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Joseph Sweeney: Scholar, Teacher, Pillar of the Fordham Law School Community

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Abstract

This issue of the Fordham International Law Journal is dedicated to Professor Joseph Sweeney on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday.

INTRODUCTION

JOSEPH SWEENEY: SCHOLAR, TEACHER, PILLAR OF THE FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The *Fordham International Law Journal* is most appropriately dedicating this issue to Professor Joseph Conrad Sweeney on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. Professor Sweeney joined the Fordham Law School faculty in the fall of 1966, thus qualifying for two Bene Marenti awards, each celebrating twenty years on the faculty. He holds the John D. Calamari Distinguished Professorship; a tribute to his academic leadership. He is particularly close to the *Fordham International Law Journal*, having joined with the late Professor Ludwik Teclaff in helping interested students launch the *Journal* in 1977, and serving as its dedicated faculty mentor ever since then.

Some professors are leading scholars but not particularly interested in teaching; others are dynamic teachers but only minimally active in writing; but Professor Sweeney is extraordinarily able as both a scholar and a teacher. Without doubt, he has been for many years the preeminent American scholar in admiralty and maritime law, a rare expert in aviation law, and a respected author in public international law. Professor Sweeney is a popular lecturer in all three fields, and also has taught International Business Law, International Conflict Dispute Resolution, Torts, and even seminars on the history of the United States Supreme Court. Altogether he has co-authored a text on Aviation Law, edited volumes on International Project Finance and on the Regulation of Maritime Transport, and co-authored *The Law of Marine Collision*. He has published over fifty law review articles, several in the *Fordham International Law Journal*.

Throughout his long career, Joe's beloved wife Alice has been with him, a true helpmate, popular with his faculty and other friends. Joe's academic career began with a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College in 1954, a Juris Doctor from Boston University in 1957, and Master of Laws from Columbia University in 1963. He served in the Navy's JAG service at Newport, Rhode Island, and overseas, then worked in the well-known New

York admiralty firm of Haight, Gardner, Poor & Havens. Both experiences obviously helped shape his later academic career. Professor Sweeney joined the Fordham Law School faculty in the fall of 1966, initially teaching basic courses such as Torts, and later moving into his more specialized fields. He has served as a Visiting Professor at the U.S. Naval War College and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. His academic expertise has flavored his public service, working in both the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (“UNCITRAL”) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (“UNCTAD”) since 1971. It is apparent from the above brief biographical notes that Joe Sweeney is one of Fordham Law School’s leading scholars and teachers.

This Issue contains articles suited to Professor Sweeney’s academic interests. Michael Marks Cohen’s piece, entitled *Ethics in the Multijurisdictional Practice of Admiralty Lawyers* addresses concerns of lawyers in multi-jurisdictional practice. Martin Flaherty’s *Surrendering the Rule of Law in Foreign Relations* summarizes the effect of *Medellin v. Texas* on foreign relations. Professor David Morán Bovio’s article, *Ocean Carriers’ Duty of Care to Cargo in Port: The Rotterdam Rules of 2009* is an apt analysis of the UNCITRAL Draft Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. John T. Parry’s *Congress, the Supremacy Clause, and the Implementation of Treaties* also considers *Medellin v. Texas* and places it within the context of treaty implementation doctrines. Lastly, George K. Walker’s article, *Filling Some of the Gaps: The International Law Association (American Branch) Law of the Sea Definitions Project* is a discussion of sources of law affecting ocean space, particularly the *Terms in the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea or in Convention Analysis that the Convention Does Not Define* and the possible utility of the Project going forward.

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