

2000

## Dedication, Caesar L. Pitassy '41

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### Recommended Citation

Denis McInerney, *Dedication, Caesar L. Pitassy '41*, 68 Fordham L. Rev. 1977 (2000).

Available at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol68/iss6/1>

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## DEDICATION

### CAESAR L. PITASSY '41

THE Board of Editors of the *Fordham Law Review* dedicates this issue to honoring the memory of Caesar L. Pitassy, Editor-in-Chief of the *Law Review*, class of '41, who died in January of this year.

This is a rare honor, last bestowed in 1996 in tribute to our beloved late Dean William Hughes Mulligan, class of '42.

In 1941, the Editor-in-Chief's office was in the library at 302 Broadway, where the faculty advisor's secretary, Margaret Cotter, assisted in turning out the *Law Review*. She became Peggy Pitassy in June of 1942, the start of a happy marriage that endured for fifty-seven years. Their son, Richard N. Pitassy, class of '68, is a partner at Bleakley Platt & Schmidt in White Plains, New York; his wife Thea graduated from Fordham Law School in 1976.

In 1942, the year in which he married, young Caesar Pitassy joined the prestigious Wall Street law firm of Rogers & Wells, where he became a partner in due course. He was an outstanding trial and appellate lawyer, highly respected by the Judiciary and often opposing counsel for his professional courtesy, ability and integrity. He became the Managing Partner of Rogers & Wells in the late 1950's; in that capacity, he sparked and supervised the firm's move from 100 Broadway to 200 Park Avenue in 1963.

Our honoree served as President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association from 1959 to 1964. During that period, the City of New York implemented its long-planned project to condemn a slum area now known as Lincoln Center. It offered Fordham University the opportunity to become the first anchor tenant, which of course was gratefully accepted. That announcement resulted in massive litigation brought by zealous civil libertarian groups who contended that the City's assistance to the University violated the New York State Constitution, which contains unusually severe restrictions separating Church and State. Rogers & Wells, the University's attorneys on a variety of matters, fielded a defense team led by Caesar Pitassy, which prevailed after years of effort. He was awarded the Law School Alumni's Medal of Achievement in 1972.

Caesar was well known to be a gentle man, unfailingly pleasant and courteous. At his office, he was constantly available to employees, as-

sociates, and partners, many of whom would drop in on him for advice on personal or legal matters. He was always happy to help.

Because of Caesar Pitassy's dedication to the Law School, which reflects great credit on both, this dedication is richly deserved.

*Denis McInerney '51*

*Notes & Observations*



Charles Malcolm Wilson