

## WILLIAM E. NELSON

### Honorary Fellow of the American Society for Legal History

William E. Nelson (nominated to the Committee by Harry N. Scheiber, UC Berkeley; seconded by Robert W. Gordon, Stanford University, Laura Kalman, UC Santa Barbara, and Lucy Salyer, University of New Hampshire).

Bill Nelson has been for forty years one of the central and leading figures in the development of legal history in the United States. Nelson's extensive and influential scholarship is remarkable for the sheer diversity of topics it has investigated and methods it has deployed. In twelve books and some forty articles, his research has run the gamut from the colonial period to the twentieth century, from constitutional law to biography, and to organizational history. As important, at New York University Nelson has been a major mentor to, and influence upon, young scholars. For years, the Samuel I. Golieb Fellowship program (established in 1981) has provided young legal historians with research support and a forum to present their work. The Golieb fellowship has been particularly crucial in sustaining doctoral students as they make the transition from PhD dissertation to book manuscript. The famous NYU legal history colloquium has played no lesser role in sustaining the field. Finally, Nelson has also played a major role in the leadership of the ASLH, sitting on many of the ASLH's committees and currently chairing the Committee on the Future of the Society.

William E. Nelson, *Americanization of the Common Law: The Impact of Legal Change on Massachusetts Society, 1760-1830* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1975)

William E. Nelson, *The Legalist Reformation: Law, Politics, and Ideology in New York, 1920-1980* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2001)

William E. Nelson, *The Fourteenth Amendment: From Political Principle to Judicial Doctrine* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1988)

William E. Nelson, *In Pursuit of Right and Justice: Edward Weinfeld as Lawyer and Judge* (New York: New York University Press, 2004)

William E. Nelson, *The Roots of American Bureaucracy, 1830-1900* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982)