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## Dedication of the Fordham Center for Corporate, Securities and Financial Law

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# DEDICATION

## DEDICATION OF THE FORDHAM CENTER FOR CORPORATE, SECURITIES AND FINANCIAL LAW

*John D. Feerick\**

I want to especially thank John Peloso, a member of and new counsel to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, and also a member of our Class of 1960, for his leadership in establishing both the A.A. Sommer, Jr. Lecture Series on Corporate, Securities and Financial Law and the Fordham Center for Corporate, Securities and Financial Law at Fordham University, and, in the process, enriching our community with two most invaluable resources.

In addition, I express the School's gratitude to Professor Jill Fisch for accepting the directorship of the new Center. I'm sure most of you – if not all of you - know Professor Fisch. She has been a member of the Fordham University School of Law faculty since 1989, and is currently a Sloan Visiting Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center. A graduate of Cornell University and Yale Law School, she served as a trial attorney with the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice. She was an associate with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, where she practiced commercial and securities litigation.

Professor Fisch teaches corporate and securities law, and her scholarship includes work in corporate law, securities regulation, and federal courts. Her writings have appeared in a variety of publications, including the *Harvard Law Review*, *Columbia Law Review*, and *Cornell Law Review*. Her most recent article, "Lawyers on the Auction Block: Evaluating Selection of Class Counsel by Auction," will be published in the April 2002 volume of the *Columbia Law Review*.

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\* Dean and Professor, Fordham University School of Law.

Through our new Corporate Center, we plan to build on our School's existing strengths in the business law area. These include well-known scholars on our faculty, such as Professors Fisch; Steve Thel, Gus Katsorsis, and Susan Block-Lieb. The Sommer Lecture and the Corporate Center will complement the School's existing programs in the corporate area. These include our Corporate Law Institute and nearly four dozen courses taught by our full-time faculty and our adjunct faculty, including John Peloso, who teaches a course on securities law enforcement.

Two years ago, at the urging of Arthur Levitt, then Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission and our first Sommer lecturer,<sup>1</sup> our School established a Securities Arbitration Clinic. In the clinic, students represent small investors who have lost money in the stock market due to broker-dealer error or misconduct and have difficulty finding legal representation.

This past year, the faculty of our School also approved a new student journal – *Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law* – that recently published the text of the inaugural Sommer Lecture, along with a tribute to Arthur Levitt for his remarkable service as Chair of the SEC.

In February of this year, we presented the inaugural Albert A. DeStefano Lecture on Corporate Securities and Financial Law, which dealt with Regulation FD<sup>2</sup> and featured a number of distinguished attorneys, including David Becker, then-General Counsel to the SEC, and Harvey Goldschmidt, former SEC General Counsel.

This week, our School will host its inaugural Eugene P. and Delia S. Murphy Conference on Corporate Law, and that all-day program will address the revised UCC Article 9 and the pending Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001.<sup>3</sup> The program, which was organized by Professor Susan Block-Lieb, features a distinguished group of academics and practitioners.

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1. Arthur Levitt, Jr., *Costs Paid With Other People's Money*, 6 FORDHAM J. CORP. & FIN. L. 259 (2001).

2. See Symposium, *Panel Discussion: The SEC's Regulation FD*, 6 FORDHAM J. CORP. & FIN. L. 273 (2001).

3. Articles relating to this conference are forthcoming in the Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law, Volume VII, Number 2.

We expect that these three programs will form the core of our new Corporate Center, providing the necessary catalyst for its operations as the Corporate Center evolves.

The Corporate Center's mission is not, however, limited to the sponsorship of public lectures. A central component of its mission is to include informal programs or roundtables, which bring together academics, practitioners, and policy makers for the purpose of interaction and innovation on important legal issues. Professor Pam Chepiga, who directs our Securities Arbitration Clinic, is in the process of organizing the first of these events, which will address the role of securities analysts and be presented in the spring.

Finally, I would like to thank the Corporate Center's distinguished Board of Advisors for its tremendous support and guidance over the past several years as we developed the idea of establishing a new Corporate Center at our school.

*Notes & Observations*