The Honorable Hans A. Linde, Senior Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, was in residence at the School of Law on March 23 and 24, 1993 as the Howard Kaplan Memorial Lecturer. He taught students of Constitutional Law, delivered a major address, and met informally with students and faculty.

Judge Linde’s thought-provoking remarks proved to be a perfect complement to a course in Lawmaking Institutions which is now required of all first-year students. The goal of that course is to provide students with a context for understanding, analyzing, and evaluating American lawmaking institutions by examining the courts, legislatures, and administrative agencies from a historical, political, and theoretical standpoint.

In a lecture to Constitutional Law classes, Judge Linde critiqued the Supreme Court’s de novo determination of the merits of the law. In his principal speech entitled, “What do you mean by ‘policy,’ counsel?” he used some New York cases to illustrate his central theme — that it is better for democracy when courts work with legislatures and not independently of them by allowing the elected officials as members of politically responsive bodies to create policy.

The Howard Kaplan Memorial Lecture Series in public interest law was established in 1986 by the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. in memory of Mr. Kaplan, a prominent attorney. The School of Law is grateful for the opportunity to enrich each student’s educational experience through the visits of noted scholars such as Justice Linde.