

## LEON E. IRISH

Leon ("Lee") E. Irish is a recurrent Visiting Professor of Law at the Central European University and President of the International Center for Civil Society Law. His principal current activities are (1) teaching comparative not-for-profit law and human rights and (2) providing technical assistance to developing and transition countries on laws affecting civil society. Previously he was a senior employee benefits partner at Caplin & Drysdale and Jones Day.

Lee Irish was born in Superior, Wisconsin. He received his B.A. in history from Stanford University and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served as Note and Comment Editor of the Michigan Law Review. He was elected to the Order of the Coif. He studied law and legal philosophy under Prof. H.L.A. Hart at Oxford University and received a D.Phil. (Oxon). He served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Byron White of the United States Supreme Court.

For seventeen years Dr. Irish practiced employee benefits law with the Washington law firm of Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered. From 1985-88 he was a full time Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School, where he taught tax, employee benefits, and international law. From 1988 to 1993 he was the senior employee benefits partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day. From 1993 to 1995 he was Vice President and Senior Counsel of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company with special responsibilities for tax and employee benefits.

Dr. Irish was Chairman of the Employee Benefits Committee of the Tax Section of the ABA during the enactment of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and served as Chairman of the ABA's Joint Committee on Employee Benefits. As an employee benefits lawyer, Dr. Irish represented a wide variety of clients on the entire range of employee benefits issues. He participated in the enactment of ERISA and was involved in virtually every major piece of employee benefits legislation from 1974 until the mid-1990's. He has worked with seven of the eleven most recent Chiefs of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Dr. Irish has been an officer or director of many professional and voluntary organizations and has been an adjunct or visiting professor of law at Georgetown, George Washington, Catholic University of America, and Temple.

Dr. Irish and his wife, Prof. Karla Simon, were the founders of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, where he served as Chairman or President from 1994-2002. He and Prof. Simon are also the founders of the International Center for Civil Society Law, of which he is the President. For USAID, UNDP, the World Bank, and others, Dr. Irish has provided technical assistance in over 40 countries around the world for the creation and improvement of laws affecting civil society and citizen rights.

Dr. Irish is a member of the College of Tax Counsel, the American Council of Employee Benefits Counsel, the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, the American Association of International Law, and the Council on Foreign Relations. For over thirty years he was a member of the Advisory Board of the BNA *Pension Reporter*. He is listed in *Who's Who* and *Who's Who in America*.