

SPECIAL ESSAY
A RAM FROM SPARTA

*Constantine N. Katsoris**

INTRODUCTION.....	1074
I. MY EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION	1074
II. EMPLOYMENT AT CAHILL.....	1076
III. THE RAM RETURNS	1078
IV. THE FORDHAM WAY	1079
V. JOSEPH JETT ARBITRATION	1084
VI. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA	1085
VII. ALUMNI INITIATIVE	1085

* Wilkinson Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law. B.S., 1953, Fordham College; J.D., 1957, Fordham University School of Law; LL.M., 1963, New York University School of Law. Securities Industry Conference on Arbitration (Public Member, 1977–2012; Chair, 2003–2012; Emeritus Public Member, 2013–present). New York Stock Exchange (Arbitrator, 1971–present; Arbitrator Trainer, 1994–present; Mediation Trainer, 1997–present). National Association of Securities Dealers (Arbitrator, 1968–present; Arbitrator Trainer, 1994–present; Mediation Trainer, 1997–present). Duke University School of Law Private Adjudication Center (Private Judge, 1989–present). American Arbitration Association (AAA) (Arbitrator, 1991–present). *This Essay is dedicated in honor of the Reverend Joseph M. McShane, S.J., in recognition of his outstanding service as president of Fordham University.* This Essay is also dedicated to the presidents of Fordham University and the deans of Fordham Law School who served during the eight decades of my time with Fordham as a student, alumnus, and faculty member. I would also like to thank Dean Matthew Diller, Dean John Feerick, Joseph Hamn, Todd Consenga, Robert Cooper, Stephen J. Fearon, Janice Greer, the Honorable John F. Keenan, the Honorable Loretta Preska, Hugh Hansen, Irene Duffy, Thomas Kavalier, Joseph Rizzi, Rose Gill, Michael M. Martin, William F. Harrington, Jeremy Hellman, Deborah Masucci, Louis Korahais, George Friedman, James Buck, Peter Cella, Kim Holder, Robert Kaczorowski, Ann Katsoris, Louis Katsoris, Nancy Katsoris O’Hagan, Maria Marcus, Todd Melnick, Helen H. Bender, Justin Nematzadeh, Jennifer A. Ray, Joseph Nolfo, Dwayne Samuels, Anthony J. Siano, Michael K. Stanton, Donald J. Zoeller, Vera Tkachuk, Julie Lucas, Michael Schiumo, Julie Smith, Victoria Granthem, Kathleen Horton, and Cynthia Cameron, as well as the scores of other alumni for their invaluable assistance and input in the presentation of this Essay, including Nicholas Katsoris, Voula T. Katsoris, Christian Steriti, Joseph Nolfo, Nico Corti, and everyone on the *Fordham Law Review*. Finally, as a graduate of the Gabelli School of Business and Fordham Law School, and as a faculty member of the law school for over fifty-five years, I would like to extend a big Fordham welcome to Tania Tetlow, who is the first woman to become president of our university. Her background is outstanding!

A. <i>Financial Support</i>	1086
B. <i>Golf Outing</i>	1086
C. <i>Student Auction</i>	1087
D. <i>Expanding Fordham's Geographic Presence</i>	1088
E. <i>Fordham Ceremony for Admission to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar</i>	1089
VIII. PARTICIPATION WITH JUSTICE O'CONNOR.....	1090
IX. PERSONAL AWARD RECOGNITION AND ALUMNI SERVICE.....	1091
A. <i>Awards</i>	1091
B. <i>Alumni Service</i>	1092
X. MOUNTING OF MY PORTRAIT PAINTED BY A FORMER STUDENT.....	1092
XI. DEDICATION OF CLASSROOM.....	1094
XII. REFLECTION ON THE TRAGEDY OF 9/11.....	1094
XIII. FORDHAM'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF SECURITIES DISPUTES.....	1095
XIV. STUDENT COMMENTS.....	1096
A. <i>Student 1—the Honorable Loretta Preska ('73)</i>	1096
B. <i>Student 2—Robert J. Reilly ('75)</i>	1097
C. <i>Student 3—Theodore (Ted) Krebsbach ('78)</i>	1098
D. <i>Student 4—Matthew McLaughlin ('94)</i>	1099
E. <i>Student 5—William Mulligan, Jr. ('74)</i>	1100
F. <i>Student 6—George C. Ross ('66)</i>	1100
G. <i>Student 7—Robert Cooper ('87)</i>	1101
H. <i>Student 8—Denis F. Cronin ('72)</i>	1102
CONCLUSION.....	1102

INTRODUCTION

At some point in our lives each of us must decide upon a career or profession and the path necessary to achieve that goal. Some make that decision at an early age; others make it much later in life and are often influenced by outside forces, experiences, opportunities, and obligations. Choosing which path to take is not easy, and in this regard, I would like to share the crossroads I encountered throughout my six decades of teaching at Fordham Law School—a school I have come to describe as the *school of opportunity*. Fordham Law School suggested that I write this Essay outlining my career in law.

I. MY EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION

My choice of a career started with my parents, both of whom were born in Sparta, Greece. My father, Nicholas, like many immigrants, came to the United States as a teenager to help support his family back home by working

in his uncle's wholesale food business, principally dealing with imported and domestic cheeses, olives, and olive oil. After a few years of learning that business, he returned to Greece and married my mother, Nafsika, and they embarked to America to start the Katsoris clan here in the United States.

My father soon became a partner in his uncle's business and ultimately started his own cheese and olive business. He worked tirelessly—seven days a week—to make his new business a success. In the process, he recruited me to work in the back office, in the warehouse, and as a salesman (i.e., wherever needed). This continued throughout my high school days at Xavier, and later at the Fordham Business School and Fordham Law School. My father and I were very close, and deep in his heart, he wished I had stayed and made the food business my career.

The first challenge to my father's dream surfaced when I had to decide where to enroll for college and what course of study to pursue. We decided that I would stay close to home, and I selected Fordham at 302 Broadway (just a few blocks from my father's business on Chambers Street in New York City) and decided to major in accounting, and later, law. This decision was based on the theory that both could be useful in practice and/or for running a business in the future. Although I did not have any previous professional connections with either the accounting or legal professions, both seemed as accretive to my background and not inconsistent with my father's dream of continuing his business.

Although I enjoyed accounting, I found the law more interesting and challenging, and I ended up on the *Law Review* and at the top of my class in each of my three years at Fordham Law School. Unfortunately, my decision whether to join my father—my best friend—in his business came to rest when he passed away at the beginning of my final year of law school. His passing required me to defer my final year of studies for a year so that I could liquidate his business (of perishable foods), which was the principal means of support for my mother. Accordingly, I had to find interim employment. Finding employment during that period was difficult because employers knew I would be returning to Fordham to complete my final year of law school.

Fortunately, I landed a part-time job as a clerk in the Nassau County Surrogate's Court under the leadership of the Honorable John D. Bennett, who later was appointed to chair the committee assigned to revise the laws of descendants' estates in New York. I assume I was an adequate clerk because Judge Bennett later appointed me to the revision committee as his research assistant. In that role, I participated in the final reports of that prestigious committee. In September 1956, I returned to Fordham, completed my final year, and ended up as valedictorian of the graduating class of 1957. I then began my legal career at Cahill, Gordon, Reindel and Ohl.

Throughout my law school journey, from my father's death to my employment at Cahill, the person who advised me, assisted me, and encouraged me to pursue a career in law was Dean William Hughes

Mulligan. He was my professor, my friend, my colleague, my mentor, and I will be eternally grateful to him.

In a tribute to this great man, I published two dedications in the *Fordham Law Review* in his honor. The first was published in 1996 and entitled *Memories of a Second Father*.¹ In 2014, I published a second entitled *In the Service of Others: From Rose Hill to Lincoln Center*, where I referred to him as the father of the modern Fordham Law School.² It is noteworthy that, in the same article, Dean John D. Feerick described Judge Mulligan: “[L]ike many great persons, he built his own memorial—in everything he did and in every life he touched. To see it, we only have to look around.”³

II. EMPLOYMENT AT CAHILL

In 1956, Fordham was not on the top of the list for law firm recruiters, but fortunately, I was hired at Cahill by Lawrence (Larry) J. McKay and John Francis Sonnett, each of whom graduated from our evening program and became leading partners at Cahill.

