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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Robert P. Cummins graduated with distinction from Purdue University in 1958 after serving on active duty with the United States Marine Corps from 1952-1954. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University Law School in 1962 where he served on the Law Review. He has pursued a civil and criminal trial practice and related counseling for over 50 years and has served as an arbitrator and mediator in complex commercial disputes. He is admitted to practice in Illinois, Colorado, and Maine and before the United States Supreme Court and numerous Federal Courts of Appeal and Federal District Courts.

As evidence of his high standing in the legal profession, Mr. Cummins was elected a 2004 Laureate of the Academy of Illinois Lawyers. He has received numerous awards and citations for his professional contributions. He is a recognized expert in the field of lawyer and judicial conduct and ethics and has testified as an expert witness in numerous civil and criminal cases.

He served as Chairman of the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board until December 1987. He served as member of the Review Board of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Illinois Supreme Court for seven years until appointed by the Governor to the Judicial Inquiry Board in 1979.

From 2004 through 2007, he served on behalf of the American Judicature Society as advisor to the American Bar Association's Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The revised Model Rules of Judicial Conduct were adopted by the ABA in 2007.

He is a former member of the ABA Standing Committee of Professionalism; is past Chairman of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Professional Discipline; and a past member of the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability. He has served as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers Competence and as Vice Chairman of the ABA Litigation Section Professional Responsibility Committee. He served on the ABA Litigation Section Task Force on the Independent Lawyer and chaired the Litigation Section Task Force on Ethics 2000 and served as Chairman of the ABA Judicial Division Lawyers Conference Committee on Judicial Performance and Conduct. He is also a past member of the ABA Joint Committee on Lawyer Regulation.

He has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association and served as Vice Chairman of its Task Force on Professionalism. He currently served on the ISBA Judicial Tone and Conduct Committee. He is a founder of the Illinois Lawyers Assistance Program. He is a former member of the American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and the Advisory Commission on Client Protection Funds. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Criminal Justice Project of Cook County and was a co-chairman of the Special Commission on the Administration of Justice. He has served on the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association and the Board of Directors of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Beginning in the '80's and through various committee assignments (and up until at least 2003), he participated in the drafting, implementation and updating of the ABA Model and Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. With the then Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, he served as Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Professional Sanctions which drafted the ABA Standards for

Imposing Lawyer Sanctions that were adopted in 1986. As a member and Chairman of the ABA Standing Committee on Professional Discipline from 1981 until 1987, he implemented and participated in the evaluation of a number of our state's lawyer discipline systems including those of the states of Florida, Ohio, New York, South Dakota and Utah.

At various times since 1979, Cummins has taught Professional Responsibility as an adjunct professor at Chicago's Loyola Law School, Cummins has lectured and participated as a speaker at numerous seminars, conferences and symposia at Harvard, Hofstra, NYU, Quinnipiac, Northwestern, DePaul, Georgetown University Law Center, Loyola, Northwestern and Cooley Law Schools. He has also lectured on trial practice at the John Marshall Law School. He has served as a panelist at a host of national, state and specialized bar association conferences. He has authored a variety of articles and has lectured at the National Judicial College and at various state and national judicial conduct conferences and seminars including the bi-annual AJS Conference for Judicial Disciplinary and Disability Organizations and at various trial judge association meetings including those conducted in Colorado, Florida and Hawaii. (The subject of these latter trial judge programs was "*The Judicial Response to Lawyer Misconduct*"). He has been a lecturer at various Illinois Judicial Conferences and Seminars including those conducted for new Illinois judges.

Cummins recently served on a multi-week consulting assignment in Sarajevo with the USAID Justice Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cummins was appointed as the judicial ethics expert for the Project. While in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cummins consulted with the judicial officials and prosecutors regarding their ethics codes and standards of conduct.

He served as a member of the Editorial Board of the ABA/BNA Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct. He has served as a member of the Performance Assistance Committee of the Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

He was appointed and served as special counsel in a variety of circumstances including the so-called Black Panther (Fred Hampton, et al.) case in 1970 and has represented the Committee on Character and Fitness on the Illinois Supreme Court in connection with the infamous Martin Trigona and Matthew Hale matters. He served as court-appointed counsel in the Pontiac prison case and chaired the Defense of Indigent Prisoners' and Civil Disorders Committee on the Chicago Bar Association. He has chaired or served on numerous other committees of the American, Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations.

He and his writer/poet wife Deborah Cummins have homes in Portland and Deer Isle, Maine.