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## **The Supreme Court and Local Government Law 1993-94 Term: Introduction**

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## SYMPOSIUM

### THE SUPREME COURT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW 1993-94 TERM

#### INTRODUCTION

*Dean Howard A. Glickstein:*

Good morning. I would like to welcome you to the Sixth Annual Conference on Supreme Court decisions that have an impact on state and local government. I am Howard Glickstein, Dean of the law school.

In our country, we seem to be fascinated by the Supreme Court. Almost everybody knows who is on the Supreme Court. People follow Supreme Court decisions. The first Monday in October is a date to which even a layman pays some attention. But most discussions of Supreme Court decisions that appear in the newspapers and appear in the law reviews focus on global implications of Supreme Court decisions - what those decisions

mean to the development to our constitutional law, and how they might or might not have changed our governmental institutions.

On the other hand, most lawyers in our country are not dealing with global issues or the development of constitutional law. Most lawyers in our country are in general practice, work for small firms, or work for government agencies. And the impact of Supreme Court decisions on what happens in state and local government is something on which we do not often focus. That is the purpose of this program and that is the reason this program was begun some years ago. Its purpose is to look at Supreme Court decisions and see how they impact on state and local government and how they impact on people who work for state and local government.

Our program was the brain child of Judge Leon Lazer who is a member of our faculty. Each year he agonizes over whether this is worth continuing and whether there is enough interest in it. Each year we end up with a display of a great deal of interest in the program.

The program has also benefited our students. The proceedings of this program will be published in the *Touro Law Review* and this issue of the *Touro Law Review* that contains these proceedings is usually an issue that attracts national interest.

We have a very distinguished group of speakers today. I mentioned Judge Lazer. Judge George Pratt, who is on our faculty, and I think has participated in every one of these programs, is also going to speak to you today. Other members of the Touro faculty who we will hear from include Professor Martin Schwartz, who I think also has participated in every one of these programs and seems to spend a lot of his time hopping around the United States talking about section 1983. Professor Eileen Kaufman will speak to you later. Recently she was a speaker at a program for New York State judges. She does that periodically. A veteran of our program who will be here later today is Professor William E. Hellerstein. And we have a couple of new additions this year, Frank Schellace and Professor Margulies from the Quinnipiac School of Law.

I know we have a group of very fine speakers. They not only are fine speakers but they are people who probably are as well informed about these issues as anyone you will find in the country.

I welcome you here today and I hope you find this program productive and enjoyable.

I would like to begin by introducing Judge Lazer. He will give you an overall view of what to expect today.

