

*Department of Chemical Engineering
University of Washington*

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008

Benson Hall (BNS) 115

Refreshments to follow.

James W. McClain
Partner Emeritus
Brown, Martin, Haller & McClain

**“Legal Issues in the Chemical Engineering Profession:
Regulations, Intellectual Property, and Public Opinion”**

ABSTRACT

Chemical engineers today necessarily encounter legal issues in their professional practices on an ongoing basis. Chemical industries work under regulations prescribed by federal, state and local governments and agencies. Chemical engineers must often interface with regulators, officials and members of the public whose understanding of chemistry and chemical industries is limited and frequently distorted.

McClain’s presentation will address how chemical engineers can influence the development and application of regulations and public opinion to insure that resulting regulations will be reasonable and properly reflect chemical science and engineering realities. McClain will also address intellectual property concepts and the major role intellectual property rights play in entrepreneurial businesses. The presentation will also include a brief portion about law careers for people with chemical engineering backgrounds. Questions and comments are invited from all seminar participants as the presentation proceeds. Short topic outlines will be available as handouts to assist in the discussions.

BIOSKETCH

McClain is a retired intellectual property attorney with degrees in chemical engineering, nuclear engineering and law. He earned his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Washington in 1961. Prior to becoming an attorney, he worked as a research chemical engineer in the petroleum and nuclear industries. As an attorney he has been in-house intellectual property counsel for three major petroleum and materials corporations, and has been an intellectual property law partner in three private law firms. He has been a member of American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the American Chemical Society (ACS), and is admitted to law practice in federal and state courts in California and Colorado. He is also a registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. His practice has focused on patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret law in the U.S. and overseas, with emphasis on chemical and biochemical product and process inventions and technology.