It was at Cahill that I first met the future Fordham Law School dean and judge Joseph (Joe) M. McLaughlin. I shared an office with him and two other associates, Gerehart Nagorney and John V. Tunney (son of Gene Tunney, former heavyweight boxing champion of the world).⁴ John Tunney later became a congressman, and later, a U.S. senator from California.⁵ Two Irishmen, a German, and a Greek in one small room made it feel like a mini United Nations; we all enjoyed each other’s company immensely.

Because of our close quarters, our room was nicknamed “the bullpen,” and we couldn’t help but overhear each other’s private telephone conversations. Despite the collegiality amongst us, one thing that particularly irked Joe was whenever Nagorney or I were discussing sensitive personal matters over the phone—Nagorney would switch to German, and I would switch to Greek—neither of which Joe was conversant in. Of course, Joe could have done the same and switched to his second language, Latin, but then no one on the other end of the phone would know what he was talking about. Those two years in the bullpen with Joe were the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

My training and experience at Cahill were both enjoyable and educational. My early years at Cahill were largely spent in the litigation department practicing principally in the federal, state, and local courts in the New York area. During this time, I also did a stint as a legal aid volunteer in Manhattan,

1. Constantine N. Katsoris, *Memories of a Second Father*, 65 FORDHAM L. REV. 21 (1996).

2. See Constantine N. Katsoris, *In the Service of Others: From Rose Hill to Lincoln Center*, 82 FORDHAM L. REV. 1533 (2014).

3. *Id.* at 1585.

4. See Jacques Leslie, *John Tunney, Kennedy’s Friend in Muskie’s Corner*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 26, 1971), <https://www.nytimes.com/1971/12/26/archives/john-tunney-kennedys-friend-in-muskies-corner.html> [<https://perma.cc/ANU6-JPKQ>]. Portions of this section are adapted from Constantine Katsoris, *In Memoriam of Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin*, 83 FORDHAM L. REV. 1717 (2015).

5. See Leslie, *supra* note 4.

and in the evenings, I attended meetings in the U.S. Army Reserve in satisfaction of my military obligation and enrolled in the New York University School of Law at night to receive a master's degree in Tax and Corporate Finance. I also served as an arbitrator and mediator at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD, presently FINRA), and the American Arbitration Association (AAA) for scores of disputes—usually as chairman—and fortunately was never reversed.

Toward the end of my career at Cahill, an important event occurred. With the firm's encouragement, I was assigned by the Honorable Lloyd Francis MacMahon⁶ to represent a defendant, Frank Mancino, in the retrial of *United States v. Bentvena*,⁷ a large mass conspiracy case involving multiple defendants allegedly running the largest illegal drug operation in the United States. The case involved a jury trial that lasted about six months and ended in a mistrial when—on the eve of summations—the foreman of the jury ended up with a broken back after being assaulted by unknown assailants while coming home from a movie.⁸ For security reasons, the jury was thereafter impounded during the retrial in which I had been appointed—*this represented the first jury trial of my career*.

The principal defendant in the *Bentvena* trial and retrial was Carmine Galante. The defendants were convicted in the retrial after a lengthy proceeding. I was thereafter assigned to represent Frank Mencino for his appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which eventually included the following statement in that court's affirming opinion:

We wish to express our special thanks and gratitude to Constantine N. Katsoris, Esq., and William R. Luney, Esq., who acted as assigned counsel, both at trial and appeal, and to Richard V. Giordano, Esq., who acted as assigned counsel on appeal. The trial of this case was long and arduous and preparation of the appeal required the reading of the 25,000-page record of both trials. The devotion and skill demonstrated by these

6. Judge MacMahon had presided over some of the most famous trials of organized crime figures and gained a reputation for being a fair, diligent judge. He was also a teacher and role model to his law clerks, including former U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani, the Honorable Paul A. Crotty, and David Denton, chief of the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan. Judge MacMahon was appointed to the federal bench in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. See *MacMahon, Lloyd Francis*, FED. JUDICIARY CTR., <https://www.fjc.gov/node/1384206> [<https://perma.cc/J79M-9GLH>] (last visited Feb. 6, 2023). Judge MacMahon also served as the chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in Manhattan from 1953–1957. See *id.* In 1955, he successfully prosecuted Frank Costello for income tax evasion. See *Lloyd MacMahon*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Apr. 9, 1989), <https://apnews.com/article/4aac22c03eede1f3b4cec0db67ec0424> [<https://perma.cc/Q6WE-VMX5>]. In the *Bentvena* retrial, the defendants attempted to disrupt proceedings by acting outrageously before the jury. They threw objects around the courtroom and shouted obscenities, prompting Judge MacMahon to have them handcuffed, shackled, and gagged so that the trial could proceed. Many judges still view his action as a precedent that has allowed them to maintain control in unruly courtrooms.

7. 319 F.2d 916 (2d Cir. 1963).

8. See *id.* at 929.

attorneys casts credit upon them. Their briefs and oral arguments conformed to the highest standards of this profession.⁹

Coincidentally, after the *Bentvena* trial, I was being considered for judicial appointment at the state or federal level. Meanwhile, Galante was released from prison in July 1979 and was assassinated in Brooklyn shortly thereafter, as he allegedly attempted to reassert control and become “Capo” of the La Cosa Nostra crime organization.¹⁰

Needless to say, my appointment in the *Bentvena* trial represented the greatest challenge of my professional career, but it was also one of the most educational experiences in my legal education. It exposed me to a contentious jury trial facing many very talented and experienced adversaries, and, most importantly, taught me how to make a record for appeal in a matter involving enormous obstacles. Furthermore, it reinforced my firm belief that an attorney must represent a client to the best of their ability, despite their strong personal distaste for the charges against the defendants.

Not too long after the *Bentvena* trial, I received a call from my mentor Dean Mulligan, who had hired my good friend Joe McLaughlin at Fordham Law School a couple of years prior. He wanted me to come up and interview for a newly vacant position in tax, upon the retirement of Professor Thomas J. Snee.

III. THE RAM RETURNS

Hiring in those days differed from how it works today, where you have to sing and dance before various committees. In those days, there were two basic criteria for hiring. First, you had to possess the academic credentials; and second, you had to pass a stress test to assess your social skills. In this case, the stress test was having lunch on St. Patrick’s Day with Mulligan and McLaughlin at a restaurant a few blocks from the school—then called Carracalla’s—where we toasted St. Patrick with martinis.¹¹

When the waiter asked us the rhetorical question, “Would you gentlemen like a drink?,” Mulligan unhesitatingly responded in the affirmative: “Yes, a super dry Beefeater martini, *stand up* and *no garbage*.” McLaughlin, who apparently understood this language, quickly followed with, “I’ll have the same but make mine with Tanqueray gin.” Although I had never heard these phrases of “stand-up” and “no garbage” before, I decided to play along but was faced with a Hobson’s choice between my two interviewers (Mulligan’s preference for Beefeater and McLaughlin’s for Tanqueray)—so I did what any politically savvy applicant would do and requested the bartender make my drink with half Beefeaters and half Tanqueray. I did not know if that was

9. *Id.* at 954.

10. Sam Allis, *Galante Death Seen Ordered by Mafia Chiefs*, N.Y. TIMES (July 14, 1979), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1979/07/14/galante-death-seen-ordered-by-mafia-chiefs/02935453-d3d1-4705-8861-bd2963f15741/> [<https://perma.cc/AF7A-TWJY>].

11. Portions of this section are adapted from Constantine Katsoris, *Memories of a Second Father*, 65 FORDHAM L. REV. 21 (1996).

the stress test, but I guess I passed it. And although neither asked me any tax questions that day, I was offered the job. Thank God the question of how much vermouth to put in the martini never came up, or perhaps I would never have been hired.

IV. THE FORDHAM WAY

Throughout my tenure, Fordham Law has always associated itself with the motto “In the Service of Others.” Indeed, this was also Joe McLaughlin’s mantra. Association with that phrase is easy to assert, but a lot more difficult to prove.

