

Summer 1989

NYLS Celebrates 1989 Commencement at Lincoln Center (NYLS In Brief)

New York Law School

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

New York Law School, "NYLS Celebrates 1989 Commencement at Lincoln Center (NYLS In Brief)" (1989). *News Articles*. 22.
<https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/news/22>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Honorable Roger J. Miner '56 Papers at DigitalCommons@NYLS. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Articles by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@NYLS. For more information, please contact camille.broussard@nyls.edu, farrah.nagrampa@nyls.edu.



New York Law School



IN BRIEF

NYLS Celebrates 1989 Commencement at Lincoln Center



A sea of mortarboards spread out before Dean Simon as he opened the 1989 commencement exercises in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

The New York Law School community gathered in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center on June 11 to celebrate the completion of one of the most eventful and successful academic years in recent history. On a splendid day both outside and inside the hall, 339 juris doctor degrees were conferred on the members of the class of 1989. The Law School also honored one of its most prominent graduates, Hon. Roger J. Miner of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, awarding him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. (See citation, p. 11)

The Law School presented 51 awards for academic excellence. (see list, p. 8.) 70 students graduated with honors. (See list, p. 10)

In his address to the graduates, Judge Miner, a member of the Law School class of 1956, spoke on a lawyer's "duty of competence."

Noting that "I have had the unwelcome opportunity to see and hear some of these attorneys," he decried lawyers who are unprepared, have an inadequate knowledge of the law, poor technical skills and who cannot efficiently manage their

practices.

"When a person entrusts his or her liberty, fortune or even life to one who violates that trust," he said, "there is a breach of the sacred responsibility that every lawyer undertakes in the representation of a client."

Judge Miner blamed much of the inadequacy on the decline of apprenticeship as a means of learning the practice of law.

"The new lawyer, especially in the larger firms, often is assigned very narrow duties and has no opportunity to evolve

Continued on page 6.

Commencement ...

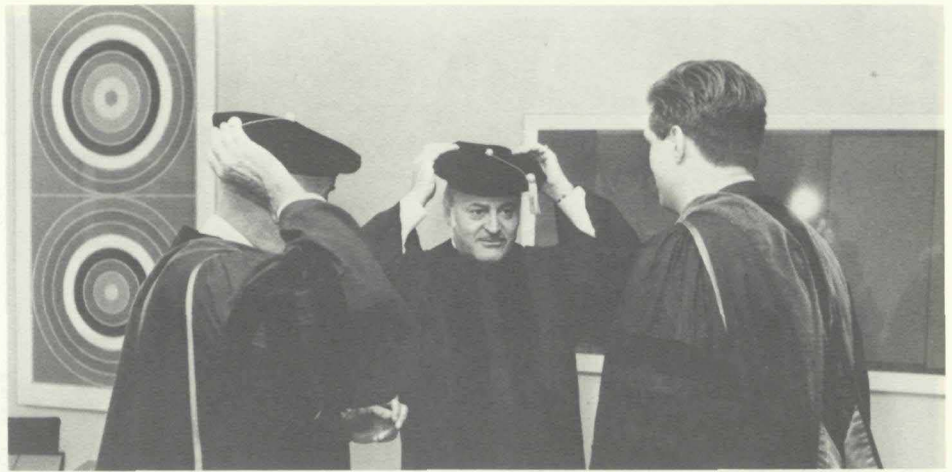
Continued from page 1.

even the most basic skills. Some of my former law clerks, who have entered the legal world of the mega-firm and the megabuck, complain bitterly of the lack of broader tasks as well as the absence of mentors to aid in the development of their skills," Judge Miner said.

"Today, it would seem, the pressures of modern law firm practice, including the need for billable hours, make the apprenticeship approach impractical. This is much to be regretted and is worthy of the thoughtful attention of the Bar."

Judge Miner called on new lawyers to be mindful of their duty to public service. "There is no legal profession unless there is a commitment to public service on the part of each of its members. Ours is an ancient, honorable and caring profession, whose first concern is always the welfare of others," he said. "Every one of you is now responsible for it," he told the graduates.

Dean Simon, who presided at the ceremony, set the tone for the afternoon with remarks citing Supreme Court Justices Felix Frankfurter and Hugo Black as appropriate role models for the class of 1989.



