After 32 years of teaching students at SMU Dedman School of Law, Regis Campfield, Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Law Faculty Fellow, is retiring. “Regis has been a credit to this University,” says Dean John B. Attanasio. “His dedication not only to his students but also to his many extracurricular projects is admirable. In retirement he will be missed by both students and fellow faculty alike.”

Originally from Western Pennsylvania, Campfield received his B.B.A., cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame in 1963 and his J.D. from the University of Virginia in 1966. While at the University of Virginia, Campfield met and married his wife Mary, a Ph.D. candidate attending the same institution. After law school he went on to practice with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland where he became a wills and trusts lawyer because, says Campfield, “I had so much else to do that I never had the opportunity to try anything else!” While with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, Campfield also served a brief stint as an enlisted man in the Air Force, followed by a turn as a Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps officer.

He then returned to his undergraduate alma mater to teach. As a tenured faculty member at Notre Dame Law School, Campfield taught Wills and Trusts, Estate and Gift Taxation, and Estate Planning. He also founded the Notre Dame Tax & Estate Planning Institute, a continuing legal education program which he continues to chair. During Campfield’s time at Notre Dame, his two children, Allison and Claire, were born.

In 1977 Campfield visited SMU and accepted a position as Professor of Law. Campfield recalls, “Giving up a tenured post at Notre Dame was difficult but SMU was, and is, an exciting place, with a great faculty, strong leadership, good students—and my wife’s hometown.” While with SMU, the much admired professor taught courses in Wills and Trusts, Estate and Gift Taxation, and Estate Planning. Campfield also remained an active contributor to legal scholarship, and is the author of many books and articles on estate planning. He is an author of Taxation of Estates, Gifts and Trusts (now in its 23rd edition); Estate Planning & Drafting (now in its 3rd edition); Fiduciary Tax Guide and Taxation of Income, among many others.

A year after joining the faculty at SMU, Campfield became a member of the Estate Planning Study Group, an invitational group of 34 practicing lawyers and one academic from nearly every major area of the country. The group meets 2-3 times annually to debate and discuss issues, before the meetings of the American Bar Association Tax Section. Campfield hails this association as one of particular intellectual significance to him.

Campfield is also a Life Fellow of the American Law Institute, a fellow and former Regent of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel, a past member of the Council of the International Academy of Trust and Estate Law, a past chair of a committee of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel. According to Campfield, “These professional associations gave me a perspective on developments in the law and practice and thus greatly enhanced my contribution to the learning environment that we provide students at SMU.”

Campfield received the Distinguished Accredited Estate Planner award, which is a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils. In honor of his service as chairperson of the Notre Dame Tax and Estate Planning Institute for over thirty years, University of Notre Dame Law School named its 5,000 volume collection on estate planning the Regis and Mary Campfield Collection in Estate Planning. Campfield has been a visiting professor at the University of Virginia School of Law. He retires from SMU Dedman School of Law as Professor Emeritus of Law and the Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Law Faculty Fellow Emeritus.