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Introduction

Honorable Leon D. Lazer
Touro Law Center

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LAW CENTER

INTRODUCTION

Hon. Leon Lazer:

Good morning. For those of you who do not know me, I am Judge Leon Lazer,¹ Director of Touro Law Center's Institute of Local and Suburban Law, and I will be hosting today's conference. I would like to welcome you to the Institute's Third Annual Conference on the Supreme Court and Local Government Law. This conference, as have past conferences, will be published in the Touro Law Review.

We are fortunate to once again have distinguished speakers on our panel to discuss last year's term. The 1990-91 Supreme Court Term has produced an abundance of opinions affecting virtually every area of constitutional law and government law. We will begin this morning's session, as we have in the past, with a review of the significant cases dealing with Section 1983 litigation. We are proud to once again have the Honorable George C. Pratt, of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals as well as our own Professor Martin A. Schwartz as panelists for this topic. We will next hear from another returning speaker, Professor William Hellerstein of Brooklyn Law School, who will discuss Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment cases. In the afternoon, Professor Joel Gora, also of Brooklyn Law School, will discuss the First

1. The Honorable Leon D. Lazer is a visiting professor of law at the Touro Law Center. Judge Lazer served as an Associate Justice for the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, Second Department from 1979 to 1986; Judge of the New York State Supreme Court from 1976-86; Partner Shea & Gould from 1987-88; Town Attorney, Town of Huntington from 1960-64; and Chairman, First Department Assigned Counsel Corporation from 1987-91.

Amendment cases. Afterwards, we will hear from William Taylor, who is presently in private practice in Washington, D.C. and specializes in civil rights, who will discuss the effects of the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

I will discuss cases, while not of constitutional import, that are nonetheless of significance to municipal governments and their officials. I will cover such topics as the Sherman Anti-Trust Act's impact on municipal zoning practices, the Hobbs Act's impact on campaign contributions, and federal preemption through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

Before we start, however, I would like to introduce our questioning panel member, Professor Eileen Kaufman of this law school. Professor Kaufman has taken part in our prior conferences and has a very distinguished background in civil rights and constitutional law. Professor Kaufman will, at the end of each segment, ask some penetrating questions, after which we will open the panel to questions from the audience.