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Welcoming Remarks

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WELCOMING REMARKS

*John D. Feerick**

MR. CUMMINS: My name is Kevin Cummins. I am the Editor-in-Chief of the Fordham Environmental Law Journal, and I would like to welcome you to our eighth annual symposium. As you know, the topic of today's symposium is the New York City Watershed and its status in light of the 1997 negotiations and agreement. We are very pleased to be hosting a symposium on such an important and timely topic.

We are also very happy to have with us many experts on the Watershed who have agreed to join us here today as panelists and speakers.

On behalf of the *Environmental Law Journal*, I would like to welcome all of you and thank you for coming.

As you will notice in the brochure, we have a very tight schedule today, so in order to move things along, I now have the privilege of introducing the person who, twelve years ago, ensured that the Law School would have an *Environmental Law Journal*—our beloved Dean, John D. Feerick.

DEAN FEERICK: Thank you very much, Kevin.

Actually, what happened twelve years ago was there was going to be a revolt in the student body if the School did not establish the *Journal*, and, always fearful of those kind of revolutions, I said we had no choice. I wish I could take more credit.

The credit really belongs to the students, and the students have done a fantastic job managing this *Journal*. I want to thank you, Kevin, and all your colleagues on the *Journal* for the extraordinary

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work that you did in assembling the speakers and the panelists, and the moderators for what I am sure will be just a fabulous program.

I really want to thank our students, you Kevin, and Jennifer, and Sharron for all the hard work you have done over the past year in preparing for this particular moment.

This symposium will reach quite a large audience because it will be published and widely distributed among all of those who have an interest (and that should be all of us) in subjects involving the resources and, most especially, the subject of today's program.

Today's program addresses one of the most important issues of our time—how to manage our water resources so that we protect the health of the public while ensuring adequate supplies for industry and for our growing population. This issue is particularly critical since clean water is fundamental to human life, while also serving as the life blood of so many industries and other organizations which give great benefits to our society.

As our civilization makes increasing demands on this limited resource, it also becomes more important that both advocates and citizens alike attend to protecting a resource which is so precious and which most of us all too often take for granted.

This symposium is both a forum for public education and a setting for constructive dialogue among concerned professionals. It is also an occasion to remember that human life is dependent upon the bounty of Nature for its survival, and that for this bounty to endure and continue to serve all mankind, it must be guarded with the same vigilance that we use in protecting the basic freedoms guaranteed by our constitutions. To do anything less is to abrogate our responsibilities to our fellow citizens and to generations to come.

I salute, once again, all of your efforts on behalf of the environment and I wish you a very successful program.

Thank you very much.

[Speech by Mr. Peter H. Lehner omitted.]