

Gerald Benjamin

Gerald Benjamin was appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Political Science by the SUNY Board of Trustees in April, 2002. He has served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at SUNY New Paltz since 1996 and was recently appointed to direct the newly-created Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach. The College, the largest academic unit of this comprehensive SUNY institution located in New York's historic Hudson Valley, has 149 full-time and 150 part-time faculty. It is organized in eighteen academic departments and interdisciplinary programs, offering bachelors' degrees in more than 100 areas and masters' degrees in 7 disciplines.

Formerly Director of the Center for the New York State and Local Government Studies at SUNY's Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, between May of 1993 and March of 1995 Dean Benjamin served as Research Director of New York's Temporary State Commission on Constitutional Revision. In 1988 and 1989 he was Principal Research Advisor to the New York City Charter Revision Commission; its efforts lead to the most extensive structural changes in New York City government in this century.

Between 1981 and 1993 Gerald Benjamin was an elected member of the Ulster County legislature. He served in legislative leadership as both Majority Leader (1985-91) and Chairman (1991-93). During Dr. Benjamin's tenure Ulster County had a budget of \$165 million and over 1300 employees.

Dean Benjamin has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Tokyo and the Japanese Foreign Ministry School, a Serbelloni Fellow in Residence at the Rockefeller Foundation Study Center in Bellagio, Italy and a Visiting Professor at Meiji University in Japan. A 1991 recipient of the New York State/United University Professors Excellence Award, Dr. Benjamin, alone or with others, has written or edited fourteen books or monographs and numerous government reports and articles, most of them on state and local government in New York. In 2001 his book with Richard Nathan on *Regionalism and Realism* in local governance in the New York City metropolitan region was named an outstanding academic title for 2002 by *Choice* magazine. In 2002 Pattern for Progress, the regional planning agency, gave Dean Benjamin its regional achievement award. In both 2003 and 2004 Gerald Benjamin was named by the *Times Herald Record*, the area's largest daily newspaper, as among the most influential people in the Hudson Valley and Catskill regions. In November of 2006 the voters adopted Ulster County's first charter, drafted and proposed by a Commission headed by Dean Benjamin.

Dean Benjamin's Masters (1967) and Doctoral (1970) degrees in Political Science are from Columbia University. He served in the United States army between 1970 and 1972, rising to the rank of Captain in the Medical Service Corps. He joined the faculty at SUNY New Paltz as Assistant Professor of Political Science in 1968, and became Full Professor in 1981.

