

## Godless in Chicago • Rob Sherman's Blog

### American Constitution Society to honor five legal legends

Rob Sherman on 06.26.09

The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy ("ACS") is one of those wonderful civic organizations that stands up for the real values of our nation -- the ones articulated in the Constitution.

Today, at its Fourth Annual Legal Legends Luncheon, the Chicago Lawyer Chapter of ACS will honor five attorneys for their extraordinary contributions to the Chicago legal community and their efforts to promote the vitality of the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental values it expresses.

The 2009 Legal Legend honorees are:

Former Chicago alderman and long-time civil rights hero Leon Despres, who died last month at the age of 101.



Alderman Leon Despres, speaking at the 1971 Hike for Hunger. I remember that day. I was an 18-year-old high school senior, and I participated in that hike, walking all 35 miles, while listening on my transistor radio to the Stanley Cup Finals game between the Blackhawks and the Montreal Canadiens at the Chicago Stadium. Chicago Tribune file photo.

State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (D-25). Rep. Currie is the House Majority Leader. My son, Rick, was born on Rep. Currie's 42nd birthday.

Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice Alan J. Greiman. Judge Greiman was the Assistant Majority Leader when he served in the Illinois House. He co-sponsored Illinois' first gay rights bill.

Alexander Polikoff, Public Housing Program Director with Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, another great Chicago institution that has been fighting for social justice for 40 years.

Fay Clayton of Robinson, Curley & Clayton, P.C. Miss Clayton is this year's recipient of the Ruth Goldman Award.

The American Constitution Society hosts many fabulous events which are open to the public and are usually free of charge. You don't have to be a lawyer or a member of ACS to attend. You just have to care about our community.