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## Opening Remarks

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# SYMPOSIUM

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: THE MERGING OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

### OPENING REMARKS

DEAN RUDOLPH C. HASL\*

I would like to welcome all of you to St. John's University School of Law. This program is a part of an ongoing effort to reconnect St. John's with the broader intellectual and academic community and also to take a more active role within the profession itself in highlighting certain issues. This is the second major conference which the school has sponsored this year, the first taking place in the fall, focusing on the subject of the Employment Retirement Insurance Security Act ("ERISA").<sup>1</sup> I would also like to call your attention to a program that will be held on Friday, April 22, 1994 sponsored by our Center for Law and Public Policy, which focuses

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<sup>1</sup> Symposium, *20th Anniversary of ERISA*, 68 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. (forthcoming Spring 1994).

on international women's human rights.<sup>2</sup> I think all of these programs are a part of an effort to rejuvenate the intellectual life of the law school and to participate more broadly in that dialogue among law schools and among the academics in legal education today.

Some accuse me of having an "edifice" complex, and I am going to talk a little bit about our new building only to invite you to spend a little bit of time during the breaks to take a look around. We are nearing completion on a project which will nearly double the size of the physical facilities for the School of Law. This area was completed initially in September. It is not quite there yet, but we hope that by the end of June the entire construction project will be completed. I invite you particularly to visit the library, which is entered through the first floor, and to take a look at the computer rooms and so forth. I think the building positions us well for these kinds of events in the future, and we very much want to be part of both the broader intellectual community and also of our immediate community. Therefore, some of the programs that we will be hosting are programs which focus on the problems in our immediate area.

So I welcome all of you. I thank our speakers for being here, and I look forward to what I think will be a very exciting conference.

<sup>2</sup> Symposium, *International Women's Human Rights*, 68 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. (forthcoming Fall 1994).