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## Dedication of Plaque Honoring JUDGE HAROLD R. MEDINA

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**DEDICATION OF PLAQUE HONORING  
JUDGE HAROLD R. MEDINA  
FEBRUARY 14, 1992 10:00 A.M.**

As Chairman of the Second Circuit Committee on Historical and Commemorative Events, and on behalf of Chief Judge Oakes, who is out of the country and has asked me to convey his best wishes, and on behalf of all the members of the court, I am pleased to begin today's court session with the dedication of a plaque honoring the memory of Judge Harold R. Medina. This beautiful plaque, a long-planned project of the Historical Committee, was made possible through the generosity of Standish Forde Medina, Jr., and the Medina family. It will be permanently placed in the attorneys' waiting room, and will there serve as a constant reminder of the excellence that characterized the life of Judge Medina as lawyer, judge and human being.

Included in the plaque is the Harlan Fiske Stone medal, presented to Judge Medina by the Association of Trial Lawyers on April 27, 1954 "in recognition for his outstanding contribution to American Jurisprudence." The medal is on permanent loan to us from the Princeton University library. In presenting it on behalf of the Trial Lawyers, Louis Nizer noted that the medal was "not merely an award for past achievements but a recognition of that understanding heart that will beat on for the future."

Also included in the plaque is the LaGuardia medal, awarded to Judge Medina for significant enhancement of the quality of life in New York City. The presentation of that medal was made here in this courtroom by Edward I. Koch, then mayor of the City

of New York, at a special in banc session of this court convened on February 16, 1988 in honor of Judge Medina's 100th birthday. In presenting the medal, Mayor Koch said: "Through his many years of distinguished service on the bench, Judge Medina helped enhance New York's reputation as a great center of legal practice and scholarship. I am honored to be presenting him with this award." That in banc session of the court at which Mayor Koch spoke was presided over by my senior colleague, Judge Bill Feinberg, who then was Chief Judge of the Court. He sat with Judge Medina on many occasions, and I am happy that he is sitting here today. Actually, he has been sitting with me all week, and I am grateful for that also.

Much has been written and spoken about Harold Medina. He was a great lawyer and a great judge, and he had a great zest for life. He influenced the lives of many as a teacher, more than even he knew. When I practiced law upstate with my father some years ago, there was associated with us a lawyer named Saul Finger. I often told Saul that he should have formed a partnership with Learned Hand so they could practice as Finger and Hand. I also once knew an attorney named Charles Foote, but that is another story. Saul Finger is retired now, living in Florida and doing volunteer legal work. He is approaching 80 years of age, but he still talks about his teacher, Harold Medina. And even now, when he speaks of legal issues, he tells me how he thinks that Professor Medina would have handled the question. Such is the lasting influence of a great teacher.

It therefore is fitting and proper that our plaque includes this quotation from Chaucer, which we think perfectly characterizes this unusual man: "And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche." In honor of Harold Raymond Medina, who was born in 1888, and died in 1990 at the age of 102, a senior judge of this Court, we dedicate this plaque.

And now on behalf of the Court it is my pleasure to call upon Judge Medina's grandson, Standish Forde Medina.

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We invite all to examine our Second Circuit Exhibit in the lobby of the courthouse. It includes an excellent tribute to Judge Medina. And when we adjourn our session of court today, Valentine's Day, it will be in memory of Judge Harold R. Medina, the judge with the understanding heart. This dedication ceremony is concluded.