

# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release



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### **ELA Announces M. David Alexander as the 2007 M.A. McGhehey Award Recipient**

DAYTON, Ohio—December 18, 2007—Education law is the professional and academic focus of M. David Alexander, the recent recipient of the Education Law Association's 2007 M.A. McGhehey Award.

M. David Alexander is Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. He received his Ed.D. in educational administration from Indiana University in 1969, served as Associate Director of Dissemination for the Central Midwestern Regional Laboratory in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1970 to 1972, and joined Virginia Tech in 1972. Dr. Alexander has also served as a math teacher, a coach, and a school board member in the public schools of Kentucky and Virginia.

Dr. Alexander has been the recipient of several awards, a few of which include the Education Law Association's M.A. McGhehey Award, College of Education's Distinguished Service Award, and the Leadership Award of the Virginia Association of School Business Officials. He has served on many professional committees, including the American Educational Finance Association, the Education Law Association, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Virginia Association of School Business Officials. Dr. Alexander has co-authored five books and has also written numerous research reports and articles, many of which have been presented at regional, national, and international meetings. Dr. Alexander has had two Fulbright-Hays grants funded for study abroad and has been the principal investigator on numerous other grants. He has been a member of the Education Law Association since 1965. He has served on the ELA Publications Board from 1980 to 1982 and Board of Directors from 1982 to 1985 and was elected Vice-President in November of 2005, President-Elect in 2006, and President in 2007.

The Education Law Association presents the M.A. McGhehey Award in recognition of outstanding service in the field of education law and to the Education Law Association. Individuals receiving the award have a long history of service to the Education Law Association. The individual's work has had an impact nationally in the field of law and education through publications and/or presentations, both within and outside the Education Law Association. The individual's work is also recognized through other national organizations, by briefs filed at the U.S. Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court level, or by other significant contributions in the field of education law.

"The McGhehey Award Committee weighs the quality and consistency of the individual's scholarship and service over a career in education law," explains committee chair, Joseph C. Beckham. "Dr. Alexander's professional contributions are testimony to his persistent effort on behalf of public education and his exemplary research. His textbooks are among the most cited and studied in the field of education law, influencing more than a generation of school leaders. His service to a variety of state and national organizations, including the Education Law Association, was regarded by the award committee as an extraordinary achievement."

M. David Alexander responds to being the 2007 McGhehey Award recipient: "I am truly honored to receive the McGhehey award. I worked with Mac for years before his passing. He was a scholar, gentleman, and good friend. To receive this award, named for one of the pioneers in education law, is a humbling honor. Also to be listed with the previous winners, a *Who's Who* in Education Law, is extremely gratifying."