

A Brief History of the Indiana University Center for Studies of Law in Action and the Robert F. Borkenstein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety

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ABSTRACT: For the past 50 years, the Indiana University Robert F. Borkenstein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety, founded by Professor Robert F. Borkenstein in 1958, has made a unique and lasting contribution to that subject by providing expert-level short-course instruction to more than 5,000 registrants from North America and many international locations. Since 1971, the course has been sponsored and presented by the Indiana University Center for Studies of Law in Action, also established by Prof. Borkenstein. The center has been involved in three primary missions in the field of alcohol, drugs, and traffic safety: (a) To carry out and facilitate research; (b) to present short courses and engage in other educational activities; and (c) to serve as a repository for information, available to educators, practitioners, and researchers. The pervasive and cumulative accomplishments of the Robert F. Borkenstein Course and the Indiana University Center for Studies of Law in Action were recognized in August 2007 by conferral of the Widmark Institutional Award by the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs, and Traffic Safety — the highest international honor in that field for outstanding contributions by a nongovernmental organization. This article recounts the history and accomplishments of the course and the center, as a tribute to both, and to Prof. Borkenstein, and to illuminate the path that led to the 16th ICADTS Widmark Institutional Award.

KEY WORDS: Center for Studies of Law in Action, Indiana University, Robert F. Borkenstein Course.