My dedication, *In the Service of Others: From Rose Hill to Lincoln Center*, traces the history of such service at Fordham by highlighting the activities of its deans, faculty, and alumni starting at the time Fordham Law School opened its doors in 1905 to thirteen students on the Rose Hill campus.

Despite these humble beginnings, the first graduating class of only six students included a future federal judge, Vincent L. Leibell III. The commencement speaker at the first graduation was New York Governor Charles Evan Hughes Sr., who would later serve as U.S. Secretary of State and chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. As a follow-up just three years later, a small graduating class included two future chief judges of the New York Court of Appeals—John T. Loughran and Albert Conway—as well as the legendary Ignatius M. Wilkinson, the fourth dean of Fordham Law School. Not a bad crop of graduates for a small upstart school in the first ten years of its existence. By the way, the tuition at that time was about \$100 a year.

Fordham has had numerous deans in its history, and I have had the privilege of serving under the last seven—William Hughes Mulligan, Joseph M. McLaughlin, John D. Feerick, Joseph M. Perillo, William M. Treanor, Michael M. Martin, and Matthew Diller.

Like Mulligan, McLaughlin was a firm believer that scholarly academicians did not have to be stuffy or lack a sense of humor. His good-natured humor was reflected in everything he did. He was a great kidder. In fact, the more he liked you, the more he needled you. To his credit, he could take it as well as he could dish it out.

One year, when McLaughlin was sitting as a federal district court judge, I was master of ceremonies at the annual Fordham Law alumni lunch at the Waldorf-Astoria before a sellout crowd. For those of you unfamiliar with our annual Fordham Law alumni lunch, it is an intimate reunion of about one thousand alumni and friends where we reflected on the events of the past year and poked fun at each other—an event filled with laughter and good cheer.

I had invited then Governor Mario Cuomo as the guest speaker. That year, the governor had asked a select bipartisan committee to send him a list of names to fill a vacancy on the New York Court of Appeals. Unfortunately, no woman had sat on that court, and the list forwarded to the governor that year consisted only of men. In a highly publicized manner, Governor Cuomo, commendably rejected the list because it did not include the name

of even one woman. On the dais that day was Joe McLaughlin (one of the names on that list), as well as former governor Malcolm Wilson and U.S. Attorney Paul Curran—both Fordham Law School graduates and both members of the governor’s bipartisan select committee—and, of course, Governor Mario Cuomo himself. The occasion had the markings of a perfect storm, and I decided to take it.

In introducing Governor Cuomo, I mentioned and commended him for his highly publicized rejection of the list and then took the opportunity to poke fun at Joe. The audience in the grand ballroom exploded in laughter led by Joe himself.

Joe did eventually make it to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit—home of Joe’s mentor Judge Mulligan and Fordham predecessors Irving Robert Kaufman and Larry Pierce, as well as Joe’s student Denny Chin. Joe served on that court with dignity and distinction for the rest of his life. Notably, several years later, Fordham Law School graduate Madeline Singas (‘91) was appointed to the New York Court of Appeals. At the time of her appointment, Singas was the District Attorney of Nassau County and became the first female graduate of Fordham Law School to sit on the New York Court of Appeals.

Several months before his death, I visited Joe McLaughlin at his home in Queens to show him a rough, unfinished draft of my dedication, *In the Service of Others*, for his comments and recollections. We spent a pleasant afternoon discussing the dedication.

Joe was particularly pleased that the piece was dedicated to the memory of Judge Mulligan, our mentor. As I was about to leave, Joe squeezed my hand, thanked me, and said “You have made my day.” To which I responded, “But you didn’t tell me whether you liked the article.” He looked at me and paused for a moment as if he was being asked to rule from the bench on a lengthy motion for summary judgment in a complicated antitrust case. Then, with Gaelic wit and a boyish smile, responded, “Not bad, considering it was written by someone like yourself, where English is your second language.”

The first dean of Fordham Law was Paul Fuller, who—despite being orphaned and homeless at an early age—managed to climb his way to the very top of the legal profession. Besides being an extraordinarily gifted lawyer, he had an impeccable reputation for honesty, integrity, and ethics. In addressing an entering class at Fordham Law School, he described to them what a “Fordham Lawyer” should be: “If you are faithful to the standard which Fordham has held up to you, when anyone asks if you are fit to take charge of a given case, the answer will come: *A Fordham Graduate: fit for anything he undertakes.*”¹² It is as if Dean Fuller had Joe in mind.

Indeed, Joe McLaughlin not only met that standard but far exceeded it his entire life in every task he undertook. At that time, we were then about to move into our new building at Lincoln Center in the fall. I recall the words

12. Paul Fuller, Dean, Fordham Law School Commencement Address (Jun. 10, 1908) (on file with author) (emphasis added).

of Robert F. Kennedy, who reminded us that people “*mean more than mortar and masonry*.”¹³ He emphasized that walls of glass and granite need to be moved by qualities of intellect and spirit to give them meaning and purpose.¹⁴ And he concluded with the remark, “We know Fordham ideals, traditions, and teachers, will provide that inspiration.”¹⁵

Indeed, his brother, President John F. Kennedy, had previously proclaimed (when he was still a senator from Massachusetts) that Fordham “never maintained its neutrality in moments of great moral crisis.”¹⁶ In short, these two related statesmen from Massachusetts were referring to Fordham’s heart and soul.

Fordham has always been a school of opportunity that never cared who you were or where you came from. Its doors were always open to all, through both its evening and day divisions. It is a place where dreams are created and fulfilled. Fordham was never an affluent law school, but it was always rich in talent, purpose, resolve, and vision.

Joe McLaughlin was a product of that culture, a shining example of what a determined young man from Brooklyn can achieve, and who had an enormous effect on the lives of so many others. Except for his two years in private practice, Joe spent his entire legal career—nearly fifty years—in the service of others as an educator, a dean, and a trial and appellate judge in the federal courts.

There is a hymn in the Greek Orthodox Church “Aonia i Mnimi” that means “May his memory be eternal.” So it shall be with Joe. His spirit shall forever roam the halls of our law school as an example of what a Fordham Lawyer should be—*fit for anything they undertake*. I would like to thank Joe’s lovely wife, Fran, and their wonderful children—two of whom were my students—for sharing Joe with us for all these years. He has touched us all and made a great difference in our lives. He will never be forgotten.

During my tenure at Fordham Law School, I was privileged to meet wonderful classmates who became close friends such as Donald J. Mulvihill, Emil (Mike) A. Dominianni, J. Willard O’Brien, Irene and Kevin Thomas Duffy, Paul J. Curran, Eugene P. Souther, James (Jim) F. Gill, and scores of others. Moreover, I became a member of the school board of St. Spyridon Elementary School (a parochial school in Upper Manhattan that was affiliated with the church at which I was an altar boy in my youth) and later became its chairman. In my “spare time,” I married the lovely Ann Kanganis, and we had three children (Nancy, Nicholas, and Louis)—*each of whom* later graduated *from both* the Fordham School of Business and Fordham Law School. Nicholas and Louis were also graduates of Fordham Preparatory

13. *Address by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy*, 30 FORDHAM L. REV. 437, 437 (1962) (emphasis added).

14. *See id.*

15. *Id.*

16. Janet Sassi, *The Kennedy Legacy, 50 Years Later: Q&A: Dean Michael Latham, Fordham College at Rose Hill*, INSIDE FORDHAM (Nov. 4, 2013), <https://news.fordham.edu/politics-and-society/the-kennedy-legacy-50-years-later/> [https://perma.cc/VVV2-V3L9] (quoting then Senator John F. Kennedy).

School. I am also happy to say that Ann and I have seven wonderful grandchildren: Annie (and her husband Matt, who were married by Father Joseph M. McShane at the Fordham University Church in 2019), Christopher, Constantine, Kelly, Julia, and Cole.

When I was hired by Fordham Law School in 1964, it was as an Assistant Professor of Law; I became an Associate Professor of Law in 1966, a full Professor in 1969, and the Wilkinson Professor of Law in 2009. During this period, I authored many legal articles on a wide range of topics—one entitled *The New York Tax Windfall*, which covered a tax windfall that affected millions of New York City residents by seeking to impose a city death tax in addition to a federal and state death taxes—the first city to so impose.¹⁷ Indeed, it was reliably reported that this article greatly influenced the repeal of such tax before it even took effect, as its residents began bailing out of New York City to avoid the burdensome city death tax. It is not often that a tax is repealed before it even takes effect.

