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Press Release for the Thirteenth Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: The Supreme Court of the United States

William T. Coleman
O'Melveny & Myers

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FORDHAM Press Release

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WILLIAM COLEMAN TO DELIVER SONNETT LECTURE AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL

Former Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr. will deliver this year's Sonnett Memorial Lecture presented by the Alumni Association of Fordham University's Law School on Monday, May 9, 1983. The lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Pope Auditorium of Fordham's Lincoln Center campus, 113 West 60th Street.

Mr. Coleman, currently a senior partner in the international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, has had an active and distinguished career in law, business, and public service, including advisory positions to six presidents. He was senior partner in a prestigious Philadelphia law firm before becoming Secretary of Transportation in 1975 under Gerald Ford. His varied public service experience includes serving as senior consultant to the Presidential Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy in 1964 and presently as a member of the Presidential Private Sector Survey on Cost Control in Government. Among his many honors, Coleman was nominated as an Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor by the President of France in 1979.

An ardent defender of civil rights, Coleman was one of the authors of the legal brief that persuaded the Supreme Court in 1954 to outlaw segregation in public schools. He now serves as chairman of the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and in April 1982 was appointed amicus curiae by the U.S. Supreme Court in two civil rights cases.

The Sonnett Lecture Series, now in its thirteenth year, was established in memory of the internationally acclaimed trial and appellate lawyer, John F. Sonnett, a 1936 graduate of Fordham Law School, who died in 1969. Previous speakers for the series include Chief Justice Warren Burger, Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, and Vice Chancellor of England Sir Robert E. Megarry.

A reception in the Faculty Lounge of Fordham's Leon Lowenstein Building will follow the lecture.