



Professor Eugene V. Rostow

(1913-2002)

Eugene V. Rostow was a Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law, a former dean of the Law School and an influential scholar and government official.

Mr. Rostow joined the Yale Law School faculty in 1938 and became a full professor in 1944. During World War II, he served in the Lend Lease Administration, overseeing the provision of supplies to American allies.

Professor Rostow became dean of the Law School in 1955 and served until 1965. He oversaw a program to revamp the Law School's curriculum, bringing a more interdisciplinary approach to the study of law, as well as increasing the number of seminars and the opportunities for independent study. He also built up the school's endowment and recruited highly respected legal scholars to the faculty.

After his time in the deanship, Professor Rostow again entered government service as undersecretary for political affairs in 1966. He was the third-highest ranking official in Lyndon B. Johnson's State Department and became well known for his defense of America's policy in Vietnam. He firmly believed that the United States had treaty obligations to defend South Vietnam and a moral obligation to oppose the spread of communism. He also helped draft a crucial United Nations Security Council resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He returned to the Law School in 1969.

Professor Rostow was an expert on international security and disarmament. In 1981, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to direct the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, making him the highest-ranking Democrat in the Reagan administration.

He became Sterling Professor Emeritus in 1984. His many books included 'Sovereign Prerogative,' 1962; 'Law, Power and the Pursuit of Peace,' 1968; 'The Ideal in Law,' 1978; and 'Toward Managed Peace,' 1993.