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Welcoming Remarks

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SUPERFUND REAUTHORIZATION: AGENDA FOR THE 90'S

WELCOMING REMARKS

*JOHN D. FEERICK**

I would like to begin by thanking the Editor-in-Chief and the board and staff of our *Environmental Law Journal*. This is the first year of the *Journal's* existence, although there was a preceeding environmental publication that culminated in the *Journal* this year and we're very proud of our *Journal* and very proud of the students who made it possible and put together this program, which has brought together the most knowledgeable environmental specialists in the field to exchange ideas and issues of concern in the upcoming Reauthorization debate.

My function is to welcome you to Fordham Law School, and to very, very briefly say something about the program.

The program today, as you know, discusses the Clinton Administration's Superfund proposal. The impact that such reforms might have, as well as what is still lacking from the regulatory scheme, will be addressed.

The goal of this symposium is two-fold. First, to bring the legal community up-to-date on all aspects of the Reauthorization, and second, to provide a forum for sharing views that may be helpful to policymakers as they focus on the upcoming Reauthorization effort.

The program as I mentioned consists of two sessions. The first will focus on national issues. We will have a presentation which will provide an overview of the Reauthorization proposal and discuss EPA's perspective. That will be followed by a presentation on bankruptcy issues and developments in the judiciary. The next presentation will discuss lender and fiduciary liability, followed by the final presentation of the first session, which will provide a public interest perspective with regard to the Administration's proposal and the current Superfund scheme.

The second session will discuss state and regional issues and concerns which certainly have received substantial attention in the Reauthorization proposal.

We will have several presentations during the second part of the program. The first presentation will look particularly at the impact on the state government's monitoring and enforcement role in the clean-up process, followed by a presentation discussing the issue of municipal liability, and in particular, the proposed cap on municipalities'

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share of clean-up costs. The final presentation will address issues relevant to potentially responsible parties, as they are known under the statute.

We are extremely grateful to the panelists and the moderators of the panel for their participation today. I wish you a very successful symposium and I thank you for your participation.