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John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series

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11-5-1987

### Invitation to the Sixteenth Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: The Constitution is Alive and Well

Sol Wachtler

*New York Court of Appeals*

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*The Fordham Law Alumni Association  
announces the*

*Sixteenth Annual  
John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture*

*to be delivered by*

*THE HONORABLE SOL WACHTLER*

*Chief Judge of the  
New York Court of Appeals*

*on*

*Thursday, November 5, 1987*

*in the*

*James B. M. McNally Amphitheatre*

*Fordham University School of Law*

*140 West 62nd Street*

*New York City*

*8:00 P.M.*

JOHN F. SONNETT  
1912-1969

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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 SOL WACHTLER

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Sol Wachtler, Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the State of New York, received his undergraduate degree and law degree from Washington & Lee University. After graduation, he continued his education at the Columbia School of Architecture and was a fellowship graduate of the National Judicial College. He is a member of the Order of the Coif and holds numerous honorary doctorate degrees.

He began his government career in 1963 when he was elected a Councilman of the Town of North Hempstead. In 1965, he was elected Chief Executive of the Town and a member of the Nassau County Board of Supervisors. He was appointed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court in January 1968 and was elected to that court with bipartisan endorsement for a full term in November 1968. Judge Wachtler was elected to the New York Court of Appeals in November 1972 and appointed by Governor Mario M. Cuomo as Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals in January 1985.

Chief Judge Wachtler is currently serving as the New York State Chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and as Chairman of the New York State Fair Trial-Free Press Conference. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Association and holds memberships in the American Law Institute, the American, New York State, and Nassau County Bar Associations, and the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court.

He is a Trustee of Albany Law School, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Long Island University, a member of the Board of Overseers of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, a Trustee of Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Associate Trustee of North Shore Hospital, past District Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America, a life member of the NAACP, Honorary Chancellor Commander, New York State Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and a trustee of many other educational, cultural and civic groups.

Throughout his career, Chief Judge Wachtler has received numerous awards, citations for judicial excellence, and distinguished service medals. He has lectured extensively here and abroad and has authored many Law Review and other legal articles.

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