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Problem Solving Courts: From Adversarial Litigation to Innovative Jurisprudence

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**PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS: FROM
ADVERSARIAL LITIGATION TO
INNOVATIVE JURISPRUDENCE**

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM ON CONTEMPORARY
URBAN CHALLENGES**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2002

MORNING SESSION

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

MS. DHANARAJ: Thank you all for coming. I know a lot of people have traveled far and wide. We have participants from Canada, California, Minnesota, and Colorado. We are pleased that you can join us all here.

My name is Subha Dhanaraj. I am the Symposium Editor for the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attending and the panelists for participating. And finally, I would like to thank everyone at the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, the staff and editors, in particular Kim Horn, Associate Symposium Editor, and Micah Liberman, our Editor-in-Chief.

And finally, I would like to introduce Professor Russell Pearce and give him a personal congratulations for everything he has done in making this Symposium possible. Professor Russell Pearce will be introducing Dean John Feerick of Fordham Law School.

PROFESSOR PEARCE: My name is Russ Pearce. I am a Professor of Law at Fordham and Co-Director of the Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics. It is my role to welcome you on behalf of the Stein Center.

To put the importance of this Symposium in perspective, I would just like to note that a little more than twenty-five years ago, in one of the most-cited Law Review articles of all time, Professor Abram Chayes explained how public law litigation had transformed the role of the judge.¹ In this symposium on problem-solving courts, I think today and tomorrow we will be examining a movement which may have as great or greater impact.

1. Abram Chayes, *The Role of the Judge in Public Law Litigation*, 89 HARV. L. REV. 1281 (1976).

I would like to just take a moment to add my thanks, before we begin, to those who made this Symposium possible. And really, it's the students of the *Urban Law Journal*, who worked tirelessly and who deserve the greatest praise and appreciation for putting this wonderful program together. I just want to acknowledge, because I don't have time to name all the students, Editor-in-Chief Micah Liberman, Symposium Editor Subha Dhanaraj, and Associate Symposium Editor Kimberly Horn.

Next, I would also like to thank two of the many organizations that have been very supportive in this effort. I would like to especially thank the Center for Court Innovation for its tremendous assistance, and also the New York Office of Court Administration.

And last, just to add my thanks to the speakers who will be joining us, as well as those of you who have made time in your schedules to attend.

My concluding comments, really sort of my next introductory role, is to note that at Fordham we are very privileged to have as Dean a man who embodies the commitment to ethics and public service, and so it is now my honor to introduce Dean John Feerick.

DEAN FEERICK: Thank you very much.

It's really a great privilege for me to be invited by our students to say a few words of welcome. One of the expectations by our students of me when they invite me to programs is not to get into the substance, to be very short, and then to leave, and I've been faithful to that mandate now for almost twenty years.

I just really want to say to the students on the *Fordham Urban Law Journal* and our Stein Center, thank you. Thank you for deciding that you wanted to focus on the problem-solving courts here in New York. A group of you came to me last summer, told me what you had in mind, and it's really unbelievable that you have been able to put together today's program with so many great people serving as moderators, on the panels, and having the Chief Judge of the State, whose dynamic leadership has really been transformative in terms of the courts, to be a keynote speaker. I look forward tonight to being here when the Chief Judge delivers the keynote address.

Subha, I just want to say you thank you for your incredible leadership. I thank all the students that you identified for major roles in putting together today's program.

I wish you a very meaningful day. I just really want to say to you who work in the courts as judges, as public servants in so many aspects of the system, how proud we are of your efforts, how ap-

preciative we are of the creativity and energy that is going on in our courts at this time in the history of the State. It's very, very exciting. Our Law School is very proud to associate in a small way with your work by having today's program and calling attention to one of the most exciting developments that I have certainly seen during my forty years at the bar, these problem-solving courts. I once again thank you.