

William Benjamin Gould IV

Biographical Data

(Born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 16, 1936)

William B. Gould IV is the Charles A. Beardsley Professor of Law, Emeritus at Stanford Law School. He has been Professor of Law at Stanford since July 1972. A 1961 graduate of Cornell Law School, he studied comparative labor law at the London School of Economics (1962-1963) with Professor Otto Kahn Freund.

Mr. Gould was Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board from 1994-1998. About Chairman Gould, the Rutgers University President, in awarding him his fifth honorary doctorate, said: “perhaps more than any other living American . . . [you have] contributed to the analysis, the practice, and the transformation of labor law and labor relations.”

Prior to Stanford, he was Assistant General Counsel of the United Auto Workers in Detroit (1961-1962); Attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. (1963-1965); represented management in labor law matters with Battle, Fowler, Stokes & Kheel in New York, New York (1965-1968); Professor of Law at Wayne State Law School in Detroit (1968-1971); and Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts (1971-1972). Since Stanford, he was Visiting Professor of Law at Howard Law School in Washington, D.C. (1989). Since Stanford, he was Visiting Professor of Law at Howard Law School in Washington, D.C. (1989), Visiting Fellow and Lecturer: Churchill College, Cambridge (1975); University of Tokyo Law Faculty (1975, 1978); East-West Center, Honolulu (1982-1983); Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (1985); European University Institute, Florence, Italy (1988); University of Witwatersrand, South Africa (1991). Professor Gould was Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Hawaii Law School in 2005. He has served as Professor of Law at the 2005 University of San Diego Summer Law Study Abroad Program: Institute of International and Comparative Law in London.

Author of more than 50 law journal articles and numerous newspaper contributions to the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and other papers and journals. Gould is also the author of 9 books: Black Workers in White Unions: Job Discrimination in the United States (Cornell University Press 1977); A Primer on American Labor Law, (MIT Press 1982, 2nd edit. 1986, 3rd edit. 1993, 4th edit, 2004); Japan’s Reshaping of American Labor Law (MIT Press 1984); Strikes, Disputes and Arbitration Essay on Labor Law (Greenwood Press 1985); Labor Relations in Professional Sports (Auburn House 1986); Agenda for Reform: The Future of Employment Relationships and the Law (MIT Press 1993); Labored Relations: Law, Politics and the NLRB – A Memoir (MIT Press 2000); Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor, (Stanford University Press, 2002); International Labor Standards: Globalization, Trade and Public Policy (Stanford University Press, 2003); Recipient of the Certificate of Merit from American Bar Association Gavel Award Committee, 1983 for A Primer on American Labor Law, a book which has been translated into Spanish, German, Japanese, and Chinese and Korean.

Honorary degrees include: LL.D.: 1998, Rutgers University; L.L.D.: 1997, Capital University; LL.D.: 1996, Stetson University; LL.D.: 1996, The District of Columbia School of Law; and LL.D.: 1986, University of Rhode Island.

Appointed to the Commission of the Future of Worker- Management Relations established by the Clinton Administration on March 24, 1993 he resigned simultaneously with his confirmation as Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. Mr. Gould has been a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators since 1970, and has arbitrated and mediated more than 200 labor disputes since 1965. Some of the more prominent are: in 1989, wage dispute between the Detroit Federation of Teachers and the Board of Education of that city as well as 1992 and 1993 salary disputes between the Major League Baseball Players Association and the Major League Baseball Player Relations Committee. Impartial Investigator and Consultant for Writers Guild of America, West, in Election Protest Dispute, 2003-04. In 1983-84, he was Co-Chairman of the California Bar Ad Hoc Committee on Wrongful Dismissals which issued a report on February 8, 1984, providing recommendation to the California Legislature on this subject. Mr. Gould was named to Ebony Magazine's 100+ Most Influential Black Americans List for 1996, 1997, and 1998 and was formerly a member of the Rand Institute for Civil Justice Board of Overseers. He is a member of the Stanford University John S. Knight Journalism Fellows Program Committee and has acted as Consultant to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (1966-67), the Provincial Government of British Columbia (1988 and 2003) and the National Hockey League (2005). Guggenheim Fellow and Churchill Fellow in 1975; Labor Law Delegation Leader for the Eisenhower People-to-People Ambassador Program to South Africa, 2003. In the 1970's Professor Gould was lead counsel for plaintiffs in job bias class actions, including Stamps v Detroit Edison, which resulted in an unprecedented per capita judgment for his clients.