

1-23-1995

Invitation to the Twenty-Third Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: The Decline of Professionalism

Warren E. Burger

United States Supreme Court

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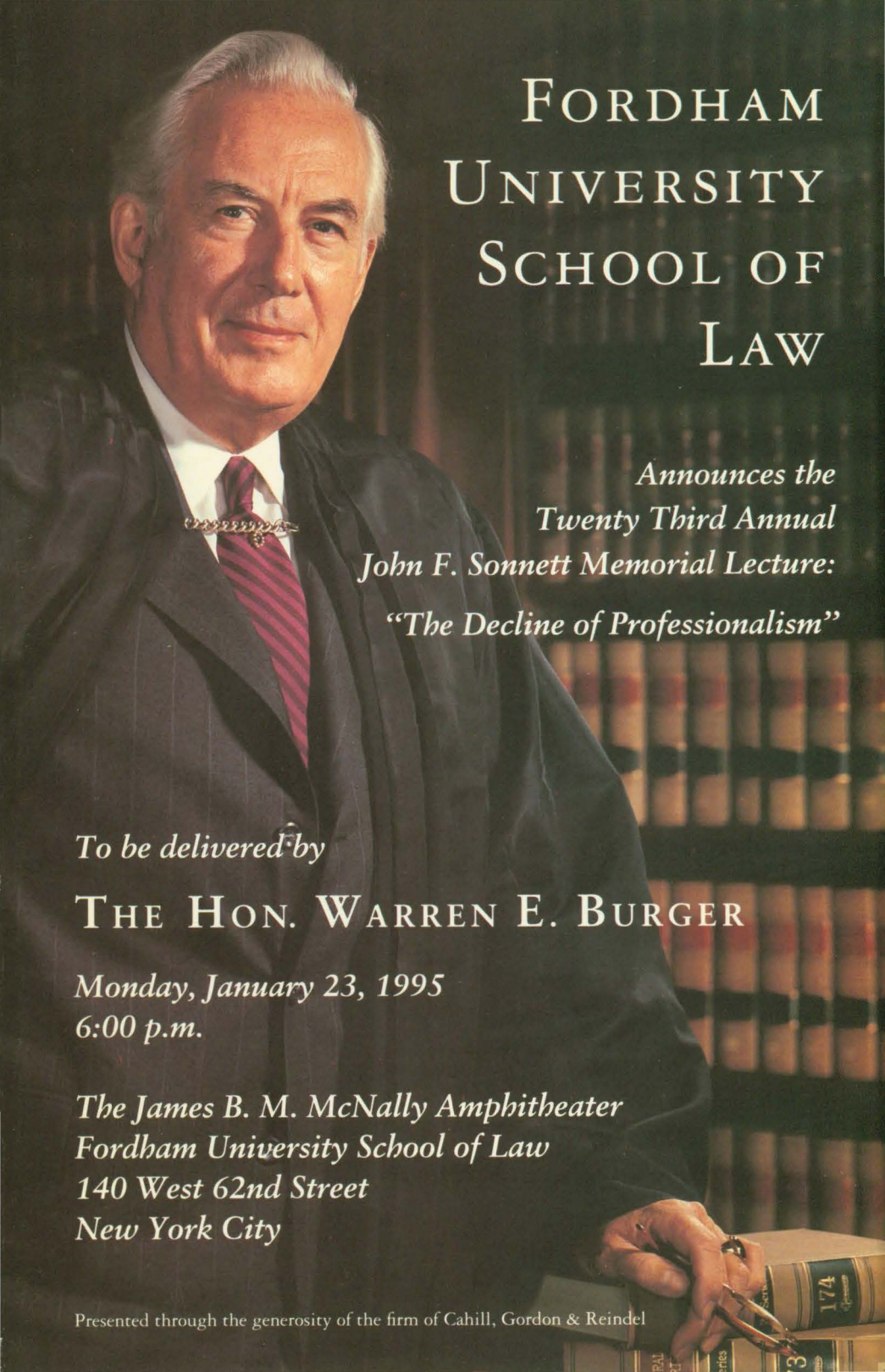
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FORDHAM
UNIVERSITY
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LAW

*Announces the
Twenty Third Annual
John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture:
"The Decline of Professionalism"*

