The William L. Beatty Jurist in Residence allows students to supplement their traditional curriculum with the perspective and experience of the judiciary.

Each year, a distinguished jurist is invited to spend two to three days at the School of Law speaking in a variety of classes related to his/her area of responsibility and meeting with students, faculty and staff in formal and informal settings.

This experience is made possible through a cy pres award granted to the Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2004 by U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Illinois David R. Herndon (Class of 1977) in memory of his mentor, William L. Beatty.

William L. Beatty (1925–2001) was born in Mendota, Illinois. Beatty served in the Army from 1943 to 1946 and graduated from law school in 1950. As an attorney, he had a distinguished career in private practice from 1950 to 1968 when he was elected to the bench of the 3rd Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois. He held that position until 1978, when he was nominated by President Jimmy Carter to the United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois. He assumed senior status in 1993, a position he held until his death at the age of 76.

William L. Beatty
Jurist in Residence

Public Lecture
“Appointment of Judges and the Threat to Judicial Independence: Case Studies from Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa, and Kenya”

January 29, 2019
5 p.m.

Hon. Professor Justice
Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake, Ph.D.
Hon. Professor Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake, Ph.D. will be in residence at the SIU School of Law the last week of January through the first week of February 2019. He will give a public lecture, “Appointment of Judges and the Threat to Judicial Independence: Case Studies from Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa, and Kenya,” at 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, in the courtroom of the Lesar Law Building.

Hon. Professor Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake, Ph.D., has served as a judge for more than a decade. In that time, he has sat on the High Court of Botswana, the Industrial Court of Botswana, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea.

Prior to joining the bench, he was a lecturer at the University of Botswana, teaching in the areas of constitutional law, human rights law, legal practice, employment law, administrative law, and commercial law. Justice Dingake was also a senior partner with the firm of Mosope, Motswagole, and Dingake, specializing in administrative, constitutional, and labor law.

He has published on the role of the judiciary in protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and been actively involved in judicial leadership efforts related to HIV and health. He has an L.L.B. from the University of Botswana, an L.L.M. from the University of London, and a Ph.D. from the University of Cape Town.