

Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development

Volume 15
Issue 3 *Volume 15, Spring 2001, Issue 3*

Article 1

March 2001

Introduction: Symposium on Legal Education at the Threshold of the New Millennium

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Recommended Citation

Alexander, Vincent C. (2001) "Introduction: Symposium on Legal Education at the Threshold of the New Millennium," *Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development*. Vol. 15 : Iss. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/jcred/vol15/iss3/1>

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INTRODUCTION

VINCENT C. ALEXANDER*

Let me welcome you all to the St. John's Journal of Legal Commentary's symposium on Legal Education at the Threshold of the New Millennium. We have been joined by members of the faculty, distinguished members of the judiciary, welcomed guests and special guests, and, of course, the students themselves.

The 75th anniversary of St. John's University School of Law continues. Throughout the Year 2000, we are celebrating our diamond jubilee with academic programs and lectures that reflect the tradition of excellence that St. John's University School of Law has come to stand for.

One of our hallmarks, and I think this is clearly a reflection of the influence of the Vincentian fathers who founded our great institution, is a commitment to public service. Our alumni have distinguished themselves at all levels of public service. Alumni who have been governors, legislators, public servants at all levels and of course, judges, and not the least of which, is our own Judge Bellacosa, who will take over the deanship in August.

Our special guest of honor to deliver this luncheon address also exemplifies that spirit of public service. I am speaking, of course, about Kenneth W. Starr, who served as independent counsel for the Whitewater investigation from August, 1994 until October, 1999.

He is currently on leave of absence from the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis and he is writing a book on the Supreme Court while serving as an adjunct professor of law at New York University School of Law. As a matter of fact, he taught there this morning on the issue of constitutional law and we whisked him here by car so that he could be with us for this luncheon. We are certainly honored and privileged that you agreed to do so.

Judge Starr has had a very distinguished career. It is often said

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that a person of his stature needs no introduction, but as an Evidence professor, you always teach your students that you never accept a stipulation as to the credentials of your expert witness. One always goes through the curriculum vitae. It is a pleasure to do so because we have, indeed, a very distinguished resume in front of us here.

Judge Starr, for four years, was Solicitor General of the United States, arguing 25 cases before the Supreme Court involving a wide range of governmental regulatory and constitutional issues of commercial importance. For six years he served as a United States Circuit judge, having been appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in October, 1983.

Judge Starr practiced law in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. with the firm of Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher where he was a partner in litigation practice. He began his career, after graduating from law school, as a law clerk to the United States Court of Appeals Judge David W. Dyer, and then clerked for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger of the United States Supreme Court.

He is a graduate of Duke Law School where he was named the Hughes Inn Graduate of the Year and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He served as an editor of the Duke Law Journal and was President of the school's International Law Society. He holds degrees, also, from Washington University.

Judge Starr was born in Burnen, Texas and was raised in San Antonio. He and his wife, Alice, have three children and now make their home in McClain, Virginia.

Today, Judge Starr, as we continue to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of St. John's Law School, we hope that you will feel welcome in our home and all of you please join me now in welcoming Judge Kenneth Starr.