



# Lord Goff – This Year's Clynes Visiting Chair

The Right Honorable The Lord Goff of Chieveley, PC DCL FBA, visited the Law School October 13–17, 2003, as the Judge James J. Clynes, Jr., Visiting Chair in the Ethics of Litigation Within the Judicial Process.

The Clynes Visiting Chair results from the generosity of the late **Judge James L. Clynes, Jr.**, a Notre Dame alumnus from Ithaca, New York. Past holders of the Clynes Chair are The Honorable John T. Noonan (2000), Justice Antonin Scalia (2001), and Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist (2002).

Lord Goff is the former Senior Law Lord in the United Kingdom. (The closest, though imperfect, analogy in the United States would be the Chief Justice of the United States.) Before being appointed to the bench, Lord Goff had a distinguished career in commercial law as a barrister and Queen's Counsel from 1956 to 1975. He became a judge of the High Court in 1975 and served for seven years before his appointment to the Court of Appeal in 1982. In 1986 he was created a Law Lord, serving as Senior Law Lord from 1996 to 1998.

Lord Goff gave two talks while at the Law School. His first discussed the operation of the House of Lords as a judicial body, reflecting on the changes brought about by the incorporation of European law into British law. Later, he discussed the Pinochet case, in which he had participated as a member of the House of Lords. In that judgment, the Lords concluded that a former head of state (General Augusto Pinochet) was not immune from extradition by virtues of his status. Lord Goff also visited two contracts classes and a jurisprudence class.

Lord Goff is the co-author of *The Law of Restitution* and is the acknowledged father of English restitution law. In addition to his academic and judicial career, he played a significant role in introducing the concept of comparative law to the United Kingdom.

