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# INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDIES

— *Published Since 1895* —

## Professor Howard S. Levie: In Memoriam

*Yoram Dinstein*

97 INT'L L. STUD. 916 (2021)

Volume 97



2021

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*Published by the Stockton Center for International Law*

ISSN 2375-2831

## Professor Howard S. Levie: In Memoriam

*Yoram Dinstein\**

I have known Howard Levie for almost four decades. When we first met—in the early 1970s—he was serving as Professor of Law at Saint Louis University, and at that time his principal allegiance was to the US Army (where he had served as a full Colonel). Howard’s intimate connection to, and love for, the US Navy—in particular, the Naval War College—developed at a more advanced stage in his career.

Howard’s vast knowledge of the law of armed conflict was linked to first-hand experience gained in service in the course of the Korean War and thereafter. In the early 1970s, he was a leading member of a very small and select group of scholars who were spending their time and energy on issues concerning the law of armed conflict (a much neglected topic worldwide until the flare-up of the controversies surrounding the Viet Nam War and, thereafter, the adoption of Additional Protocol I of 1977).

Howard consistently delved into then-esoteric themes, ranging from prisoners of war to mines in naval warfare, without seeking great publicity and without being discouraged by lack of general interest. Once the law of armed conflict became a popular occupation for both academics and practitioners, I was always struck by his modesty and readiness to listen patiently to every *Homo Novus* “discovering” concepts and norms that had actually been developed by Howard long beforehand. Howard’s greatest achievement was that many scholars were—and still are—reiterating his theses, even when not fully aware of doing so.

There have been numerous Stockton Professors at the Naval War College. But Howard represented the template of who the incumbent of the Chair should be and what his agenda ought to be all about. It is not a coincidence that Howard is the only Stockton Professor who has ever been honored by the War College by a Chair being named after him personally.

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\* Professor Emeritus, Tel Aviv University (Israel); Member, *Institut de Droit International*; Former Stockton Professor, Naval War College (1999-2000, 2002-2003).