A slave to no ideology, a champion of the probing, thought-provoking question, the superb listener whose questions add immeasurably to the discussion — all describe Terrance Sandalow, the Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law. After more than 30 years on the faculty, and dean from 1978-87, Sandalow has retired from active teaching.

One of the Law School's 'very best teachers'

Francis Allen, Sandalow's former teacher who later became his colleague, commended Sandalow's "pervasive and intelligent skepticism of ideology."

Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, '81: "With your retirement the Law School is really losing one of its very best teachers."

Former Law School faculty colleague Joe Sax, now at Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley, described Sandalow as "a good listener and a good reader and a good and serious friend."

Son Mark Sandalow, Washington-based political writer for the San Francisco Chronicle: "My brother and sister and I all love our work, and my father taught us that. Thank you for showing us how a devoted family man can lead a successful career."

Former Sandalow student and now Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Christina B. Whitman, '74: "It is because of Terry that I went into teaching."

PHOTOS BY PAUL JARONSKI/UNIVERSITY PHOTO SERVICES
One hundred family members, friends, colleagues, and well wishers gathered at the Lawyers Club Lounge in December to dine with Sandalow and celebrate his career. From humorous anecdotes to heartfelt expressions of friendship, it was an evening filled with insights into the man behind a distinguished career.

“We are not here to celebrate the retirement of Terry,” said Francis Allen, like Sandalow, a former dean of the Law School, and also at one time Sandalow’s law professor. “Quite the contrary. We are here to celebrate his career.”

Sandalow’s son Mark, a Washington, D.C.-based political writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, recalled the “academic version of Outward Bound” that characterized growing up in the Sandalow household. Other kids got balloons and clowns on their birthdays, he groused. “I sat across the table as my father tossed out legal paradoxes.”

University President Lee C. Bollinger, also a former dean of the Law School, could not attend, but sent a communication to be read at the celebration. “Terry, I think you know, but I want to say explicitly, that you played a central and defining role for those of us who joined the faculty in the late 1960s and ’70s,” Bollinger said. He described Sandalow as “absolutely dedicated to ideas, forever in search of ways of understanding fundamental principles and values, always skeptical yet sure that reason can assist and, in any event, is our surest guide, and patiently ready to initiate each new generation of students and faculty into the joys, burdens, and responsibilities of serious intellectual life.”

“This is what you meant to us, what we wanted in you as our dean, and what you have given us at every moment,” Bollinger said. “You can’t ask for more of a colleague and dean, and I’m forever grateful.”

“With your retirement, the Law School is really losing one of its very best teachers,” said Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, ’81. “During my time as dean, I have always felt free to approach you for precise and wise counsel.”

The Law School is “a place where ideas matter,” Sandalow said with appreciation. Life at the Law School has been “a long-running seminar not only in the law but also in all the subjects that go with those who are involved in the intellectual life.”

A decorative vase was one of the Law School’s gifts to retiring Professor Terrance Sandalow, who served for 34 years on the faculty and as dean from 1978-87, and his wife, Ina. Terrance Sandalow also received a football — a testament to his well-known lack of enthusiasm for football — on which are the words: “To Terry Sandalow from the Law School Team.”

The Sandalow Family: David, Mark, Judith, Ina, and Terrance.