

Fordham International Law Journal

Volume 42, Issue 3

Article 1

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ROGER GOEBEL

Remembering Roger Goebel (1936-2018)

Dean Matthew Diller*

*

Copyright © by the authors. *Fordham International Law Journal* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress). <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/ilj>

INTRODUCTION

REMEMBERING ROGER GOEBEL (1936-2018)

*Dean Matthew Diller**

On behalf of Fordham University School of Law (“Fordham Law” or “the Law School”) and the *Fordham International Law Journal* (“the *Journal*”), I am honored to dedicate this Issue of the *Journal* to the memory of Roger J. Goebel, one of Fordham Law’s most beloved professors and a titan of European Union Law.

Roger passed away on April 20, 2018 at the age of eighty-two. Shortly after Roger’s death, I found myself overseas, meeting with alumni and friends in Europe and other foreign locales. These travels are more or less a regular part of my job as Dean of Fordham Law, visiting other countries to spread the news about the Law School. What I realized during these travels last year is that Roger had effectively beaten me to the punch. As I met with alumni and friends around the world and informed them of Roger’s passing, I was quite struck by how many people he had touched so deeply and how strongly he advocated for Fordham Law on the international stage.

As soon as Roger joined the Fordham Law faculty in 1984, he set about making the Law School more of a globally oriented institution. He created the Center on European Union Law (“the Center”), which helped solidify the Law School’s relationships with prominent European law schools and promoted Fordham Law in Europe as a premier school in international law. The Center, unique at the time among American law schools, developed curricula and teaching materials for US and European law schools, while facilitating an exchange of ideas and information among scholars, government officials, lawyers, and business executives.

Roger became interested in international law during the 1960s while practicing in the Paris offices of Coudert Brothers. Since 1978, he had been teaching and writing in the field of EU law, so he was already one of the foremost American legal academics in the field

* Dean Matthew Diller, Dean of Fordham University School of Law and Paul Fuller Professor of Law.

when he joined the Fordham Law faculty. In fact, it is not hyperbole to say that he was one of the founders of this important area of study. Roger was a great believer in the European project. He recognized early its potential to bring people together in new ways and to form a model for transnational cooperation that could bring about deep and lasting change.

The book, *Cases and Materials on European Union Law*, which Roger wrote with Eleanor M. Fox, George A. Bermann, Jeffery Atik, Frank Emmert, and Damien Gerard remains a vital law school text. Incidentally, essays by Professors Fox,¹ Bermann,² and Atik³ appear in this Issue. I know that Roger would have been eager to learn about his co-authors' new ideas related to extraterritoriality in competition law, international arbitration, and standard essential patents, as well as the timely scholarship of the other contributors to this Issue.

Of course, Roger's work is still widely read and respected in Europe. Many European academics first learned of Fordham Law through Roger's scholarship, making him one of the Law School's greatest ambassadors. Serving as Alpin J. Cameron Professor of Law, Roger was doubtless one of the primary reasons Fordham Law is so distinguished in international law.

In addition to his trenchant academic work, Roger was instrumental in building and nurturing the Fordham Law LL.M. program. Aside from being a deft administrative presence, he embodied the real human core of the program. Roger had a deep sense of humanity and compassion, and Fordham Law students could feel that. He was a caring mentor to the many international students who came to Fordham due to his influence. During their time at the Law School, Roger gently helped them navigate a legal system that may have initially seemed strange to them but that was nonetheless one they were eager to understand thanks to Roger's encouragement and guidance.

Roger was always an active presence at faculty meetings. He encouraged the faculty not to cut corners, asked the hard questions, and

1. See Eleanor M. Fox, *Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, Antitrust, and the EU Intel Case: Implementation, Qualified Effects, and the Third Kind*, 42 FORDHAM INT'L L.J. *infra* p. 981.

2. See George A. Bermann, *European Union Law and International Arbitration at a Crossroads*, 42 FORDHAM INT'L L.J. *infra* p. 967.

3. See Jeffery Atik, *The Frand Ceremony and the Engagement of Article 102 TFEU in the Licensing of Standard Essential Patents*, 42 FORDHAM INT'L L.J. *infra* p. 949.

ensured that the process was genuinely deliberative. While his care made meetings less expeditious, it raised our game as a faculty and led to better decision-making.

When Roger passed last year, my office received poignant memories of him from his past students and colleagues.⁴ These comments clearly speak to the kind of impact Roger had in the life of Fordham Law. To continue to honor and celebrate that impact, last summer the Law School inaugurated an award to be bestowed once a year on an international alumnus for extraordinary service to the Law School. The first Roger Goebel International Alumni Award was given to Wolfgang Schönig LL.M. '09, who founded the European chapter of the Fordham Law Alumni Association.⁵

The Law School has also established a Roger Goebel Scholarship for international students to further strengthen the very LL.M. program that he helped create. And every year at graduation, Fordham Law awards the Robert Schuman Prize, which was established by Roger to recognize a graduating LL.M. student who has achieved the highest grades in courses in European Union law.⁶

I remember clearly when Roger came to me about a decade ago to tell me of his illness. At that time, I was serving as associate dean, and Roger told me he had been diagnosed with throat cancer. He went through painful rounds of treatment that were debilitating and impacted his ability to speak and eat. Throughout this ordeal, his goal was singular: to return to the Fordham Law classroom that he so loved. Roger was incredibly determined and did make it back—and hundreds of Fordham Law students were the better for it.

Roger is greatly missed, but he has not completely gone away from the Law School community. His spirit lives on, and will continue to live on, in the presence of Fordham Law around the world, and the students who have gone out into that world and made a difference in the legal profession and our global society.

4. *In Memoriam: Roger Goebel (1936-2018)*, FORDHAM INT'L L.J., <https://www.fordhamilj.org/in-memoriam/2018/8/24/in-memoriam-roger-goebel> [https://perma.cc/5U9Y-DAHR].

5. *European Alumni Chapter*, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, https://www.fordham.edu/info/24263/european_alumni_chapter [https://perma.cc/UXR7-NSSU].

6. The prize is named in honor of the distinguished former prime minister of France, who was one of the leading statesmen inspiring the creation of the European Union.

