Delegate for Wisconsin in the ABA House of Delegates (2009-2012) and on the Board of Governors of the ABA (2012-2015). Presently he is serving as the Seventh Circuit Member of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary.

Mr. Skilton has received professional recognition for these activities including the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Gordon Sinykin Award for Outstanding Contributions In Public Service (1996); Wisconsin's Equal Justice Fund's Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award (2001); the Dane County Bar Association's Lifetime *Pro Bono Publico* Lifetime Achievement Award (2005); and The Lawyers' Committee's Whitney North Seymour Award For Exemplary Service in Securing Equal Justice Under Law (2007); and the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Charles L. Goldberg's Distinguished Service Award (2016).

Mr. Skilton is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the American Law Institute. Mr. Skilton is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has been a Fellow since 1993.