My early years on the faculty were somewhat stressful because, in addition to lecturing, I was expected to, and did, publish numerous articles. I also proposed and introduced a new course to the curriculum, “Accounting for Lawyers.” Additionally, I had to update my courses in income tax, gift and estate tax, estate planning, and wills and estates to reflect the numerous changes in the reports of the Bennett Commission,¹⁸ as well as amendments to the Internal Revenue Code and regulations thereto.

Moreover, at the time of my joining the faculty, the federal tax course consisted of one massive, all-inclusive four-credit course that included differing components in areas of taxation—the income tax of individuals, corporations, partnerships, and gift and death taxes. With the support and assistance of Professor Donald Sharpe, we decided to divide that one massive course into various separate courses based on their diverse goals and natures. At that time, I also suggested Fordham create a Master’s Degree in Taxation similar to those offered by other leading law schools. Although it did not materialize due to budget restrictions at the time, it did lead to the creation of our tax clinic under the energetic leadership of Professor Elizabeth Maresca.

During my six decades on the faculty, I have published scores of articles on diverse subjects. For example: income, estate and gift taxation, estate planning, evidence, trusts & estates, accounting for lawyers, and general history. I have a total of forty-three works uploaded to FLASH, Fordham Law School’s institutional repository. According to remarkably granular readership statistics provided by Berkeley Electronic Press, these pieces have been downloaded more than 26,000 times by readers in 153 countries, including 443 times in China, 312 times in the United Kingdom, 295 times in France, 106 times in Kenya, and once in Liberia, Latvia, and the Solomon

17. See Constantine N. Katsoris, *The New York Tax Windfall*, 15 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 199 (1987).

18. For more on the Bennett Commission, see Standish F. Medina, *The Philosophies of the Bennett Commission on Estates Underlying the EPTL and the SCPA*, 33 BROOK. L. REV. 414 (1967).

Islands.¹⁹ Furthermore, my articles have been downloaded by companies such as Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, law firms like Sidley Austin, Skadden Arps, and Davis Polk, universities such as Harvard, Columbia, and M.I.T., as well as federal and state government agencies like the Department of Defense, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, and the New York State Unified Court System.²⁰

Since being retroactively uploaded to FLASH, none of my forty-three articles have been downloaded fewer than a dozen times. My most popular article, *Accountants' Third Party Liability—How Far Do We Go?*, has been downloaded more than 5,000 times since its publication in 1967.²¹ My oldest article on FLASH, *Confidential Communications—The Accountant's Dilemma*, has been downloaded over a thousand times.²² The fact that articles written over fifty years ago are garnering this sort of contemporary readership is indeed gratifying and shows the value in making all of my work so widely and freely available.

Two of my more recent pieces, taken together, summarize my reverence for Fordham Law School and for the men and women who shaped, and were shaped by, the institution. These two pieces are my second and third most downloaded articles on FLASH. *In the Service of Others: From Rose Hill to Lincoln Center* has been downloaded more than 5,000 times.²³ *A Tribute to the Fordham Judiciary: A Century of Service* has more than 3,000 downloads.²⁴ These two long pieces allowed me to share the experience of spending most of my professional life at an institution that is dedicated to service. I am enormously pleased that through these pieces, Fordham's founding and enduring ethos has been passed down to a new generation of faculty, students, and alumni.

At Fordham, I quickly had the opportunity to be “in the service of others.” Soon after joining the faculty, Dean Mulligan called me into his office to explain to me that a relative of a former client and friend of his, Carol L. Ahrens, needed the advice of counsel on several matters and asked me whether I could provide such counsel—which I did over the course of several years. As a result, upon her death, she rewarded Fordham for my services by

19. Statistics provided by Todd G.E. Melnick, director of the Maloney Library at the Fordham University School of Law.

20. Statistics provided by Todd G.E. Melnick, director of the Maloney Library at the Fordham University School of Law.

21. Constantine N. Katsoris, *Accountants' Third Party Liability—How Far Do We Go?*, 36 FORDHAM L. REV. 191 (1967) (download data available at <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol36/iss2/3/> [<https://perma.cc/5DXH-GUKL>]).

22. Constantine N. Katsoris, *Confidential Communications—The Accountant's Dilemma*, 35 FORDHAM L. REV. 51 (1966) (download data available at <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol35/iss1/3/> [<https://perma.cc/DGW2-QY4T>]).

23. Katsoris, *supra* note 2 (download data available at <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol82/iss4/1/> [<https://perma.cc/BAU6-52XM>]).

24. Constantine N. Katsoris, *A Tribute to the Fordham Judiciary: A Century of Service*, 75 FORDHAM L. REV. 2303 (2007) (download data available at <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol75/iss5/1/> [<https://perma.cc/7FLL-RYWX>]).

setting up a trust of about one million dollars that provided for a distribution to a Fordham fund that allocated \$112,000 to the Feerick Center for Social Justice and \$112,000 to the Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work. The balance was earmarked for scholarships at Fordham.

V. JOSEPH JETT ARBITRATION

After joining the Fordham faculty, I also continued participating as an arbitrator/mediator for the resolution of securities disputes between the public and the securities industry. Furthermore, I continued an active role as a public member (and later as chairman) of the Securities Industry Committee on Arbitration (SICA) to ensure that the arbitration process for resolving disputes resulted in a fair and speedy hearing.

One of the most significant appointments I received was to chair a NASD arbitration panel consisting of myself, Thomas E. Duggan, and Caroline E. Wade in a highly publicized dispute between Joseph Jett and Kidder Peabody. Joseph Jett was a Black man who propelled himself to the top of Wall Street, commanding a trading desk and earning many millions of dollars for himself and Kidder.²⁵

Jett was hired as a trader on the government bond desk at Kidder, Peabody & Company, rising to become chief of the government trading desk and managing director; and, operating with freedom, reported alleged income of hundreds of millions of dollars and bonuses for himself and others. In 1994, Kidder discharged Jett, arguing that the alleged profits never really existed, but were merely computer entries designed to cover up losses of millions of dollars and to financially benefit Jett, while ignoring criticism of Kidder's lack of supervision over a young inexperienced trader like Jett.

Litigation arose between Kidder and Jett before arbitration panels at the NYSE, the NASD, and the SEC. Jett published a book entitled *Black and White on Wall Street*, in which he was critical of the treatment of minorities by Wall Street.²⁶ Without going into the details of these proceedings, in his book, Jett compared the various proceedings before the different forums—specifically praising the arbitration proceedings before the NASD:

In direct contrast, the NASD, mindful of the tremendous press attention given to the case, had created a *blue-ribbon panel* of arbitrators to oversee and rule on the matter. The arbitrators averaged twelve years of experience in handling arbitration procedures. In addition to the tremendous legal experience that was shared among the panel members, the chief arbitrator was also *an accounting professor at Fordham University*. He was able to ask incisive technical questions of myself and General Electric's expert witness. Here at last I was able to present a technical defense of my trading

25. See Silvia Nasar & Douglas Frantzen, *Dramatic Rise and a Nasty Fall*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 22, 1994), <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/04/22/business/dramatic-rise-and-a-nasty-fall.html> [<https://perma.cc/Q3LM-RJT2>].

26. JOSEPH JETT WITH SABRA CHARTRAND, *BLACK AND WHITE ON WALL STREET: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE MAN WRONGLY ACCUSED OF BRINGING DOWN KIDDER PEABODY* (1999).

strategy. With that we were off and running again. For the next five months, I spent nearly 3 days of each week in a hearing room at the NASD on Whitehall Street, listening to an identical parade of witnesses repeat everything they had told the SEC. But this time, things were different. The three NASD panelists were cream of the crop. They knew finance and trading. The hearing was halted several times so that the chief arbitrator could check his trading positions with his broker. The panelists were not prepared to hear nonsensical arguments.²⁷

VI. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

Word spread about the success of arbitration as a forum for the resolution of securities disputes, and in April 2000, through the efforts of Richard A. Grasso (then chairman of the NYSE) and James E. Buck (then secretary of the NYSE) a weeklong symposium was held in Moscow, Russia. The symposium, entitled “Arbitrations in the Security Industry,” was cosponsored by the NYSE and the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. I was a principal panelist at the event, and my article in the *Fordham Law Review*, *The Arbitration of a Public Securities Dispute*,²⁸ was translated into Russian and distributed to all of the attendees, who were securities experts from around the world.