Hon. Roger J. Miner '56 (c.) adjusts academic regalia signifying his Doctor of Laws degree.

"Both Black and Frankfurter, I suggest, offer lessons to you. They came from humble origins. They believed in themselves and in the law as an instrument of social change," he said.

Citing one of Justice Frankfurter's favorite quotations from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Dean Simon said, "If you believe in great things, you may make others believe in great things.' I want you to be successful in the profession. I also want you to believe in great things."

In welcoming remarks from the Trustees, Board Chairman Bernard H. Mendik

'58 called commencement "the happiest day of any academic year."

"It is the day we celebrate our reason for existence as an academic and legal community—to teach the law and to bring bright, talented, dedicated new life to the legal profession," he said.

In a moving speech, graduate Agostinho Ribeiro praised his classmates for supporting one another through difficult times and thanked the law school for remaining an institution of opportunity for first-generation Americans such as himself.



Trustees' Chairman Bernard H. Mendik '58 congratulated each graduate at the June 11 ceremony.

Hon. Roger J. Miner '56: Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*

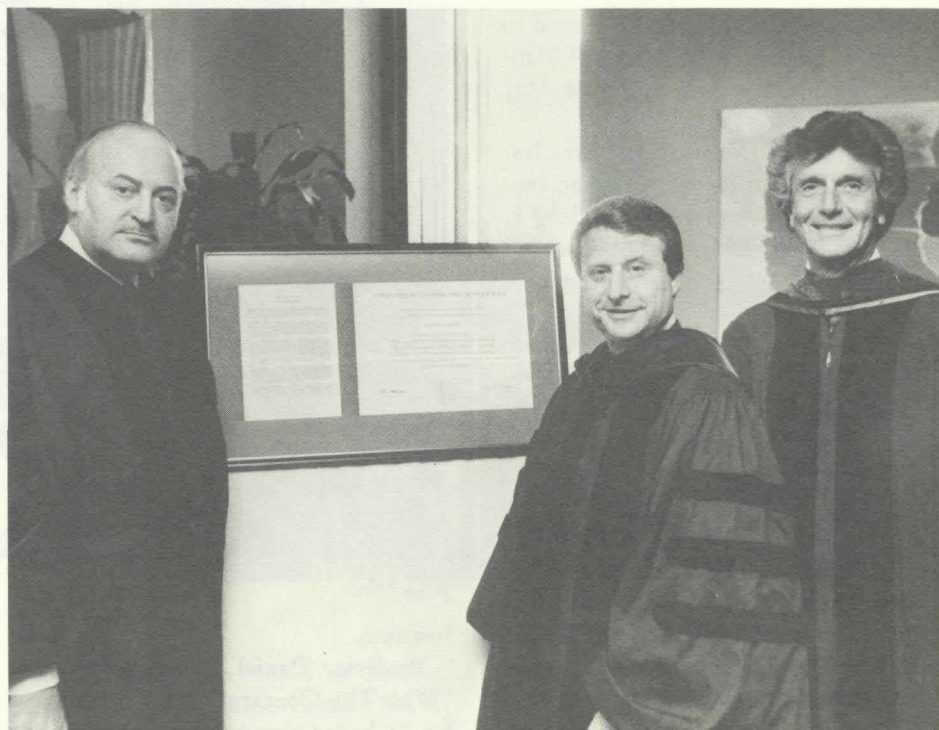
The following is the text of the citation accompanying the Doctor of Laws diploma presented to Judge Miner.

Among the many distinguished members of the judiciary New York Law School has sent to state and federal benches across the nation, Roger J. Miner, a member of the class of 1956, merits special recognition. As Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, sitting at Albany and New York, he is a member of a high tribunal second only in stature to the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Miner's career in the law has been characterized by the high calling of public service. He has served in the U.S. armed forces, as a corporation counsel, district attorney, state judge, and federal district judge before being elevated to his present position in 1985.

As a widely published author and frequent lecturer, he has provided sage advice and commentary to the bench and bar on subjects including federal criminal and civil appellate practice, administration of the courts and the history of the Federal court system.

