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## Introduction

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## SYMPOSIUM

### THE SUPREME COURT AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW THE 1997-98 TERM

#### INTRODUCTION

*Hon. Leon D. Lazer:*

Good morning. Welcome to the Tenth Annual Touro Conference on the holdings, decisions, and opinions of the United States Supreme Court in the prior term. The Supreme Court convenes in October of each year and each October we hold this conference. This is our tenth year doing so. While at this moment we cannot be altogether sure, we do anticipate the largest crowd that we have ever had.

We have a rather full plate. When I first looked at the cases that came down during the prior term, I thought that it was a rather thin group, but as we started to put the program together, I came to a different conclusion. Hopefully, we will be able to cover almost all of the cases today.

Our first speaker this morning is Professor Martin Schwartz, who has opened each of our prior nine sessions and is one of the leading minds, we believe, in the area of Section 1983 litigation. Professor Schwartz is a Professor of Law here at Touro Law School and teaches constitutional law, evidence, federal courts and criminal procedure. He is, of course, not only a leading mind of this law

school, for even the Supreme Court of the United States has cited his work. He is also the co-author of *Section 1983 Litigation: Claims and Defenses*. If you practice in that area and do not have those volumes, you are missing something that can be of substantial assistance. I am sure that most of you have read professor Schwartz's monthly column on litigation in the New York Law Journal entitled *Public Interest Law*. It is now my pleasure to introduce to you Professor Martin Schwartz.