News of the Moscow symposium’s success spread, and three years later, it was repeated in Cairo, Egypt, cosponsored by the NYSE and the Cairo and Alexandria Stock Exchanges. My Fordham securities article was again distributed to the sellout crowd—this time in English. Finally, a year after the Cairo symposium, we repeated the arbitration symposium before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance (the “Markey Committee”) in Washington, D.C. Testimony and written submissions were published by that committee as part of the official report on the proposed Securities Arbitration Reform Act of 1988 (H.R. 4960).²⁹

VII. ALUMNI INITIATIVE

To succeed, a law school must have the support of its alumni. This support can come in many forms. For example, the contribution of money or property, either outright or in trust, by inter vivos or testamentary contributions. It also comes through supporting, attending, and partaking in the institution’s programs,³⁰ as well as mentoring and hiring its students.

27. *Id.* at 355–56 (emphasis added).

28. Constantine N. Katsoris, *The Arbitration of a Public Securities Dispute*, 53 FORDHAM L. REV. 279 (1984).

29. H.R. 4960, 100th Cong. (1988).

30. For example, Fordham’s devoted alumni have played key roles in the development and success of our clinical programs. One particularly dedicated alumnus is Karl Peter Kilb III (*95), who attended Fordham Law School in the evening division while working as a broadcast journalist at Bloomberg LLP. He was a member of the *Fordham Law Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment Law Journal (IPLJ)*, for which he wrote a student note on patent arbitration in 1993. See Karl P. Kilb, Note, *Arbitration of Patent Disputes: An Important Option in the Age of Information Technology*, 4 FORDHAM INTELL. PROP. MEDIA & ENT. L.J. 599 (1993). Years after his graduation, and while serving as general counsel of

A. Financial Support

I would like to mention two examples of former students who have established student scholarships for Fordham undergraduate students to continue their graduate education at Fordham Law School.

John and Barbara Constantino established a scholarship for students from the Fordham Business School to continue their education at Fordham Law School.

Irene and Paul Soden established a similar scholarship for a student from the college at Rose Hill to attend Fordham Law School.

I have been honored to have been on the selection committee for both of these in-house scholarships. This laudatory goal not only benefits the students themselves, but the university as well. I am delighted to report that the recipients of the Constantino and Soden scholarships have gone on to great service, and we are duly proud of them.

B. Golf Outing

Another alumni activity I became involved with was establishing a golf outing with George Ross and Jim Gill to fundraise for student scholarships. The event also connected alumni, students, faculty, administrators, and guests. We decided to call it “The Mulligan Golf Outing,” even though Dean Mulligan was not a golfer. On the other hand, George Ross and Jim Gill were avid golfers. George Ross was a member of the Westchester Country Club (and so handled the numerous details of arranging the affair at the Westchester Country Club), and I represented the “duffers”—those who were casual and erratic golfers. The golf outing was an instant success and—over the years—the Mulligan Golf Outing was personally important to me for a variety of reasons, particularly since two prior holders of the Wilkinson Chair were Dean Mulligan and Professor John D. Calamari (my professors, mentors, and friends). It was at the golf outing where Dean Feerick chose to announce my appointment to the Wilkinson Chair, before a gathering of some three hundred distinguished guests and participants, including

Bloomberg. Kilb remained heavily involved with the school by frequently participating in events related to intellectual property law and securities regulation, and by bringing classes to the Bloomberg offices for discussions ranging in topics from data protection and privacy to regulatory compliance. Like myself, Kilb emphasized that students needed to be knowledgeable in the fundamentals of running a business—accounting, taxes, and other financial subjects—on top of knowing how to run a law practice. In other words, he believed that students need to be “practice ready” when they graduate. In this vein, Kilb became increasingly involved in a growing number of different entrepreneurial endeavors and, in 2014, expressed an interest in starting an entrepreneurial law program at Fordham that would connect alumni with students who were interested in start-ups and all aspects of corporate law. So, in early 2015, Kilb worked with Assistant Dean Vera Tkachuk and Professor Nestor Davidson to develop what became known as the Entrepreneurial Law Advisory Council (ELAC), which launched with an endowment from Kilb and his wife, Alexis Christoforous, a well-known broadcast journalist. Kilb serves as the founder and chair of the ELAC, and an *IPLJ* office is named in his honor. Kilb and another member of ELAC, Philip Philliou (‘93), are among the Fordham alumni who appreciate the business-minded and common sense approach to legal issues that I have sought to bring to the classroom for more than fifty years.

members of the federal judiciary, practicing attorneys, former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, and U.S. Senator from New York Alfonse M. D'Amato.

Needless to say, this appointment represented a milestone in my career. Dean Feerick was, and remains, one of my closest friends on the Fordham faculty. "John the Good" (as he is often called) also truly believes in the Fordham values and traditions—"in the service of others." He has also been very good to me and my family over the years. I will never forget the aftermath of a faculty meeting in which John and I didn't see eye to eye on a policy matter: whether to make evidence an elective course. The week of that faculty meeting, my mother was in the hospital in Brooklyn; when I arrived to visit her, I noticed a bottle of holy water from Ireland on the nightstand. I asked the nurse who had visited, and she replied that it was "John the Good."

C. Student Auction

In 1988, I chaired a faculty committee with the aid of students from the Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship (FSSF) and proposed the creation of a student auction to raise funds to support and encourage our students to obtain public service jobs on a pro bono basis.

The FSSF was a nonprofit organization with the goal of providing funding for students who dedicated their time to public interest work. Since 1991, FSSF has held auctions every year to raise the bulk of their funding along with other fundraising efforts throughout the year. The auction is made possible by the diligent efforts of our participants. The funds raised went directly to the participants and in a typical year, funded between twenty-five to thirty-five students.

To be eligible to receive funds, students must join FSSF and participate in the fundraising, mainly the canvassing. The amount of money FSSF must distribute is solely based on canvassing and the amount of money raised at the auction. The more money raised, the more fellowships available. To receive the funding, students had to maintain a public service legal internship that was unpaid and lasted at least ten weeks.³¹

Since its inception, the student auction has raised nearly two million dollars and awarded nearly nine hundred fellowships toward the goal. It has been truly a melting-pot activity, involving students, faculty, alumni, and friends. Unfortunately, every year starts from square one, and it takes a major effort on the part of everyone to ensure success.

As alumni, we contributed goods (including an Irish soda bread baked by Jennifer Mone), events, or services that could be auctioned at the silent or live auctions, and placed ads in the auction program. Of course, we also attended and participated in the auction to support the students.

31. Public interest employers include nonprofit organizations such as Legal Aid, government entities (District Attorney's Offices, the Department of Justice, the SEC), and international nonprofit organizations.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the auction was not held during the past few years. What a shame! I appreciate that the auction involves a lot of work, but I strongly suggest it be revived as soon as the pandemic permits. The auction also serves our mission of “in the service of others.” Moreover, it acts as a melting pot where students can meet their future employers—our alumni—on a mutual project.

D. Expanding Fordham’s Geographic Presence

In the mid-1980s, Dean Feerick became increasingly aware of the migration of Fordham Law graduates, over the decades, to different regions and major cities around the country. Fordham had long been strong within the practicing bar and judiciary in the New York City area, including Long Island, Westchester, northern New Jersey, and Connecticut. All of these were considered local areas from which the school drew applicants and sent graduates forth to work after graduation. As Dean Feerick had met more far-flung graduates during his years as a practicing attorney with a national firm, they would tell him of the opportunities for young lawyers across the country.

A further harbinger of Fordham’s national presence came with the publication of the first national ranking of law schools by a respected professor, Dr. Jack Gourman from California State University Northridge. The first report demonstrated that the reach of Fordham Law was extending far beyond its original impact area. In addition, a report published in a business magazine had noted that Fordham Law was the alma mater of the general counsel of many of the country’s largest *Fortune* 500 corporations.

