DEDICATION

Robert McIver*

In November of 2000, Judge Victoria Graffeo was nominated to the Court of Appeals of New York. Upon her unanimous confirmation, she became the third woman to serve on the court, joining Chief Judge Kaye and Senior Associate Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick. Prior to her appointment, Judge Graffeo served as a justice on the Appellate Division, Third Department, and also as the New York State Solicitor General. For the past fourteen years, Judge Graffeo has provided the court with a thoughtful and insightful jurisprudential approach, and produced countless opinions that have provided clarity and guidance to the courts and practitioners of New York.

In addition to these tireless efforts, Judge Graffeo has made remarkable contributions to New York State court administration. These contributions include the recent fifty-hour pro bono requirement, which gives aspiring law students a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience, but more importantly serves as a catalyst for providing valuable legal services to our state’s underserved individuals in need of legal representation and advice. Her efforts have been monumental and will be enduring in providing equal justice across our state.

Judge Graffeo is a particularly appropriate dedicatee for the State Constitutional Commentary issue of the Albany Law Review, not only for her efforts in statewide court administration, but also in her perceptive and discerning opinions construing our state’s statutes and constitution. Judge Graffeo’s opinions constantly display a central theme: an astute awareness of New York’s unique legal history, traditions, and policies.

Judge Graffeo’s opinions demonstrate her meticulous and thoughtful approach. Perhaps no judge in recent history has devoted a greater effort to determining the plain and logical meaning of statutes. Judge Graffeo’s opinions often display a

* Executive Editor for State Constitutional Commentary, Albany Law School, J.D., Le Moyne College, B.A.
willingness to thoroughly examine the nuanced language of statutes.\textsuperscript{1} Her intensive research routinely delves into legislative histories and advisory committee notes in order to be absolutely certain of legislative intent.\textsuperscript{2} These tireless efforts not only lead to fastidiously crafted opinions that produce clear rules of law, but also demonstrate the important role of the judiciary as the dutiful interpreter of law. Indeed, Judge Graffeo’s opinions lead by example for future practitioners and judges endeavoring to determine the correct outcome of their cases.

In addition to her tremendous holdings and work on the court, Judge Graffeo is an engaging, considerate, and genuine person. Historically, she has been heavily involved at Albany Law School and in the surrounding community. Judge Graffeo is always the first person to reach out and engage the community by visiting schools, attending events, and personally giving tours of the Court of Appeals. Her attentive and down-to-earth personality makes her the perfect ambassador for the denizens of Eagle Street.

The \textit{Albany Law Review} has been humbled and honored by Judge Graffeo’s gracious contributions to our scholarship. Judge Graffeo personally appeared at several of our symposia and discussed difficult decisions, as well as her perceptive approach to judicial decision crafting.\textsuperscript{3} Judge Graffeo moderated our recent symposium on state constitutional adjudication and interpretation.\textsuperscript{4} She has also offered a unique and intuitive perspective on Judge Francis Bergan.\textsuperscript{5} Lastly, Judge Graffeo authored an expansive article on former United States Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson.\textsuperscript{6} These are just a few examples, among many others, in which Judge Graffeo dedicated her time and efforts to contribute to the \textit{Albany Law Review}. We are forever thankful.

It is the Law Review’s honor to dedicate this issue to Judge Graffeo in light of her commitments to New York’s legal community. Throughout her extraordinary and historic career, Judge Graffeo

\textsuperscript{1} E.g., Wallach v. Town of Dryden, 16 N.E.3d 1188 (N.Y. 2014); Holmes v. Winter, 3 N.E.3d 694 (N.Y. 2013); \textit{In re M.B.}, 846 N.E.2d 794 (N.Y. 2006).

\textsuperscript{2} The editors of this article need no other support for this notion than Judge Graffeo’s own description of her skillful handling of the complex case \textit{Holmes v. Winter}, in this year’s \textit{State Constitutional Commentary} symposium.


has been a positive influence and a driver for important change in New York. We thank you, Judge Graffeo; you will forever stand as a leading jurist, a role model, and a good friend to Albany Law Review.