Ambassador Lee Feinstein is the inaugural dean of the IU School of Global and International Studies. He comes to IU with a distinguished diplomatic career and considerable experience in international policy making, law, and ethics.

Lee Feinstein: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Lee Feinstein talking with an IU audience last fall
Ambassadors speak for their country. Their word is their country’s word, and the “full power” of this personal accountability is marked in the traditional title of *ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary*. Indiana University has recently hosted visiting ambassadors and other diplomats from India, Poland, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Lithuania. In addition, IU can boast former ambassadors in residence. Feisal Istrabadi, professor of practice in law and international studies, served as ambassador and deputy permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations. Rajendra Abhyankar, visiting professor in SPEA, was part of India’s diplomatic corps for more than 36 years, serving as ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, Syria, Turkey, and Azerbaijan.

A new member of IU’s plenipotentiary ranks is Lee A. Feinstein. U.S. ambassador to Poland 2009–12, Feinstein has accepted the deanship of IU’s new School of Global and International Studies (SGIS). His challenge is to fashion a school where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, no easy task when those parts include area studies and other international centers that have already established worldwide reputations.

In such roles as national security director to Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential campaign and senior advisor on peacekeeping policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Feinstein has proved his ability to find common ground on pressing and complex international issues. Feinstein has the “ability to work effectively across partisan lines,” said former Indiana Congressman (and distinguished scholar at SGIS) Lee Hamilton.

Former Senator Richard Lugar adds “Ambassador Feinstein is one of the leading arms control scholar-practitioners in Washington and has worked in government and the private sector in support of agreements that have improved our national security and helped to make the world a safe place. His intimate knowledge of the major global issues of the day makes him an ideal founding dean of the SGIS.”

Feinstein grew up on Long Island, earned degrees from Vassar College, the City University of New York, and Georgetown University Law Center. He has written extensively on international law and international ethics. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has taught previously at George Washington University, the City University of New York, and the University of Georgia.