It thus became evident that the legal profession was becoming increasingly national in recruitment and hiring, as was the firm where John Feerick had been the hiring partner, Skadden Arps. He traveled to the best schools in the nation to conduct interviews with their students, and he knew from firsthand experience that Fordham Law graduates were equal in experience to any he had met in terms of preparation, attitude, ability, and performance. It was important that Fordham secure its position in the forefront of the growth of national law practice.

To that end, Dean Feerick asked me and Robert J. Reilly to undertake a series of trips outside the New York area to different regions of the country. The goal was to garner the interest and energy of these pockets of alumni to help with recruiting the finest students from their region. We sought to connect seasoned alumni with recent graduates seeking relocation and employment opportunities in these different regions.

Starting with a trip to Miami and Palm Beach, Florida, accompanied by the director of career planning (first Maureen Provost and later Kathleen Brady), and the assistant dean for student affairs and alumni relations (Robert J. Reilly), I began a series of trips around the country establishing local alumni chapters. Other cities I visited included Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Denver, Dallas, and Houston. At each location, the Fordham delegation would meet with alumni, generally at their offices, to establish a

personal relationship and understanding of the legal community, its strengths, opportunities, and major employers. The occasion always concluded with a reception at a centrally located hotel, firm, restaurant, or club. The reception aimed to foster a network of friendships and professional relationships among the alumni and to allow a local chapter of the Fordham Law Alumni Association to be launched. Each of these visits proved to be fruitful over the years, giving Fordham Law graduates a group of reliable local leaders to turn to when entering new regions. It also led to a rapid expansion in the participation of our alumni in the Fordham Law Alumni Association beyond the New York City area.

E. Fordham Ceremony for Admission to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar

In 1984 and 1985, Dean Feerick approached me several times suggesting that we should have an admission ceremony for those admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. I assured him that I had my finger on the pulse of our alumni, and they were not interested in such an adventure.

Nonetheless, we sent out, to all our alumni, along with one of our regular mailings, a brief letter describing the idea. This took place in December, just before we went out on winter break. When we returned in January, there were several hundred letters from alumni thrilled with the idea and eager to be part of a Fordham admissions ceremony at the Supreme Court. Since we were only allowed to sponsor a limited number each year, it took almost a decade to work through the backlog of applicants from the original mailing. Each year, it proves to be among the most joyous and meaningful occasions for Fordham Law graduates and their families. For many, it is one moment in their career when the full humanity, grandeur, and impact of the American judicial system becomes a reality. For instance, my granddaughter, Julia, accompanied me to one of the Supreme Court ceremonies and is seen in the photo below next to me, to the left of Justice Ginsburg.



On May 5th, 1986, approximately 150 graduates, accompanied by their families and friends, assembled at the Supreme Court to partake in the first

Fordham Law Alumni admission ceremony. Since then, this ceremony has been a mainstay of our alumni activities each year, resulting in the admission of over 1,500 of our graduates to practice before the high court. These occasions were often personalized by informal visits by members of the Supreme Court with our alumni in the Court's historic north conference room. Moreover, on one occasion, the Court announced its famous *Pennzoil Co. v. Texaco, Inc.*³² decision before our graduates as they awaited admission. On another occasion, in the absence of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female justice to preside over the Court.

Although there were many interesting scenarios surrounding the admission of various alumni, I take special satisfaction in reflecting on the role of our admission ceremony in the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Shearson American Express Inc. v. McMahon*.³³ In 1986, a former student of mine, Theodore (Ted) Krebsbach ('78), was assigned by Shearson to argue this significant appeal before the high court; however, he had not yet been admitted to practice before the Court. Barely months before the oral argument, Ted was admitted in the first Fordham admission ceremony in 1986, with the Judge Mulligan and myself acting as his sponsors. In deciding that claims under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 could be arbitrated pursuant to predispute arbitration agreements, the Court agreed with Ted and effectively diverted thousands of securities disputes from the overcrowded courtrooms to arbitration.³⁴ To complete Fordham's involvement in the *McMahon* case, it should be noted that the dissenting opinion by Justice Blackmun cited my article, *The Arbitration of a Public Securities Dispute*, which was published in the *Fordham Law Review*.³⁵

The personal thrill of acting as a sponsor in this admission ceremony grew with each passing year. The pure joy of watching the expressions of the admittees and their families as they were permitted to practice before the highest court on this side of heaven is breathtaking. It has been an honor to act as a sponsor for so many of our alumni over the last four decades. In all honesty, the history of how our Supreme Court admission program started needs to be documented and memorialized.

VIII. PARTICIPATION WITH JUSTICE O'CONNOR

During my career at Fordham, I was fortunate and privileged to have met many, many prominent judges, practitioners, politicians, academics, administrators, students, etc. At the top of that list, I was fortunate to meet Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Besides being a role model on and off the bench, she has also graciously contributed to the Fordham Law School community in so many ways.

32. 481 U.S. 1 (1987).

33. 482 U.S. 220 (1987).

34. *See id.* at 242.

35. *See id.* at 258 n.16 (Blackmun, J., dissenting) (citing Constantine N. Katsoris, *The Arbitration of a Public Securities Dispute*, 53 FORDHAM L. REV. 279, 283-84 (1984)).

I first met Justice O'Connor when we were looking for a speaker for the dedication ceremony of the expansion of the Law School building at 150 West 62nd Street in New York City. She had already received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Fordham University. In addition, she was the principal speaker for our millennium celebration at Lincoln Center, at which we ushered in the 21st century. Furthermore, Dean Feerick and I joined her in Ireland, where she taught a course in international law and relations as part of our summer program in Ireland. She also attended most of our annual Supreme Court admission ceremonies since they began in 1986. Indeed, at a Supreme Court admission ceremony in Washington, D.C. at which she was the luncheon speaker, I bestowed upon her the unofficial honorary title of "First Lady of Fordham Law School."³⁶

I was first introduced to Justice O'Connor by my classmate Robert (Bob) J. Corcoran ('57), a native New Yorker who moved to Arizona a few years after graduation, where he practiced law with a leading firm in Phoenix. He then headed the office of the American Civil Liberties Union in Phoenix, and in that capacity, he identified the conviction of the Arizona courts of Ernesto Miranda as one that should be appealed to and reversed by the Arizona courts, based largely on Miranda's station house confession. His efforts and initiatives began the process that led to the ultimate reversal of that conviction by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark case *Miranda v. Arizona*.³⁷ When Justice O'Connor was appointed as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court, Bob Corcoran was elevated to the Arizona Supreme Court, that state's highest court.

During these inspiring events over the years, I also had the pleasure of inducting into the Supreme Court bar my sons, Nicholas and Louis, my son-in-law, William O'Hagan, and my daughter-in-law, Voula Tsoutsoplides Katsoris. I also had the privilege of meeting with so many of the justices such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg after those ceremonies. In fact, on the last occasion that I made the trip to Washington, D.C., I was accompanied by my son Nicholas and my granddaughter Julia, who was ten years old at the time. It was a special moment for all when I was able to introduce Julia to Justice Ginsburg, who then turned to Julia and complimented her on her pretty dress.

IX. PERSONAL AWARD RECOGNITION AND ALUMNI SERVICE

A. Awards

During my tenure at Fordham, I received the following awards from Fordham University:

- Bene Merenti Medals (1985 and 2004);³⁸

36. See Katsoris, *supra* note 2, at 1597 n.585.

37. 384 U.S. 436 (1966).

38. In 1985, I was awarded my first Bene Merenti Medal for twenty years of service at Fordham. At the ceremony, my colleague, friend, and former professor John Calamari declared:

- Students' Medal of Achievement (1992);
- Public Interest Center's Award (1993);
- Alumni Medal of Achievement (1995);
- Dean's Medal of Achievement (1999);
- *Urban Law Journal's* Louis J. Lefkowitz Award (2003);
- George J. Mitchell Lifetime Public Service Award (2014);
- Governor Malcom Wilson Distinguished Alumni Award (2015);
- *Fordham Law Review's* Leonard F. Manning Achievement Award (2017); and
- Milton Fisher Award (2023) (awarded to a graduate of the Law School who, in a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, has embodied the school's highest ideals of excellence and service).

