

INTRODUCTION OF ARTHUR MILLER

DANIELLE KANTOR

Thank you so much. I'd like to take just a moment and thank Dean Revesz, Paul O'Grady, Krista Minter, David Mora, Trish Mc-Nicholas, and all of the administrators and staff who helped plan and execute this event. I would of course also like to thank the dedicators, and members of the audience who have come from far and wide to join us for such a wonderful occasion.

The *NYU Annual Survey of American Law* is the second-oldest journal at the Law School, originally run by members of the faculty as a reference for contemporary developments in the law. Now, the *Annual Survey* continues that legacy as a quarterly publication, remaining faithful to its original mission of exploring emerging trends in American law.

Since the journal's inception in 1942, the *Annual Survey* has dedicated each year's volume to honor one jurist, scholar, or practitioner's contributions to American law. In the past, the journal has dedicated volumes to Supreme Court Justices, Presidents, and cutting-edge practitioners. In fact, two of the dedicators now sitting on the stage—Justice Ginsburg and President Sexton—are past recipients of this honor. It gives me tremendous pleasure to be here today to dedicate the 67th volume of the *NYU Annual Survey of American Law* to NYU's own Professor Arthur Miller.

There are few individuals whose contributions to the law so faithfully embody the mission of our journal, to explore and explain novel developments in American jurisprudence. Other speakers, I'm sure, will discuss Professor Miller's many and varied achievements: co-authoring the multi-volume civil procedure treatise used by nearly all litigators and jurists; working as a reporter for the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which govern the way in which civil justice is dispensed; and, of course, his time as a television persona, in which he greatly expanded public understanding of the law.

It's hard to overstate Professor Miller's renown in the legal world. He is a true legal celebrity, mentioned on Page 6 alongside actors and actresses spotted on New York City streets. In fact, I feel fairly confident in saying that Professor Miller might be the only law professor—or person of any profession—in the history of Page 6 to be written up for simply being seen buying a fountain pen.

Yet, perhaps Professor Miller's greatest contribution to the law is the profound effect he has had on several decades of frequently terrified first year law students. I remember quite clearly the day Professor Miller called on me in civil procedure just a few years ago. The case was *International Shoe*.¹

I was in the midst of opening my textbook when I heard him call my name. I looked up and there he stood, red tie and pocket square mere inches from my face, coffee in hand. He pointed to some impossibly complex diagram on the board and asked me a question relating to it. My classmates looked at me with something like pity. Yet, I survived, and even went on to serve as one of Professor Miller's Research Assistants and, later, Teaching Assistants.

Everyone who has taken one of Professor Miller's classes remembers the experience. Whether Professor Miller taught *Erie R. Co. v. Tompkins*² dressed in a toga, or as Darth Vader, or even in drag, his students remember their particular rendition of the now-famous, "Erie Day." He goes the extra distance to turn a class that could potentially be about tedious, dry rules into a course about how civil procedure can be used as a vehicle to regulate access to the courts; and by which we as lawyers can fashion our adversarial system into an instrument of civil justice. He teaches all his students about the power of procedure, reminding us from time to time that, given a single procedural issue, he could handily defeat even the most compelling substantive claim.

This effort is clearly appreciated by the many former students, Research Assistants, and colleagues who have traveled considerable distances to be with us today. It has also been remarked upon many times in the emails, letters, and phone calls from former students and colleagues whose work prevents them from attending today. Congressman Barney Frank, for example, wrote:

I am a great fan of Arthur Miller, and I have enjoyed my association with him that began when I was an older than usual first year student in his civil procedure class at Harvard in 1974 . . . I would have very much liked to be able to join that great panel you have paying a tribute to a man of extraordinary intellect, humor, humanity, with a great gift for friendship.

Though we are here to celebrate Professor Miller's contributions to the law, we are also deeply honored to do so. We are incredibly excited to begin the Dedication of the 67th volume of the *NYU Annual Survey of American Law* to you, Professor Arthur Miller.

1. *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945).

2. 304 U.S. 64 (1938).

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On behalf of the *NYU Annual Survey of American Law*, we would like to formally dedicate our 67th volume to you, in honor of your contributions to American law.

DANIELLE KANTOR

Editor-in-Chief

NYU Annual Survey of American Law

