

FOREWORD

OUR TEACHER AND FRIEND: DAVID D. SIEGEL

*Brian C. Borie**

David D. Siegel is considered by many to be the foremost authority on the topic of New York Civil Practice. He is most well-known as the editor and writer of the *New York State Law Digest*, *Siegel's Practice Review*, numerous *CPLR Practice Commentaries*, and his textbook, *New York Practice*. Since 1972, he has been a professor at Albany Law School, where he is currently a Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

On November 18, 2008, the Albany Law School held a tribute for Professor David D. Siegel. Professor Siegel's family, friends, colleagues, and students all packed into the Law School's moot courtroom with electric enthusiasm to celebrate not only his unparalleled career but also his remarkable character and personality. Among the guests were members of the state and federal judiciary, lawyers, colleagues, and former students from across New York State and beyond. Speakers at the event included Associate Dean Connie Mayer; then-Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye; Board of Trustees Chair E. Stewart Jones Jr.; United States Attorney Michael Garcia; New York State Bar Association President-Elect Michael E. Getnick; former Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt; Professor Siegel's wife, Rosemarie Siegel; his daughters, Sheela S. Clary and Rachel A. Siegel; and, of course, Professor Siegel himself.

The topics of the speeches varied. Several speakers shared personal anecdotes, while others focused more on Professor Siegel's

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unmatched achievements in the field of New York Practice. Chief Judge Kaye and Judge Rosenblatt even performed a song, paying homage to Professor Siegel's favorite songwriting duo: Gilbert and Sullivan. The theme of these speeches, however, was the same: Professor Siegel has left, and continues to leave, a lasting impact on all of us.

Associate Dean Patricia Salkin headed the Committee responsible for planning this incredible event. The Committee was comprised of Albany Law School faculty and staff, including Helen Adams-Keane, Patrick Connors, Connie Mayer, David Pratt, and Tammy Weinman. The Committee suggested that the *Albany Law Review* dedicate one of our issues to Professor Siegel and, without hesitation, we agreed.

The *Albany Law Review* seized this opportunity not only because it is a great honor, but also because Professor Siegel has been one of the *Law Review's* strongest supporters throughout the years. E. Stewart Jones noted in his remarks that Albany Law School is a more prominent institution because of Professor Siegel. Similarly, the *Albany Law Review* is a more successful organization because of his commitment and support.

Included in this issue of the *Albany Law Review* are the remarks from the event as well as articles written by George Carpinello, Professor Patrick Connors, and Brian Shoot. Combined, these works attempt to encapsulate Professor Siegel's innumerable achievements and extraordinary personality. But, of course, this would be impossible to accomplish in the confines of such a small book. As the following pages will reveal, Professor Siegel is not only a brilliant professor and scholar, but a warm and loving husband, father, grandfather, teacher, and friend. I suggest that the way to best understand David Siegel is to speak with him, attend his CLEs, and read his work. It is then that you will learn what we all know: Professor Siegel is truly a remarkable teacher and friend.