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Invitation to the Fifteenth Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture Series: Advocacy Has It a Future?

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Fordham Law Alumni Association announces the Fifteenth Annual John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture to be delivered by The Honorable Thomas A. Finlay Chief Justice of Ireland on Wednesday, March 19, 1986 in the James B.M. NcNally Amphitheatre 140 West 62nd Street New York City Fordham University School of Law 8:00 p.m.

Previous John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecturers:

Hon. Tom Clark Hon. Cearball O'Dalaigh Hon. Irving R. Kaufman Hon. Warren E. Burger Rt. Hon. Lord John Widgery Hon. Robert J. Sheran Hon. Leon Jaworski Hon. Griffin B. Bell Hon. William Hughes Mulligan Hon. Benjamin R. Civiletti Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke Rt. Hon. Sir Robert E. Megarry Hon. William T. Coleman Hon. Willired Feinberg

John F. Sonnett 1912–1969

John F. Sonnett, a 1933 graduate of Fordham College and a 1936 graduate of the School of Law, was a senior partner of the firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel. This lecture series has been endowed by his partners and friends as a permanent memorial to him.

In 1933 Mr. Sonnett joined that firm, then known as Cotton & Franklin, as managing clerk, a position he held for the next three years while attending Fordham Law School. Upon graduation he became an associate at the firm. In 1941 he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York where he became Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney.

During the Second World War, Mr. Sonnett was Special Counsel to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Later, as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, holding the rank of Lieutenant Commander, he conducted the final Navy investigations of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

At the conclusion of the war, Mr. Sonnett was named Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice.

He returned to the Cahill Gordon firm in 1948 and established an international reputation as one of the pre-eminent trial and appellate lawyers. A devoted son of Fordham, his death in July 1969 was a great loss to the profession and his alma mater. His excellence as an advocate is memorialized through this lecture series.