



## Dean D. DeChaine

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Long-time Portland attorney Dean DeChaine has served with distinction the Western Forestry Center and then the World Forestry Center for a remarkable half century. Recruited by legendary attorney Robert “Bob” Miller, the senior partner of the Miller Nash firm, who “asked” Dean to help him in serving as legal counsel for the fledgling Western Forestry Center. A native Oregonian, Dean liked “the whole idea” of creating a special place in Portland dedicated to helping people understand the value of forests and forest resources.

Working alongside visionary lumbermen Harold Miller, Edmund Hayes, Coleman Wheeler, Julian Cheatham, Charles Fox, Bill Hagenstein, and many other civic leaders, Dean played a key role in the creation of an effective organization to build a modern facility in Washington Park to replace the “Old Forestry Building” originally constructed in 1905 and destroyed by fire in 1964. The new Western Forestry Center opened its’ massive wooden doors to the public in 1971.

**Family and Childhood:** Dean Dennis DeChaine was born prematurely on December 12, 1936 at the Lake Oswego home of his parents, Bennett and Hazel Vose DeChaine. Dean's grandmother, Roseanna Morrison Vose, and

his mother's younger sister, Emily Vose Wittauer, assisted in his birth and put him in the wood stove oven to keep him warm. With a smile, Dean reminds his family and friends that he is "half-baked."

His brothers Richard (1935) and Gerald (1939) were born in the same house. Sister Marianne (1943) was born five blocks away at his Vose grandparents' home on Fifth and G Streets, next to the red barn where his grandfather, Hayes Vose, kept dairy cows. Dean's mother worked for a time as a commercial artist, and his father labored in the Portland shipyards through the Second World War.

Dean has always held a job. "We had to work." In grade school, Dean was a newspaper carrier for the Portland *Oregonian*. After the sixth grade, he also mowed lawns and provided garden services to area homeowners until he graduated from Lake Oswego High School in 1955. He then became a journeyman grocer working at the "Piggly Wiggly" store in Lake Oswego for seven years. Dean also played football, basketball, and baseball in high school, and two years of baseball at Portland State. Early on, he played the piano and then taught some students while in high school. He played the alto saxophone in the bands of his grade school, high school, and college.

Portland State College, now Portland State University, was perfect for Dean. He could live at home, continue to work, and commute to school. In addition to being involved in sports and music, Dean became president of the Sigma Delta Omega fraternity, a representative in the college student assembly, president of his junior class, and student body president during his senior year. He also was a member of the Model United Nations delegation in 1959 that represented Poland at the United Nations Convention in Los Angeles.

**U.S. Senate and Army:** Before becoming a lawyer, Dean's most exciting job was working in Washington, D.C. for Oregon's U.S. Senators Richard L.

Neuberger and Hall S. Lusk. Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, Lyndon Johnson was running the Senate, and Sam Rayburn was Speaker of the House. Senator Neuberger had created a committee of leading Oregon citizens to interview college seniors and third year law students and choose one person to spend the next year working with the Senator in Washington, D.C. Dean was honored to be selected in 1959.

During a staff meeting, Senator Neuberger, who had just returned from giving a speech at the University of Virginia Law School, told Dean that he should get his law education at Virginia. The Senator then arranged to have the application forms given to him and, ultimately, Dean went to Virginia with a scholarship. After Senator Neuberger's sudden and unexpected death in 1960, Hall S. Lusk, a long-time Oregon Supreme Court justice, was appointed by Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield to complete Richard Neuberger's term. Dean continued to work for Senator Lusk doing legislative work and monitoring the action on the Senate floor.

Just prior to starting law school, Dean served in the U.S. Army. He enjoyed basic training at Fort Ord, California and advanced training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri where he worked in post intelligence. Dean also was the starting shortstop for the baseball team.

**Law School:** At the University of Virginia, Dean received a 3-year scholarship. He worked as a dorm counselor his second year. He was an instructor for first-year law students his third year. He earned the Order of the Coif and was selected to be a member of the University of Virginia Law Review. Dean was recognized for receiving the highest grades in a tax course and in admiralty. In 1963, he was selected as the summer law clerk for the Miller Nash firm in Portland.

**Marriage and Family:** Dean met Joan Carolyn Mann on a blind date the first week he was at the University of Virginia. Joan was born and raised in

Richmond, Virginia. She went to James Madison University and then to the University of Virginia for her medical training. Joan's mother and Dean's mother were both named "Hazel," were both born on September 29, and were both married on their birthdays, September 29. Thus, Dean and Joan were married on September 29 in 1963. He received his law degree the following year, and he and Joan moved to Lake Oswego where Dean continued his career with Miller Nash.

Dean and Joan were blessed with three children: Michael Dean DeChaine (1968), Beth Dearen DeChaine (1970), and Eve Louise DeChaine (1974). Michael married Andrea Kuschke and they have two children, Crestienne and Niels-Oliver. Beth married Eric Wicklund and they have two children, Brad and Brian. Eve married Eric Pepos and they have two children, Cedar and Eden.

**Miller Nash:** Dean started out doing corporate, tax, and real estate work. By the end of his first year, he was asked if he would become a full-time tax lawyer. Dean respectfully declined, wanting instead to experience other areas of the law, including litigation. When the Vietnam War exploded, so did shipping, including the shipment of logs. Dean focused on maritime and aviation work.

