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Introduction

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Touro Law Center

Honorable Leon D. Lazer
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Winter 1993

INTRODUCTION

Dean Howard A. Glickstein:

Good morning. I am Howard Glickstein, the Dean of this law school. On behalf of Touro Law School, I would like to welcome you to the Fourth Annual Conference on the Supreme Court and Local Government Law hosted by Touro Law Center's Institute of Local and Suburban Law.

The proceedings of this conference will be published in the Touro Law Review. The work to prepare and organize this conference has been accomplished by Judge Leon Lazer, who is a full-time member of our faculty and the Director of the Institute. As many of you know, Judge Lazer served as an Associate Justice for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, from 1979-86 and is regarded as a leading authority in the area of local and municipal law.

The care and detail that Judge Lazer devotes to planning this conference is always a great assurance of its success. I am very happy to welcome you to this Conference and, particularly, to pay tribute to Judge Lazer for making this annual event such an important part of our program at the law school.

Hon. Leon D. Lazer:

Thank you, Dean Glickstein. We are fortunate to once again have distinguished speakers on our panel to discuss last year's Term. The 1991-92 Supreme Court Term has produced an

abundance of opinions affecting many areas of constitutional law and government law. We will begin 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. Professor Schwartz will be followed by Janet Benshoof who is a leading expert on reproductive rights and privacy law. She will comment on *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*,¹ the "Pennsylvania Abortion Case."

We will next hear from 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 Amendment cases. Afterwards, we will hear comments from Professor Leon Friedman of Hofstra Law School who will discuss a number of cases that deal directly with state and local government law. Finally, I will discuss three cases that involve real property that are of significance to municipal governments and their officials.

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.

I hope you have a good and worthwhile day. Thank you.

1. 112 S. Ct. 279 (1992).