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Bill Corcoran

CORCORAN PROVIDES ETHICS GUIDANCE TO U.S. SENATE

Bill Corcoran, Esq. '64 has always enjoyed debating the issues of the day.

Dating back to his time at Scranton Preparatory School and later The University of Scranton, Corcoran – who grew up in the Green Ridge section of Scranton – relished his experience on his high school and college debate teams.

“It gave me a chance to reflect, and I enjoyed being an advocate on my feet,” he says.

After majoring in classics and English at Scranton, Corcoran built on his skills of discussion and persuasion at the Georgetown University Law Center, graduating in 1967.

Today, Corcoran continues to engage the issues of the day, although his stage has grown considerably.

As Counsel to the Select Committee on Ethics of the U.S. Senate, Corcoran is one of eight attorneys providing ethics guidance to members, officers and employees of the Senate.

The Select Committee on Ethics, a council of six members and equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, directs matters related to senatorial ethics. More specifically, the Committee investigates allegations of improper conduct that would involve violation of the Senate Code of Conduct and Senate Rules or violations of the law.

Corcoran and his fellow attorneys ensure that members, officers and employees receive proper guidance and counsel, as well as educational briefings, to abide by the rules of the Senate.

It's a responsibility Corcoran cherishes, explaining, “It is rewarding that we play an important part in the activities of the U.S. Senate ... one of the most important institutions of government in our country.”

Corcoran explains the desire to devote himself to public service has been a constant throughout his life, and notes that The University of Scranton was pivotal in preparing him to achieve his aspirations and pursue a career in law.

“In reflecting on my studies at Scranton and how they influenced me, I would say the study of philosophy stands out in my mind,” he says. “Studying philosophy taught us how to think – how to approach and analyze and logically arrive at the right conclusion.”

Corcoran, who received the O'Hara Award in 2004, cites the late Rev. Bernard Suppe, S.J., a philosophy professor at the University from 1957 to 1976, as one of the most prominent figures in his life and education.

“Father Suppe was a wonderful Jesuit,” he recalls. “What I remember so clearly is he had such a love for teaching and for his students and a love of The University of Scranton. It influenced me and stayed with me all of these years.”

Corcoran's connection to Scranton remains strong, visiting the University at least once a year and keeping in touch with friends he made as an undergraduate – a feat he encourages current students to follow. He also faithfully attends alumni events



As Counsel to the Select Committee on Ethics of the U.S. Senate, Bill Corcoran, Esq. '64 is one of eight attorneys who provide ethics guidance to members, officers or employees of the Senate. A former president of the University's Debators Club, Corcoran calls it rewarding to serve “one of the most important institutions of government in our country.”

in Washington, D.C.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to receive a Jesuit and Catholic education,” he says. “I would say my time at Scranton prepared me to be confident, to seek opportunities and to know that as opportunities came my way, I would have a chance to succeed.”

“We all learned that from the example provided by the Jesuits and lay faculty.”

Corcoran believes he and his fellow alumni have a responsibility to continue to set that example for current students.

“It is important that we encourage students from Scranton to be confident as they pursue their career goals in life and achieve their hopes and dreams,” he says. “We should try to help them and share with them what we learned from our experiences in our careers.”

It's a point he feels can't be debated. 🗳️