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The Supreme Court And Local Government Law 1995-96 Term Introduction

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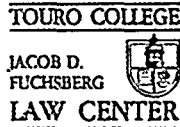
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SYMPOSIUM

THE SUPREME COURT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW 1995-96 TERM

INTRODUCTION

Dean Howard A. Glickstein:

It is hard to believe that these conferences have been going on for eight years. Apparently, they are valued and appreciated. The focus of this conference will be the recent decisions of the Supreme Court as they affect both state and local government. We have found that every year there seems to be great interest in the conference, and, as you know, the proceedings of the conference are published in our Law Review.

The speakers today are people who truly are expert in their particular fields. We have members of our faculty who will be speaking today: Judge George Pratt, Judge Leon Lazer, Dean Eileen Kaufman, Professor Martin Schwartz and Professor Peter Zablotsky. These are people you have heard in the past who are very knowledgeable about the subject matter.

We also have three people who are outside of the Touro family. Two of them are people who have spoken at the conference before: Dean Joel Gora, Dean of Academic Affairs at Brooklyn Law School, and Professor William Hellerstein, also from Brooklyn Law School, will be speaking with you this morning. Our third outsider this morning is Professor Frank Parker, a visiting professor, at Washington and Lee Law School.

I would just like to take a personal moment to say something about Frank Parker. Frank and I worked together about 30 years ago at the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Frank was the principal author of the report that the Civil Rights Commission compiled in 1968 on the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The report demonstrated areas of the country where the Voting Rights Act was not being properly enforced and other problems with political participation in the country. This was written just before the 1968 Democratic Convention.

One issue covered in the report was whether or not the convention delegation from Mississippi was properly selected and should be permitted to be seated at the Democratic Convention. I remember meeting with Frank and the then staff director of the Civil Rights Commission, at a little restaurant at the Trenton Railroad Station with Governor Hughes, who was the Governor of New Jersey. He was the chair of the Credentials Committee for the Democratic National Convention.

We presented him with a copy of the report and explained the problems with how the Mississippi delegates to the Democratic Convention had been selected. A copy of the report was then sent to the Credentials Committee. At the convention the delegation from Mississippi that was improperly selected was not seated. A rival delegation was seated. Frank Parker's involvement in this early phase of enforcement of the voting rights was a preview of what was to come. He has been deeply involved in voting rights litigation ever since.

I hope you have a good conference today. Judge Lazer has been participating in this conference for eight years and each year he comes in to see me two or three days before the conference and says; "It is the last time I am going to do it. Nobody will

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come." And then we always have a very nice crowd. You always surprise us. So, I thank you for coming. This is an incentive for Judge Lazer to do it again next year. At this time, I am pleased to present to you, Judge Leon Lazer.

