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Opening Remarks: The Impact of Economics on Legal Education at the Threshold of the New Millennium

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MORNING PANEL

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMICS ON LEGAL EDUCATION AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM

OPENING REMARKS

VINCENT C. ALEXANDER*

As the Interim Dean here of St. John's University School of Law, and on behalf of the faculty, the administration and the entire student body, I welcome all of you to our symposium on Legal Education at the Threshold of the New Millennium.

As most of you know, the School of Law is celebrating its 75th anniversary in the year 2000. The school was founded in 1925, and for 75 years we have established a reputation and a tradition of excellence that will carry us forward to even greater heights in the new Millennium.

In January, we began a series of academic programs and events that have brought to our school such individuals as Justice Anthony Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court; Bill Lan Lee, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights; New York Governor George Pataki; New York's Chief Judge, Judith Kaye; our own Judge, Joseph W. Bellacosa, Dean-Elect; Former California Governor George Deukmejian; former U.S. Congressman Thomas Manton; and most recently, Professor Eleanor L. Fox who delivered the Bernstein lecture on anti-trust. Each of these speakers has enriched our academic and intellectual environment. That enrichment continues today.

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Over a year ago, when the faculty's 75th anniversary committee was deciding upon the appropriate programs for the year, it seemed obvious that a legal institution that was celebrating 75 years of its existence ought to present a program in which we reflect on the business that we are in: legal education. The committee decided to team up with the *Journal of Legal Commentary*, which has established an outstanding track record for the past seven years in organizing symposia. The *Journal* joined forces with us today to assemble the outstanding group of speakers from which you will hear shortly.

This morning's panel brings us leaders of the legal academy. This afternoon we will have a distinguished group of judges who lead double lives as legal academics. I want to compliment the editors of the *Journal of Legal Commentary* for the work that they have done in putting this program together. In particular, I want to single out David Kromm, the Editor-in-Chief, the Managing Editor, Mike Perets, and the Associate Managing Editor, Frank Chantayan.