

Leonard Lindquist

At 88, still into community service

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Judge leaders by the people they associate with. Or by the kind of organization they create. Or by personal accomplishments beyond someone's main career. If one person has done all three things extremely well, you've got a remarkable winner. That's what Minnesota has in **Leonard Lindquist**, 88, who'll be honored Wednesday at a recognition dinner.

More than a half-century ago, Lindquist and a partner, Earl Larson (later a federal judge), launched Larson & Lindquist, a law firm now known as Lindquist & Vennum. It began with and still has a powerful commitment to community work and public service.

Over the years, its employees have included: Orville Freeman, governor and secretary of agriculture; Don Fraser, congressman and Minneapolis mayor; Walter Mondale, U.S. vice president; Alan Page, Minnesota Supreme Court justice; Diana Murphy, U.S. Appeals Court justice; Nadine Strossen, American Civil Liberties Union leader. The list goes on.

Lindquist & Vennum's extensive public service involves an unusual commitment to pro-bono service by all staff members. Such work in 1999 included death-row service in Louisiana for a prisoner believed wrongly convicted; legal clinics at Roosevelt

High School and Plymouth Youth Center; asylum help for refugees; mediation help for a Hennepin court and involvement with Life's Missing Link, a program for inner-city children founded by former Vikings Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed. Such giving back to the community reflects Lindquist's leadership.

Finally, Lindquist has made significant contributions outside of Lindquist & Vennum, where he still comes to work daily although he is retired. In the 1950s, Lindquist, long a Republican, served in the Legislature, where he authored legislation creating the Hennepin County park system. While on the Higher Education Coordinating Board, he spearheaded reciprocal tuition with neighboring states. For Mayor Art Naftalin, he headed a commission on fair-employment practices. The list of such services is long.

The group honoring Lindquist is the nonprofit North Hennepin Mediation Program based in Brooklyn Center but resolving disputes across the northern part of the county. Lindquist lives in Brooklyn Center, as does Rep. Phil Carruthers, president of the mediation program. Carruthers met Lindquist several years ago while door-knocking and recruited him for the program board. For Lindquist it was yet another opportunity to serve. Naturally.