B. Alumni Service

I also served in the following positions:

- Member, board of directors of Fordham Law Alumni Association for over fifty years;
- Member, board of directors of *Fordham Law Review* Alumni Association for forty years (including being chairman thereof for six years);
- Member, university committee, supervising construction of dormitory at Lincoln Center;
- Member, university faculty senate for several years;
- Sponsor, U.S. Supreme Court admission ceremony since its inception; and
- Member, alumni golf committee since its inception.

X. MOUNTING OF MY PORTRAIT PAINTED BY A FORMER STUDENT

In 2011, John Francis McCabe was commissioned to paint my portrait. Among portrait artists, John was a very fitting choice. In 1972, long before becoming an artist, John graduated from Fordham Law School. Two weeks after beginning classes in the fall of 1968, he was pulled out of school by the

Since joining our faculty [Katsoris] was appointed as a consultant to the New York Commission on Estates; has served on numerous bar associations and judicial screening committees; is one of the three public members of SICA (established by the Securities and Exchange Commission to prepare and monitor arbitration rules for resolving public security disputes); and, served as President of the St. Spyridon Parochial School Board.

John Calamari, Professor, Bene Merenti Medal Award Ceremony at Fordham Law School (1985) (on file with author). Professor Calamari—a true friend—further suggested that I had a strongly developed sense of right and wrong, excellent judgment, and good common sense, and was not afraid to champion unpopular causes. He added that I was motivated by a strong sense of love and duty, the beneficiaries of which were my friends, family, and Fordham Law School. In 2004, I was awarded a second Bene Merenti Medal in recognition of my forty years of service on the faculty, and I *hope* to receive my third Bene Merenti medal in the future and become the first ever member of the law school faculty to receive such an honor for sixty years of service to the university.

U.S. Army and began serving one year on active duty, to be followed by five years of weekend and summer service in the U.S. Army Security Agency. When John returned from service, he reached out to the school, seeking information on returning to Fordham and whether he would need to reapply. Fordham, without hesitation, responded: “Come back and begin again—no application needed.” John was forever grateful to Fordham for its welcoming and unconditional approach to his readmittance.

Following graduation, John started his legal career at the Wall Street law firm of Thacher Proffitt & Wood, LLP. Thereafter, he enjoyed a successful legal and business career, primarily as corporate vice president and general counsel of BDM International, Inc., a publicly held *Fortune* 1000 company. In his midforties, he became interested in creating art, specifically oil portraits in the classical realism tradition, in the spirit of master artists like John Singer Sargent and New York City artist Everett Raymond Kinstler.

John attended workshops of well-known portrait artists around the country. Over time, he developed his skills as well as a following from patrons interested in having business and personal portraits that captured the spirit of the character as well as likeness of the subjects. In 2011, in a conversation with Karen Deasy, head of Fordham Law School alumni relations, John was invited to create my portrait. The portrait process began with a meeting during which John and I prepared sketches and took numerous photographs and some videos. John learned about my legal background over several meetings and over lunches at a local Greek restaurant surprisingly called The Greek Kitchen, which served my favorite beverages and dishes without my even ordering them.

Based on those meetings, John created studies that would be the basis of the final work. Both Fordham and I approved of the initial studies (in charcoal and color) prior to John beginning the official portrait in oil on canvas. The portrait includes the Fordham Law School flag and a law book that I used in my lectures. The creation of the final portrait took months, as is often the case with such works. This was amenable to Fordham, as it gave the school time to prepare a proper unveiling ceremony. That event took place on May 9, 2012, in the McNally Amphitheater. The then dean of Fordham Law School, Michael M. Martin, officiated the event. Also in attendance was the president of Fordham University, the Reverend Joseph M. McShane, S.J., the former dean of Fordham Law School, John Feerick, the former mayor of the City of New York, Ed Koch, as well as a large number of former and current faculty, alumni, family, and friends. Father McShane and many others in attendance took photos with me, including members of my family and grandchildren, with the portrait in the background. The portrait’s unveiling was followed by a large reception (graciously sponsored by Sally J. Bellet (‘76)). One of the attendees, Professor Joseph Sweeney (the Fordham Law School John D. Calamari Distinguished Professor of Law), wrote me a note about the portrait after the event: “It is the most lifelike one that we have ever seen. You look as though you are going to exit and start lecturing. It is a treasure!” By the way, John McCabe had Professor Sweeney as his own professor of torts when he was

in law school at Fordham. John McCabe would go on to do three other oil portraits for Fordham, including the portrait of former Dean William Michael Treanor, now executive vice president and dean of the Georgetown University Law Center.

John McCabe noticed that my office included memorabilia and cartoons that related to the law and human behavior. John claims these clues gave him a sense that I used wit, humor, and humility as a teaching tool. The portrait hangs in the eighth-floor hall, across from the portrait of the legendary Professor I. Maurice Wormser and the Honorable John F. Keenan.

XI. DEDICATION OF CLASSROOM

As the law school was being expanded at 150 West 62nd Street, a large classroom on the second floor was dedicated in my honor. As is usual practice when a law school is building a new location, discussions were held among the Fordham alumni who were assisting in necessary fundraising for the project. Mike Dominianni, a college and law school classmate of mine, took part in these discussions. He recommended that a room or lecture hall be named after me because I had spent a lifetime teaching and advancing the standing of Fordham Law School. In addition, as a trustee, Dominianni was in the process of liquidating the Walter Simson Foundation, a charitable foundation that for many years was a supporter of Fordham Law School. The foundation endorsed and seconded the idea of naming a lecture hall after me. The school administration agreed that it was deserved and agreed to recognize me in this way for my devoted and rewarding service to Fordham Law School.

XII. REFLECTION ON THE TRAGEDY OF 9/11

One of the most upsetting events during my long and otherwise pleasant teaching career occurred as I was lecturing my tax class consisting of about 200 students in room 3-03 of the original West 62nd Street building. I was lecturing at a steady pace, with each student recording their notes, when they stopped taking notes, pulled out their cell phones, and began whispering into their cell phones or to each other. The date was September 11, 2001, and—after inquiring into what was happening—I was shocked and then dismissed the class so that the students could assure those who called them that they were not injured and vice versa. The rest is history as to what happened on that tragic date.

On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists crashed two hijacked passenger planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, with another plane striking the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. Another hijacked plane crashed in the state of Pennsylvania without reaching its intended target. The attacks killed about 3,000 people and injured more than 6,000. About half a decade earlier, the Honorable Kevin Duffy, a 1958 graduate of the Fordham Law School, had tried the perpetrators of the 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center. Kevin's wife, Irene

Krumelick, was a classmate of mine in the class of 1957 and later became a judge herself in the New York criminal and family courts.

XIII. FORDHAM'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF SECURITIES DISPUTES

Prior to 1976, most self-regulatory organizations (SROs) had differing rules for the administration of securities arbitration disputes held in their forums. In June 1976, the SEC initially solicited comments from interested persons on the feasibility of developing a uniform system of dispute grievance procedures for the adjudication of small claims. After conducting a public forum (at which I participated with written and oral comments), the SEC's Office of Consumer Affairs issued a report recommending the adoption of procedures for handling investor disputes and the creation of a new entity to administer the system. Before implementing the proposal for a new arbitration forum, the commission invited further public comment. In response to this invitation, several SROs proposed the establishment of a securities industry task force to consider the development of "a uniform arbitration code and the means for establishing a more efficient, economic and appropriate mechanism for resolving investor disputes involving small sums of money."³⁹ As a result of this suggestion, the Securities Industry Conference on Arbitration (SICA) was established in April 1977, consisting of representatives from various SROs, the Securities Industry Association (SIA), and three members of the public.

