

11-14-1989

Program for the 18th Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: Bill of Rights

John J. Gibbons

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

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*The Fordham Law Alumni Association
announces the*

Eighteenth Annual

John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture

to be delivered by

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. GIBBONS

Chief Judge

U.S. Court of Appeals

for the Third Circuit

Topic: The Bill of Rights

on

Tuesday, November 14, 1989

in the

James B. M. McNally Amphitheatre

Fordham University School of Law

140 West 62nd Street

New York City

6:00 P.M.

JOHN F. SONNETT
1912–1969

John 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. This lecture series has been endowed by his partners and friends as a permanent memorial to him.

In 1933, Mr. Sonnett joined that firm, then known as Cotton & Franklin, as managing clerk, a position he held for the next three years while attending Fordham Law School. Upon graduation he became an associate at 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.

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. GIBBONS



John J. Gibbons has been described as the “dominant intellectual force” of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. His numerous articles and incisive opinions have gained him the respect of lawyers and legal commentators nationwide.

Judge Gibbons is an alumnus of the College of the Holy Cross (1947) and a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School (1950) where he was Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Upon graduation he entered the private practice of law with the Newark, N.J. firm now known as Crummy, DelDeo, Dolan, Griffinger and Vecchione where he practiced for two decades. He served as President of the New Jersey State Bar Association in 1967–68.

Judge Gibbons joined the U.S. Court of Appeals on January 15, 1970 upon his appointment by President Richard M. Nixon. He has been described as “one of the nation’s most prominent liberal federal judges” and is especially well known for his writings on the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution. He has had over a dozen articles published during his years on the court. They appeared in the law reviews of Columbia, New York, Seton Hall and Rutgers Universities. They have covered such subjects as federalism, judicial review, habeas corpus jurisdiction and state sovereign immunity.

During the period 1951–58 and since 1972 Judge Gibbons has been an adjunct professor at Seton Hall Law School where he teaches Federal Courts and Constitutional Law. In 1990 he will step down as Chief Judge to join its full-time faculty as Richard J. Hughes Professor of Law.

PREVIOUS
JOHN F. SONNETT MEMORIAL
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