1999 Hall of Fame Inductee

Dr. Leonard Williams Levy

Class of 1940

Dr. Leonard Levy is a retired professor of history who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University. He is a former Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional History and a former Dean at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts. He joined the staff at Brandeis in 1951 and was honored as a Guggenheim Fellow in 1957-58.



Dr. Leonard Williams Levy
Class of 1940

In 1969, Dr. Levy received the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for History for his book, "Origins of the Fifth Amendments." The May 15, 1969 news release which announced his award, read as follows, "Leonard Williams Levy has one guiding principal in everything he writes as an American historian, 'Believe nothing unless proved beyond reasonable doubt by the evidence." The release goes on to say, "In his quest for the beginnings of the constitutional guarantee against self incrimination, one of the most basic of all Civil Liberties, Professor Levy examined the basic legal problems of England before the Magna Carta. He traced the foundation of the belief and respect for the individual from the days of the Tudors and Stewarts - from the terrors of Star Chamber proceedings, to the fundamental purposes of the framers of the American Bill of Rights. Out of these materials, he fashioned his history of a remarkable idea. Today, it won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize in History."