Since his graduation from the Law School, Judge Miner has been a loyal friend to his legal alma mater. He has been a member of the adjunct faculty, and has provided inspiration and wise counsel to



Judge Miner (l.) poses with his Doctor of Laws diploma, Dean Simon, (c.) and Trustees' Chairman Bernard H. Mendik '58.

students, faculty and alumni as a frequent participant in Law School activities.

Roger J. Miner, distinguished jurist, astute commentator and devoted alumnus, for your outstanding achievements on the state and federal bench, for your wisdom and critical observations as a

leader of the legal profession and your steadfast friendship to your legal alma mater, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, with all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

Organisciak ...

Continued from page 6.

While his next career move is not yet settled, Mr. Organisciak hopes to stay in the public sector, though not necessarily in education. The ideal next job, he said, would bridge both education and law. "It would draw on my education experience and what I think is a solid commitment to public service," he said.

The road to a career that bridges law and education was not an easy one. Like many New York Law School students, he first had to bridge the demands of a full-time job, law studies and family life.

"Times were trying," Mr. Organisciak said. Most trying, he said, was acquiring the discipline to avoid overscheduling his days. "The first thing I realized was that, if

I wasn't going to burn-out during the first year, I would have to learn to 'fine tune' my schedule," he said.

Mr. Organisciak's biggest surprise at the Law School was the supportiveness and generosity of his classmates. "I had heard all the horror stories about cutthroat competitiveness among law students," he said. Instead, at New York Law School, he found fellow students with high ambitions but "with a real commitment to be supportive of one another."

He also expected law professors to be somewhat aloof and inaccessible. "At New York Law School, that is not the case at all," he said.

Mr. Organisciak's return of some of the support he received from fellow students led directly to the creation of the Richard Organisciak Award for leadership and service in the Evening Division. During

his second year, Mr. Organisciak was a tutor to incoming students and was entitled to compensation for his services. "Since it was already one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, I asked the school to put the money to another use," he said. The funds now endow the Organisciak Award which provides recognition and encouragement to evening students who contribute to the Law School Community, despite the considerable demands of other responsibilities.

The Organisciak Award is tangible evidence of Mr. Organisciak's sentiments about the Law School. "I'm grateful that New York Law School was available to me at this stage in my career. My life is tied up in education. The pursuit of learning is paramount for me. New York Law School has allowed me to fulfil a lot of personal goals," he said.

Faculty News

Professor Michael Botein was married to Kristina L. Fischer, senior editor of *Manhattan Lawyer*, at the Law School on May 27.

Professor B.J. George, Jr.'s articles, Case Note on *Murray v. Giarratano*, (pp. 336-37) and Case Note on *Malang v. Cook*, (pp. 338-40) were published in ABA's Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases, 1988-89 Term, Mo. 12, (March 31, 1989). Another article, Case Note on *Alabama v. Smith*, in ABA's Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases, 1988-89 Term, No. 14 (pp. 42729) was published June 2, 1989.

Professor Charles F. Gibbs's article, "Wills, Estates and Surrogate's Practice," co-written with Marilyn G. Ordovery, appeared in the *New York Law Journal*.

Professor Harrison Goldin entered the New York Mayoral race.

