

## A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON & ISSUES FACING THE JUDICIARY

### FOREWORD

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As the 2004-2005 academic year comes to a close and I reflect on my years at Albany Law School, certain days remain vivid in my memory. Most often they are the days when special lectures or symposia were held. Days on which symposia are held give the Albany Law School community an opportunity to share ideas, mull over current topics and gain insight. Days like these are important. They have enriched my law school experience. Respecting the value of symposia, it was with a great deal of purpose that I prepared for this year's events.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the *Albany Law Review* dedicated volume sixty-eight and all Law Review events to the memory of one of Albany Law School's most distinguished alumni—Justice Robert Houghwout Jackson. Recognizing that October 9, 2004 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Justice Jackson's untimely passing, the *Albany Law Review* sought to honor his memory. The Law Review hosted two events during the fall semester—our annual symposium which focused on issues facing the judiciary and a tribute to Justice Jackson.

At our annual symposium which was held this year on Thursday, October 28, 2004, the Albany Law Review took a closer look at three major issues currently facing the judiciary. At time when criticism of the judiciary is high and public confidence in the third branch is waning, we sought to provide a forum for thoughtful analysis. As Judge Leaned Hand expressed “let [judges] be severely brought to

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book, when they go wrong, but by those who will take the trouble to understand them.” We took the trouble to try to further understand the crucial role the judiciary plays in our system of government and to debate some of the issues currently plaguing both the state and federal judiciaries.

The symposium featured three panels. The first panel explored accusations of judicial activism and included Professor Richard Lavoie of the University of Texas School of Law and Professor Martin Edelman of the State University of New York at Albany. Our second panel highlighted controversies surrounding the First Amendment rights of judges and included the Honorable Thomas Spargo, Wendy Weiser, Esq. of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law and Walter Weber, Esq. of the American Center for Law & Justice. The day ended with a panel that reviewed and renewed the debate over the proper method of judicial selection and featured Professor Steve Zeidman of the City University of New York School of Law, Norman Greene, Esq. and Kyle Cheek, Ph.d.

The Law Review honored Justice Jackson at an evening tribute on Monday, November 15, 2005. At that event, we were very pleased to welcome three extraordinarily distinguished speakers who spoke of Justice Jackson’s life and legacy. The Honorable Victoria A. Graffeo, an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, highlighted Justice Jackson’s many years in government service from his time at the Treasury Department through his years as U.S. Solicitor General and U.S. Attorney General, all of which culminated with his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Phil Neal, a former clerk to Justice Jackson and the former Dean of the University of Chicago School of Law, gave all attendees precious insight into Justice Jackson’s personality, work habits and wit. Finally, Professor John Q. Barrett, who currently teaches at St. John’s University School of Law and serves as the Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow at the Robert H. Jackson Center, presented the keynote address which focused on Justice Jackson’s experience at Albany Law School as well as his lifelong connections to the city of Albany.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people without whom this year’s events would not have been possible. First of all, thank you to all of the speakers who contributed their insight and experience and who ensured the success of these events. Thank you to the Executive Board, the Associate Editors and the Members of the *Albany Law Review*, it has been my pleasure to work with all of you. Thank you to our faculty advisor Professor

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