To be delivered by

THE HON. WARREN E. BURGER

*Monday, January 23, 1995
6:00 p.m.*

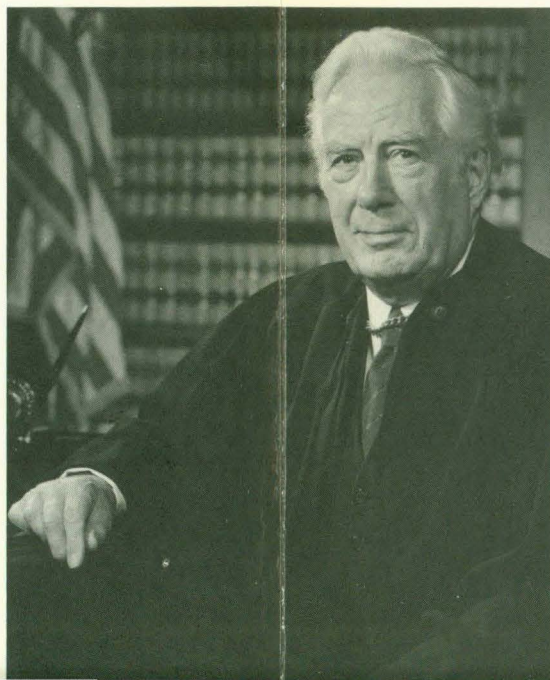
*The James B. M. McNally Amphitheater
Fordham University School of Law
140 West 62nd Street
New York City*

Presented through the generosity of the firm of Cahill, Gordon & Reindel

*J*ohn F. Sonnett, a 1933 graduate of Fordham College and a 1936 graduate of the School of Law, was a senior partner in the firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel. In 1933, Mr. Sonnett joined that firm, then known as Cotton & Franklin, as a managing clerk, a position he held for the next three years while attending Fordham Law School. Upon graduation he became an associate of the firm. In 1941 he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York where he became Chief Assistant United States Attorney. During the second World War, Mr. Sonnett was special counsel to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Later, as special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy holding the rank of Lieutenant Commander, he conducted the final Navy investigations of the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the conclusion of the war, Mr. Sonnett was named Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice. He returned to the Cahill Gordon firm in 1948 and established an international reputation as a pre-eminent trial and appellate lawyer. A devoted son of Fordham, his death in July 1969 was a great loss to the profession and his alma mater. His excellence as an advocate is memorialized through this lecture series, which has been presented by his partners and friends.

Previous John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecturers

- Hon. Tom Clark
- Hon. Cearbhall O'Dalaigh
- Hon. Irving R. Kaufman
- Hon. Warren E. Burger
- Rt. Hon. Lord John Widgery
- Hon. Robert J. Sheran
- Hon. Leon Jaworski
- Hon. Griffin B. Bell
- Hon. William Hughes Mulligan
- Hon. Benjamin R. Civiletti
- Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke
- Rt. Hon. Sir Robert E. Megarry
- Hon. William T. Coleman
- Hon. Wilfred Feinberg
- Hon. Thomas A. Finlay
- Hon. Sol Wachtler
- Hon. Francis T. Murphy
- Hon. John Gibbons
- Hon. Ole Due
- Rt. Hon. The Lord MacKay of Clashfern
- Hon. Lawrence W. Pierce
- Hon. Kenneth W. Starr



*W*arren E. Burger was Chief Justice of the United States from June 1969 until September 1986. He delivered the fourth Sonnett Memorial Lecture at Fordham in 1973, *The Special Skills of Advocacy*, which received national attention for its focus on the training and preparation of trial attorneys.

Chief Justice Burger was born September 17, 1907, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and spent his early years on a farm at Stacy, Minnesota, and later in St. Paul. After high school, he attended night classes at the University of Minnesota and was graduated magna cum laude from St. Paul (now William Mitchell) College of Law in 1931. That year he entered practice with the firm of Boyesen, Otis, Brill & Faricy, and was appointed to the faculty of his law school. In 1933, he became a full partner in the firm, and in his 21 years of private practice there, he worked in both civil and administrative law. In 1953, President Eisenhower appointed him to the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served as Assistant Attorney General of the United States and Chief of the Civil Litigation Division. Three years later, he was appointed to the United States court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and remained in that position until his appointment as Chief Justice of the United States in 1969.

By statute, the Chief Justice serves as chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States and chair of the Federal Judicial Center; by tradition, the Chief Justice serves as a chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, and trustee and chair of the National Gallery of Art.

In August 1986, Chief Justice Burger was elected chancellor of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Upon his retirement, he was elected the first chancellor emeritus of the Smithsonian. He is a life trustee of the National Geographic Society, and is Honorary chair of the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, of the Institute of Judicial Administration, and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

Chief Justice Burger now serves full time as chair of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

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