James J. White, ’62

James J. White, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law, is one of the most highly regarded teachers and scholars in the University of Michigan Law School’s history and a nationally renowned authority in commercial law.

Professor White began his professional career in the Los Angeles office of the law firm of Latham & Watkins before joining the Michigan Law faculty in 1964. From 1978-81, Professor White served as Associate Dean of the Law School. In 1982, he was named the holder of the Sullivan Chair.

Professor White served his country with distinction in the United States Air Force (1956-59 and 1961-62) and as a pilot in the Ohio Air National Guard (1964-81), attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

It is as a scholar and teacher of commercial law that Professor White is best known. His book *Uniform Commercial Code* (co-written with Robert S. Summers and Robert A. Hillman) is the most widely recognized treatise on the subject. Professor White is also the author of several casebooks on commercial, bankruptcy, and contracts law and of scores of law review articles in these areas.

Among students and alumni, Professor White is legendary for his drill-sergeant deportment during 8 a.m. classes, though his gruff demeanor does not successfully mask his true caring. Indeed, though he might bristle at the notion, Professor White is much-beloved, and many are the alumni who count him as a mentor.

Professor White is a member of the Permanent Editorial Board of the Uniform Commercial Code. He has served as the reporter for the revision of Article 5 of the Uniform Commercial Code and is a Commissioner on Uniform Laws from Michigan. He has also served on several committees of the American Law Institute and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Professor White received Michigan Law’s L. Hart Wright Award for Excellence in Teaching for and the Homer Kripke Achievement Award from the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers.