last November. Judge John R. Brown of the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, a long-time friend of the honoree, delivered the first Healy Lecture.

Nicholas J. Healy and the late John R. Brown.

Before the speech, Dean John Sexton lauded Healy and his four decades of service to the Law School. Adjunct Professor John D. Kinbill, a member of Healy and Baillie who succeeded Healy as instructor of the admiralty course, also paid tribute to his law partner. Kinbill noted that it was wrong to use the word "retirement" in reference to Healy, who still teaches the collision portion of the course.

In his keynote address, "Admiralty: Judge-Pluon on the Sea of Maritime Law," Judge Brown offered a historical perspective of admiralty law. After American independence, he said, the Constitution gave federal judges, including the Supreme Court, exclusive jurisdiction in admiralty cases. Noting that the Constitution is oddly silent on Congress' role in maritime law, Brown explained that judges continued to be the main source of substantive admiralty law, with Congress filling in the gaps, until the late 1800s.

As the title of his speech implies, Judge Brown believed that the historic admiralty roles of Congress and the judiciary have been reversed. Beginning in the early 1900s, Congress has increased its involvement in legislating maritime law. In the past 15 years the federal courts have deferred more and more to the will of Congress in admiralty law, becoming followers rather than leaders in the field. In Brown's view this is a lamentable situation, and he concluded with a call to reverse the damage. "The affirmative intervention of Congress in the maritime field should be interpreted in a positive and supportive fashion and should not be used to emasculate the power of admiralty judges."

Judge Brown, a former admiralty lawyer himself, was introduced by Bunky Healy (no relation to the lecture's namesake), president of the Maritime Law Association. Judge Brown, Healy noted, has authored an astounding 1,440 majority opinions and 109 dissenters, and has concurred in another 3,400 decisions.

The Healy Lecture will be held every two years. It was established through the generous contributions of friends, former students, law partners, and clients who wanted to honor Healy for his distinguished career.


Weill Medal

Judge Schwebel Honored for International Work

Judge Stephen M. Schwebel of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague was awarded the Harold Weill Medal last December in recognition of his years of service on the ICJ, an international law tribunal. The Weill Medal, established in 1980 to honor international lawyer Harold Weill, who until his death in 1981 was a senior partner in the firm of Weill & Mahoney, Jerome Lipper (60), LLM (63), Weills partner and a distinguished international lawyer himself, spearheaded the effort to create the award and chaired the award ceremony until his death last year. This year, Dean John Sexton began the ceremony by recalling the accomplishments of both Weill and Lipper; and those present observed a moment of silence in memory of Lipper.

Weill passionately believed that peace could be achieved through international law and diplomacy. The Weill Medal, therefore, is awarded to practitioners who have made outstanding contributions to international law or diplomacy. Previous recipients include Ambassador Max Kampelman ('45) for his negotiation of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, Secretary of State Warren Christopher (then Deputy Secretary of State) for resolution of the Iranian Hostage crisis, Jose Maria Rada (LL.M. '55) for his contributions to the ICJ, and the negotiators of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

Judge Schwebel is the fifth recipient of the medal. Since being elected to the 15-member ICJ in 1984, Judge Schwebel, a United States District Judge in Minnesota, has been a member of the bench of the ICJ, the world's highest tribunal for adjudicating disputes between states. While on the bench, Judge Schwebel has presided over 500 cases, and has been a member of the majority in 75 percent of the ICJ's decisions. He is the only American judge to have served on the ICJ, and the only American judge to have served on the ICJ, and the only American judge to have served on the ICJ.

The Early Days

At a gala in February, the three

BALS A

BAL S A Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The spark of an idea created by a handful of black law students at NYU in the turbulent times of 1967 is today a voice for the African American community throughout this nation. In its short duration, the influence of the Black Allied Law Students Association (BALS A) has been felt by all sectors of the legal profession. Currently, there are more than 200 BALS A chapters, representing 6,500 law students throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the first BALS A chapter at NYU, the Law School has sponsored a series of events throughout the 1992-1993 academic year.

The Early Days

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Special guests at the February gala: Dean Hayward Burns, A.J. Cooper '93, Lisa Davis '85, O. Peter Sherwood '71, Bob Holmes '89, Barry Robinson '70, Lisa Byers '95, Fritz Alexandre '51, and Dr. William Serrelle, nephew of Lucile Edwards Chaucey '52, the first black woman to graduate from NYU Law.

African American professionals who were at NYU at the time of BALS A's founding — Hayward Burns, now dean of CUNY Law School; Leroy Clark, now a professor at Catholic University Law School; and Robert Carter, now a judge of the Southern District of New York — were celebrated. "These three men made a difference," noted A.J. Cooper '89, a founder of BALS A. "They made us understand that we came to New York University for a legal education, not to be assimilated; that to be black was a blessing, not a burden."

Professor Howard Venable, now to NYU this year, recounted a story told to him by Robert Van Lierop '67. Van Lierop was the only African American at the Law School in 1966, when he almost was expelled for leading discussions about the Vietnam War in Washington Square Park. Only the zealous advocacy of Professor Graham Hughes prevented his expulsion. Today, Van Lierop is a professor at the University of California at Berkeley, the only American citizen to represent his country at the UN.

When the class of 1969 arrived, minority enrollment at the Law School
suddenly increased to 12 minority students in all, including Cooper and Robert Holmes ('69), also a founder of BALSA.

In describing how BALSA has been a “bridge over troubled waters for thousands of its members,” Holmes directed a special message to some surprise guests at the gala — an eighth grade class from the Francis Scott Key Junior High School in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. He told them that the 1960s were “a turbulent time, but no more turbulent than today.” Echoing BALSA’s commitment to building an inclusive legal community, Holmes said, “in this period of so-called ‘multiculturalism’ learn from your friends...who are of all persuasions.”

In his own remarkable career, Holmes has represented the likes of Andy Warhol, Marvin Gaye, The Jackson Five, The Sex Pistols, Stevie Wonder, and Diana Ross. He is currently the Executive Vice-President of the Music Group division of Sony-Columbia Pictures.

Current Struggles

In his keynote address, Cooper, the former mayor of Pritchard, Alabama (and the first African American mayor in the South), and now a partner at Ginsburg Feldman & Bress in Washington, emphasized the need to recruit and retain African Americans in law school: “Over the past decade, enrollment in law schools increased by some 10 percent, and that of blacks increased only by one percent. Less than two percent of the some 50,000 lawyers employed by the 250 largest law firms are black. The percent of black partners is even more dismal.” However, Cooper noted the commitment of Professor Graham Hughes who not only strongly supported BALSA at its inception, but also devised the Law School’s first vigorous plan to recruit minority students.

Judge Carter, one of the architects of the legal battle that ended discrimination in this country, paid tribute to Justice Thurgood Marshall, to whose memory the BALSA Gala was dedicated. “Thurgood would have enjoyed all of the pomp and circumstance surrounding his funeral, but he would have been the first to point out that what was really important was making real the things he sought all of his life to bring about: the end of racial discrimination, in fact, and equal treatment for all of our people.”

BALSA’s Legacy

At a separate reception, Fritz Alexander II ('51), the Deputy Mayor of New York City and a former New York Court of Appeals judge, spoke about the continuing legacy of BALSA. The concept of equal justice for all, Alexander noted, still is not completely realized for African Americans. He highlighted the many ways law both promotes and hinders social progress, citing its role during slavery, the civil rights movement, and the current era of judicial conservatism.

BALSA is relevant, Alexander emphasized, because the struggle continues. “As you fight for acceptance in the mainstream,” he added, “you have an obligation to remember the struggles of those before you and to advance further.” Urging the audience to “never to succumb to the illusion of inclusion,” he warned that “racism is still alive and well.”

I am of a generation that was brought into a world tainted with racial conflict, tempered by war and seasoned with hatred. I am of a generation that came to age with the civil rights struggle of Dr. Martin Luther King — turned in anger and frustration to Rap Brown’s cry of “Black Power;” watched while all of our heroes were killed, all our hopes destroyed, but a generation that can still say with one voice, “if you are not free, then I am not free.”

A.J. Cooper '69

Other BALSA commemoration events included a series of Dean’s Roundtables and a symposium on race theories.