

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

JUDGE ROBERT A. KATZMANN

Thank you. Thank you all. This has really been an extraordinary evening and I'm really overwhelmed by it. This place, Greenberg Lounge, has special meaning for me. It was here that I had the privilege of giving the Madison lecture some years ago, and it was here that Dean Morrison generously hosted an event when we had the publication of *Judging Statutes*, and it was here that I had the privilege of participating in past Annual Survey tributes to Justice Breyer, Sonia, Guido, never thinking that I would be back here for this program. For many years I've taught and learned from NYU students, and so being recognized by the Annual Survey is particularly meaningful to me. Indeed, some years ago I actually had the pleasure of writing an article with Frank Coffin, "Workplace of Governance," for the Annual Survey and I'm so grateful to you, the Annual Survey, for this evening. NYU and its deans over the years have been very welcoming, John Sexton, Ricky Revez, Trevor Morrison. I've enjoyed very much participating in the Institute of Judicial Administration programs under the leadership of Oscar Chase, Troy McKenzie, Sam Estreicher, Tory Whitman and Alison Schifini and I think that Evan Chesler might be here, and he was chair of that board.

Tonight I have many particular thanks to give. Dean Morrison, a very important scholar, you have been a great leader in legal education, as I can personally attest from our most recent work in the effort to bring some sanity to law clerk hiring, and you've provided tremendous service as a wise and active advisor to the Second Circuit across a wide range of activities, including our Second Circuit conferences and our civic education work. Thanks so, so very much. Leonid Greenberg, it was a joy to answer your phone calls, and your emails. You've got such a nice way about you that it makes the person on the other end want to be as helpful as possible, and you obviously have a great career ahead of you. Thank you for all of your efforts. Israel Rodriguez. Where is Israel? There he is in the back. Israel Rodriguez, your careful concern about every detail of this event is just awe inspiring. And I would never want to poach NYU Law School, but if ever you are interested in the federal service, let me know. [laughter]

To those who offered words this evening, I am honored beyond measure. First, Justice Sotomayor, my sister. An incredibly

generous friend through thick and thin, who is always there for me. That you would come, I know that you have an incredibly grueling schedule, that you are here really, really, moves me; I cherish knowing you. Justice Ginsburg has, for me, been an extraordinary inspiration, in all aspects of life, whose kindness and concern I treasure. She truly is a guardian angel who has meant so much to me. Guido Calabresi is not just my teacher but our teacher, and whose brilliant intellect and humanity are gifts to all of us that make us better, and it's such an honor to have you here.

Judge Ann Williams, you are a role model for all of us. I will not try to sing, however, but you are a role model for all of us. And your passion for justice is so profound. Just to give an example, we had students from throughout the city that were mobilized through the Just the Beginning Foundation, which is one of many enterprises that Ann Williams has founded. You could look at just about any important social group, litigation group of the last 25 years and they all bear the imprint of Ann Williams. And you are really an example above others of what one person can do. And I'm really just an Ann Williams groupie trying to do what I can to emulate and spread your message. And that you would come here, I know you're on the way to Africa, is really so, so wonderful.

Jim Duff, in these times when there is so much cynicism about our institutions, I think of you. I think of you because I think that you are somebody whose dedication to making our systems of government work, whose understanding of the judiciary and leadership of the judiciary has had a profound impact. There is nobody in the last 50 years who has had more of an impact on the fair and effective administration of justice than you have. And so, I am also very grateful for our personal friendship of many years as well. Fun fact, Jim was good to come tonight, but he really won the lottery because he is going to see Bruce Springsteen on Broadway, and that was through a lottery ticket. He just threw his hat in and it happened.

To Nancy Morowitz, Lindsey Nash, and Peter Markowitz, whatever success the study group on immigrant representation has had, and the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project and the Immigrant Justice Corps have had, could not have happened without you. Nancy, you are one of the nation's premier immigration law professors. And there are disciples populating law schools throughout the country. Whether it be Peter Markowitz, whether it be Michael Whishnie, your impact has been so very deep, and so I'm very grateful to you for participating tonight. Peter Markowitz, you are a wizard. Your work at the Greenberg Clinic at Cardozo has

been simply outstanding, and I'm so appreciative of your many contributions to the creation of every project that we've participated in, including the Immigrant Justice Corp. I believe that our executive director, Immigrant Justice Corps Executive Director Jojo Annobil, is here tonight and he can also tell you how great Peter Markowitz is. And as for the Immigrant Justice Corps I note that there are several graduates of NYU Law School and we just announced our new class, we have another graduate, and so we want to keep that coming. Lindsey Nash, you are a fantastic law clerk who played such a key role in the study group, but I think that apart from your excellence as a law clerk, your passion to do something for immigrants was always very, very palpable, and I'm so proud of you as I observe from afar what you do, and you really are making a difference in the lives of so many, and I'm so thrilled that you could be here this evening.

Russell Wheeler, the nation's foremost scholar on the administration of justice, long time former Deputy Director of the Federal Judicial Center, President of the Governance Institute. For 30 years you have not only been a friend but a wise counselor, and there is not a single manuscript that I've tried to produce over the last 30 years that doesn't have the imprint of Russell Wheeler, who has been a great friend but also just a wise counselor.

Paul Light is the country's leading scholar on public administration. He's won more awards from the American Political Science Association—he wouldn't tell you this—than any living political scientist—and I think dead one too—I'm in awe of your contributions to—and to our friendship. One of my favorite Paul Light footnotes in one of his books, was—he was doing a book on popular culture and he footnoted me—it was in reference to my TV watching habits as a child. Nobody got it, but I thought it was very funny.

On an evening like this, I think of those, many no longer with us, who gave me a chance, who believed in me, whose support and encouragement were essential. And as I look into the audience, I see many family members who have been my foundation: my amazing, talented, extraordinary wife Jennifer, my brothers Gary and Martin, my sister Susan, my brother-in-law Neil, my sister-in-law Stacy, and my parents John and Sylvia, who believed that everything and anything in life was possible for their children. I see many here, really too many to mention, whose shoulders I've stood on and who have energized me and inspired me. From whom I have learned much, including many in my dear law clerk family, including many NYU graduates, and my superb judicial assistant from the very first day, Dominique Welch.

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As I look into this room, and see the faces of new and old friends, each of you share a commitment to make the world a better place. Separately and together you are unstoppable forces for good. I want, always, never to disappoint you, as you have never disappointed me. To the students here, I say look around you and have conversations during the reception with the remarkable human beings around you; to the students here, I say whatever you do, remember your commitments as lawyers to work for justice, to serve those in need. There is no higher calling than to assist those in need.

As a great mentor of mine, who has been mentioned, Senator Moenhan said, “each of us has an obligation to each other and to the broader community to be reflective as to how we meet those obligations. Each of us has an obligation to do not what is easy, but what is right.” So, I wish for you, each of you here, in all that you do, first, most importantly, good health, much fulfillment, and much happiness. I thank the Annual Survey for this evening, which I will always remember and savor. Thank you.