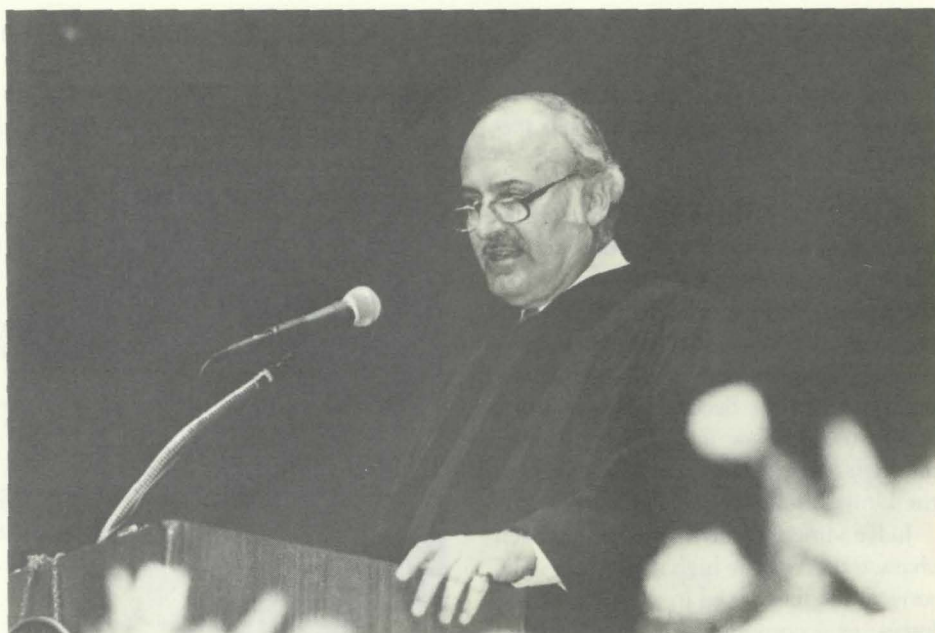
Professor Karen Gross's comments on the Eastern Airlines bankruptcy proceedings appeared in several syndicated articles published in newspapers across the country during May and June. She was also advised that personal bankruptcy should be used only as a last resort in the "Moneytalk" column of *USA Today*.

Professor Randolph N. Jonakait told *New York Newsday* that the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the freezing of defendants' assets suspected of being the fruits of criminal enterprise would decrease "the ability to have a strong defense."

He was also quoted extensively in May in *Time Magazine* and *New York Times* articles on the recent challenges to the scientific validity of DNA "fingerprinting."

Professor Quintin Johnstone was quoted in the *National Law Journal* on March 27 declaring that mentoring, the special relationship between the new lawyer and the "old hand," was stronger today than ever before. Newly hired lawyers are required to assume more responsibility than their past counterparts and thus are more closely watched.

Professor Albert Kalter co-authored the book *Postmortem Estate Planning: Strategies for Executive and Beneficiaries*, recently published by the Practising Law



Judge Miner

Institute.

Professor Daniel J. Kornstein's essay, "What This Country Needs," on the need for "a better theory of judicial review," appeared in the *New York Law Journal* in May.

Professor Arthur Leonard, featured in the July 13 "Do You Agree?" column of the *New York Post*, took the position that the sexual partners of individuals who test positive for the HIV virus should be notified by competent authorities if the partner fails to do so.

In an interview in *The New York Times*, he praised Mayor Edward I. Koch's decision to extend personal benefits to domestic partners of unmarried city employees.

Professor Hal R. Lieberman was appointed permanent Chief Counsel for the First Judicial Department's Disciplinary Committee in New York City.

Professor Cyril C. Means' letter to *The New York Times* on a proposed plan for mandatory state service was published on May 1.

Professor Means was also quoted in *The New York Times*, questioning the feasibility of heirs searching to regain a plot of land seized from their ancestor during the American Revolution on grounds that he had aided the British.

Professor Robert T. Perry's article, "First Amendment Protections & Street Musicians Performers," appeared in the

Law and Entertainment section of the *New York Law Journal* on February 17.

Professor Perry was also consulted in the case of 'frustrated citizen' v. MCTV, a cable television company.

Professor Elaine Price, a Mamaroneck Town Board member, is a candidate for the Westchester, N.Y., County Board of Legislators 7th District seat.

Professor Virginia Ramadan on leave from New York Law School, is a candidate for a seat on the Bedford, N.Y., school board.

Professor W. Bernard Richland reviewed the book *Section 1983 Litigation in State Courts*, by Steven H. Steinglass, in the *New York Law Journal* in April.

Professor Richland's letter to *The New York Times* asserting that a "weighted vote" plan could still preserve the New York Board of Estimate was published on May 22. He is a member of the New York City Charter Revision Commission.

Professor Stuart A. Schlesinger's article, "Oil Spill and Water Pollution Law Reviewed," co-written with Edward A. Sanocki Jr., appeared in the *New York Law Journal* on May 17.

Professor E. Donald Shapiro appeared on WNBC-TV's "Live at Five," on June 2, commenting on the Darian Pagan case, in which a mother was imprisoned for refusing to reveal the whereabouts of her son who is suffering from leukemia.

Continued on page 13.