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Celebrating a Lasting Legacy: Joseph C. Sweeney

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IN MEMORIAM OF JOSEPH C. SWEENEY*

*Constantine N. Katsoris***

Joe and I were born in different parts of the country. He was born in Boston and I was born in Brooklyn. He was raised and educated in New England, I in New York. He was of Irish ancestry, and I of Greek. He was a Democrat, and I a Republican. He went to Harvard Law School, and I went to Fordham Law. Nevertheless, despite our differences we were the very best of friends.

I first met Joe in 1966 when he joined our faculty at 140 West 62nd Street. We were both hired by Dean William Mulligan—I in 1964 and Joe two years later in 1966. At that time, Dean Mulligan was seeking to expand the curriculum of the Law School in the financial and international areas. I introduced an accounting for lawyers' course and expanded the tax curriculum, and Joe introduced courses in admiralty law and aviation law—courses now taught by Steve Fearon.

With us here today are Joe's wonderful wife Alice and her three sisters, Jean, Joan, and Anne, each of whom has been very supportive of Joe's career at the Law School. Alice and Joe were introduced by Professor Martin Fogelman. They were married for forty-five years, and a few months ago while Joe was hospitalized, a group of us celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary over the internet. It was a nice touch, which Joe and Alice enjoyed immensely.

Over the years my wife and I socialized with Alice and Joe on numerous occasions. One such occasion was when Dean Feerick asked me to escort Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on her trip to Ireland to lecture in our summer program. My wife and I met Joe and Alice, and we spent a wonderful week together in Ireland.

When I first joined the faculty, we only had one journal—the *Fordham Law Review*. Thereafter, we added the *Urban Law Review* and the *Fordham International Law Journal (ILJ)*. Joe was the ILJ's faculty advisor for decades. I am proud to say my son Nicholas was a member of the *ILJ* while he was a student at the Law School and had nothing but praise for Joe's

* Joseph C. Sweeney was the former John D. Calamari Distinguished Professor of Law. He served on the faculty at Fordham University School of Law from 1966 until his retirement in 2013. He also served as the founding faculty advisor of the *Fordham International Law Journal* for thirty-six years.

** Wilkinson Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law. The text of this eulogy has been very lightly edited. For an overview of the corresponding Tribute, see *Foreword: Celebrating a Lasting Legacy*, 89 FORDHAM L. REV. ONLINE 1 (2020).

leadership. Most of Joe's professional accomplishments have been covered and I won't repeat them.

On a personal note however:

Joe was the occupant of the Calamari Chair.

Joe was a man of all seasons.

He was a prolific arbitrator and a mediator.

He was a fabulous teacher on a wide range of subjects.

He received numerous awards including a double Bene Merenti award from Fordham.

He was always constructive and a team player.

He always had a smile on his face and never spoke ill of anyone.

Above all, despite his brilliance, he was humble and never spoke down to anyone.

I would like to thank Alice for sharing him with us for all these years. I feel privileged that I was able to call him a friend and wish him and his family eternal happiness. I will sorely miss him, as will the students whom he served so well.

I would like to conclude with a Greek phrase, "Eonia I Mnimi," which means "may his memory be eternal"—and in Joe's case, it will be so.

Thank you, and God bless you all.