Dean became a partner in the firm adding bankruptcy, product liability, medical, insurance, trade litigation, environmental, and certain Native American matters. With Frank Nash and Owen Panner (who became a federal judge), Dean helped establish the fishing rights on the Columbia River for Native Americans. In 1992, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in Port Albernie, British Columbia honored Dean at its annual tribal council meeting for successfully obtaining a significant damage recovery resulting from a large oil spill off of Vancouver Island.

Dean DeChaine has been considered one of Oregon's "Super Lawyers." He has been Martindale-Hubbell AV Peer Review-rated for over 40 years, and continually ranked among "The Best Lawyers in America." He is a member of the bar in Virginia, Washington, and Oregon. He chaired both the Admiralty and Aviation Sections of the Oregon State Bar and is a proctor member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. Dean has been frequently called upon by lawyers in Oregon, Washington, and California to serve as an arbitrator and mediator. Seventy-five percent of his practice was conducted in the federal courts. His work took him to Canada, Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, and London.

**The World Forestry Center:** Dean first became a director of the Western Forestry Center in 1966. He replaced Bob Miller as the official secretary in 1972, a position he still holds. Among many other issues, Dean negotiated the center's first three leases with the City of Portland, with the last one extending to April 2034. Today, the center's five-acre campus in Washington Park includes the Discovery Museum and Cheatham Hall (1971), Miller Hall (1980), and Merlo Hall (1988).

At a board of directors meeting in 1981, chaired by Ned Hayes and Stub Stewart, Dean vividly recalls when director Harry Merlo first told the board that the Western Forestry Center's name was restrictive and that the organization should explore expanding its boundaries to become the "World Forestry Center." Stewart appointed Merlo as chair and John Hampton, Gil Oswald, and Dean to examine potential changes necessary to become the World Forestry Center. In 1985, with Julian Cheatham as chair; Gil Oswald as president; Sam Wheeler as the first vice president; and Alan Goudy, John Hampton, Gene Knudson, Peter Koehler, Bill Larson, Paul McCracken, Darrell Schroeder, Stub Stewart, Hank Swigert, and Cy Walker as vice presidents; LeRoy Staver as treasurer, and Dean as secretary, the board voted to become the World Forestry Center.

**International Meetings:** The World Forestry Center added its first international directors in 1986. To strengthen international relationships and provide learning opportunities for board members, annual meetings were planned around the world: Gutersloh, Germany hosted by Dieter Siempelkamp (1987); Chihuahua, Mexico hosted by Mario González Muzquiz (1988); Bergen, Norway hosted by Bjorn Ostervold (1989); Victoria, British Columbia, Canada hosted by Herb Doman (1990); Sydney, Australia hosted by Thorry Gunnensen (1991); Jakarta, Indonesia hosted by Mohamed Hasan (1992); Tokyo, Japan hosted by Yoshimi Tanaka (1993); Seoul, Korea hosted by Young-Ju Park (1995); Thomastown, County Kilkenny, Ireland hosted by Martin Lowery (1996); Santiago, Chile hosted by Guillermo Guell (1997); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia hosted by Tan Sri Datuk Tiong Hiew King (1998); Porto, Portugal hosted by Belmiro de Azevedo (1999); Helsinki, Finland hosted by Heikki Juslin and Matti Sundberg (2000); Bar Harbor, Maine, USA hosted by Richard Smith, Ken Hines, and Charles Collins (2001); Auckland, New Zealand hosted by Devon McLean, John Warjone and Mari Hill Harpur (2002); Québec City, Québec, Canada hosted by Mari Hill Harpur (2003); Paris, France hosted by Jean Claude Sève (2004); and Vilnius, Lithuania hosted by John Shelk (2006); and Ashville, North Carolina, chaired by Eric Schooler (2007). Dean attended all of the meetings and Joan missed only one. The Harry A. Merlo award, the World Forest Institute, and the international “Who Will Own the Forest?” conferences followed.

During Dean’s 50 years of service to the World Forestry Center, other noteworthy directors and officers not mentioned above include: Patty Bedient, John Beuter, Bill Bradley, Dan Dutton, Dennis Dykstra, Red Emmerson, Orcillia Forbes, Allyn Ford, David Hampton, Ernie Kolbe, Rich Hanson, Barbara Karmel, Carl Newport, Jim Osterman, Web Ross, Hal Salwasser, Barte Starker, Bill Swindells, Barbara Walker, John Wilkinson, Rick Wollenberg, and Donna Woolley.

**Outstanding Staff:** Dean has worked closely with the dedicated staff of the World Forestry Center including John Forest, John Blackwell, Gary Hartshorn, Lynn Bergstad, Maria Jeffrey, Darlene Boles, Mike Barnes, Mark Reed, Pete and Jennifer Kent, Rick Zenn, and Sara Wu. Dean has also worked with the outstanding lawyers at Miller Nash and an impressive support staff including Cheryl Hohnstein, Linda Reed, Carol Bowden, Sandy Hanson, and Marcie Barker.

**Community:** In addition to their work with the World Forestry Center, Dean and Joan have been involved in a variety of community activities and organizations including the Friends of Tryon Creek where Joan was president. Dean was a scoutmaster in Lake Oswego. He was also active with Portland State University and served as president of both the Alumni Association and Alumni Board. He was a trustee of the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine.

Dean DeChaine has thoroughly enjoyed being a son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a grandfather. Practicing law, serving his community, and being associated with the World Forestry Center has been a wonderful experience.

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