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John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: Advocacy: Has It a Future?

Thomas A. Finlay

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Finlay Introduction

2nd draft

In some ways, Fordham University shares a special kinship with Ireland. Over the years, many distinguished graduates of the university have been numbered as descendants of the Emerald Island. *****(another sentence or two on Fordham - Ireland Links).**** At Fordham, this kinship has been fostered by explorations of both Irish and American institutions. In 1986, this occurred again when Ireland's Chief Justice Thomas A. Finlay honored the memory of John Sonnett by lecturing at the university on the topic of legal advocacy.

Despite the distance between the two countries, Chief Justice Finlay showed the similarities between our legal systems. His lecture provides some thought provoking ideas that deserve discussion in both Ireland and our own country. Americans and Irish live in an exciting scientific era. This is a time of microcomputers, fiber optics and D.N.A. identification. As our society becomes more technologically complex, courts and advocates will be forced to deal with this evolving world. Chief Justice Finlay explores how the legal system should face these challenges. He delivers suggestions for advocates and the overall legal system. The quality of legal advocacy in our changing world is a concern for all those who practice the law. Chief Justice Finlay suggests some interesting ways for lawyers and judges to meet the changes facing society, and by reflection, the legal system. The traditions of oral advocacy in both Ireland and America have

developed solid roots. The Chief Justice uses this tradition to explore thoughts on the direction advocacy and the legal system should take in an uncertain future. As attorneys, it is important to plan for this future.

Cardinal Gerdard Archbishop John Hughes born in Ireland,
Born June 24 1797, County Tyrone, Anmaglochan
founded within 1841

Mario Caomo ⇒ Galaxy of Gaelic Giants