The following SROs were represented in SICA at the time of its creation: the American Stock Exchange (AMEX, now the NYSE American), the Boston Stock Exchange (BSE), the Cincinnati Stock Exchange (CSE), the Midwest Stock Exchange (MSE, now the NYSE Chicago), the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the Pacific Exchange (PCX), the Philadelphia Stock Exchange (PHLX), the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE), the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (NASD). The bulk of the arbitrations were split between the NYSE and the NASD (presently FINRA).⁴⁰

Peter R. Cella, Jr., Mortimer Goodman, and I served as the public members of SICA at the time of its creation in 1977. In 1983, Justin Klein was added as the fourth public member of SICA. Mortimer Goodman did not seek reappointment as public member when his term expired, and a new public member, James Beckley, was appointed in his place. The public members' terms were to expire, one each year, beginning on December 31, 1993. All new public members would thereafter serve for four years and be eligible for reappointment—generally for one additional term. The public members whose terms are not then expiring would determine the appointment of new members or the reappointment of members whose terms were expiring. The appointment or reappointment could be vetoed by a two-thirds vote of the

39. Constantine N. Katsoris, *Securities Arbitration After McMahon*, 16 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 361, 362 (1988).

40. *See id.*

non-public members of SICA. Accordingly, in 1995, Thomas R. Grady was appointed to replace Justin Klein, and in 1996, Professor Thomas J. Stipanowich was appointed to replace Cella. Moreover, at a special meeting in July 1995, SICA decided that, upon the expiration of my term at the end of 1996, the number of public members on SICA would revert to three, as was the case when SICA was first created. Public members whose terms expired would continue to be invited as guests to SICA meetings to act in an advisory capacity, and I have continued to attend as an emeritus public member ever since.

The Security Industry Association, a trade association for the securities industry, was invited to attend future SICA meetings. In addition, members of the staff of the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the American Arbitration Association (AAA), and the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) are also regularly invited to attend the SICA meetings as guests. Since the adoption of the Uniform Securities Act, SICA has usually met several times a year to monitor the performance of the code in action, with a view toward further fine-tuning, adjusting, and amending its provisions based on its own observations and comments from those interested in the arbitration process and issued reports on the same. Moreover, since its sixth report, SICA has made many significant amendments to the code that are discussed in SICA's seventh and eighth reports.

On October 18, 1987, the securities markets experienced Black Monday, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points (a 22.6 percent decline) in one trading day. Between the Supreme Court's 1987 mandate in *McMahon* regarding arbitrability and the disruption of the securities markets on Black Monday, the number of SRO arbitrations exploded in 1988 to over 6,000 filings—more than double the number of cases filed in 1986. To date, over 100,000 cases, including small claims, have been filed with the participating SROs since the initial approval of the code.

XIV. STUDENT COMMENTS

Six decades of teaching is a long time to cover. Moreover, assessing one's own teaching performance would be inappropriate and subject to suspicion as being prejudiced. Accordingly, there are herein enclosed statements by some of my former students who have served Fordham well.

A. *Student 1—the Honorable Loretta Preska ('73)*

The Seventies were a turbulent time in our country as the tide of public opinion about the Vietnam war was changing. At the law school, antiwar activists and members of the Students for a Democratic Society sat side-by-side with returning veterans some of whom were grievously wounded. Not surprisingly, the faculty mirrored the divided views of the country, and some on either side were very outspoken. Not Professor Katsoris. He maintained his balance and his focus. Unlike in so much of academia today, Professor Katsoris did not "cancel" those with whom he

disagreed or who disagreed with him. The Seventies lesson is particularly applicable today.

Throughout the turbulent Seventies and continuing today, Professor Katsoris' door was always open and he remains both inspirational and comforting. He became a friend to me early on—exemplified by him closing the bar with my husband Tom and I at our wedding. He remains a friend to this day—a remnant of the Seventies to which I will be eternally grateful. Here's to my favorite Ram!⁴¹

B. Student 2—Robert J. Reilly ('75)

When I attended Fordham Law in the 1970s there was little attention paid to “concentrations” or what might be called a major area of study. The required curriculum was broad and there were many, and the many electives were varied, but the choices were mainly left up to the student. However, I can say that “I majored in Professor Katsoris.”

I think I first encountered Professor Constantine N. Katsoris in Income Taxation I. At that point I had very little background in business, or even basic personal finance, but I knew very early on in the course that he taught in a straightforward manner, that he laid out the material in a clear and understandable fashion. I was hooked.

He first explained the broad outlines of the concept of taxation. We learned quickly about the history of taxes in America, and the introduction of the income tax, the theories of taxation, and the various steps in analyzing income and expenses, the political considerations as well as the practical issues that must be kept in mind in understanding the world of taxation. It was all orderly, well thought out and explained with clear examples, and included wise advice. I had found a teacher that gave both theory and substance, as well as practicality all in the same subject.

I knew that this was a great way to learn. He was not the type of professor who played the game of “Hide the Ball” as if that would somehow turn you into a tax Blackstone simply by confusion, suffering and torture. By using concrete examples, well explained and laid out on the blackboard, we began to get a feel for the subject, so that by the end of the semester even beginners, like myself, could feel that they knew enough to competently face tax issues, and where to go to look for answers. This included how to intelligently read the Tax Code and the relevant Regulations.

There followed for me courses taught by Professor Katsoris in Accounting for Lawyers, Gift and Estate Tax, and Estate Planning. With each new course there came an appreciation of his vast knowledge of these several areas, and of the ways they intersected. They gave me a compelling insight into business and finance.

He has a tremendous sense of humor, and he uses it effectively to drive home his points. Sometimes I would even write his funny lines into the margin of my notes. One that I can remember even now, 48 years later, was after spending 6 or 7 weeks of class discussing in great detail all the

41. Letter from Loretta Preska, Senior J., U.S. Dist. Ct. for the S. Dist. of N.Y., to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

various things one needed to learn, and draw out from an estate planning client, before even beginning to draft any documents. He said: “Now much of this could be gathered in a couple of hours over drinks—and if he doesn’t drink, maybe he’s not such a great client.”

In sum, I think that many of the students from my time at the Law School viewed Professor Katsoris as among the key figures in the area of business law for the school. His teaching, writings, and evident love of Fordham made him one of the legendary figures who made Fordham a school that produced hardworking, knowledgeable and practical lawyers who contributed to their firms and to their clients from the moment they began to practice. He is certainly one of the names I am always asked about, and he is reminisced about with great affection and admiration.

When time came for graduating from the law school, I had enjoyed his courses so much, and learned so much about business and finance, that I knew that I would be interested in working in-house for a corporation. And I did find a wonderful position as Associate general counsel at a major international transportation company. Years later, in the company files, I came across my own application and resume. In the margin it had been noted by my interviewer—“Took Accounting For Lawyers”—which meant that was an important factor in my hiring. That is just one of many gifts that his teaching and friendship have brought me.⁴²

C. Student 3—Theodore (Ted) Krebsbach ('78)

My memories of classes with Professor Katsoris are all positive and remain vivid despite the passage of over 45 years. I had no idea what to expect when signing up for his Accounting for Lawyers class, having no background in the subject matter, and only a vague sense that it would be something important for a future lawyer to know. From the first day of class it was apparent that the Professor knew his subject matter cold, and was able to convey his knowledge to his students in a manner that was understandable and never boring. His course was a good mix of the theoretical and practical, and was taught in such a way that if you wrote down every word he said you’d effectively have created an Accounting textbook by the end of the semester. I enjoyed the course and the Professor’s teaching style so much that I later signed up for his Income Taxation and Estate and Gift Taxation courses, both of which became the foundation for everything I know of these subjects to this day. I always felt that it would take a special professor to make such potentially dry courses both interesting and enjoyable, and Professor Katsoris was that special professor.

But my primary remembrances of Professor Katsoris were his warm personality (for which law professors are not always known) and the genuineness of his concern and love for his students. And, of course, his fierce and legendary love of Fordham Law School. I was fortunate to be a part of the first group of Fordham Law students that the Professor arranged to be admitted into the U.S. Supreme Court. This was one of the highlights

42. Letter from Robert J. Reilly, Assistant Dean (ret.), Fordham L. Sch., to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

of my time as a student, actually visiting the courtroom and being sworn in by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. I learned over the ensuing years that Professor Katsoris was one of the foremost authorities in the country in the field of securities arbitration. He has published extensively in this area and has been cited frequently in court opinions. In the late 1980's when I had the good fortune to argue two cases in the USSC [(the U.S. Sentencing Commission)] involving that very subject, the Professor was instrumental in helping me prepare for those arguments, including introducing me to Fordham Law Professor Maria Marcus, an experienced USSC practitioner willing to share her tips on how best to approach the court. Years later, when my son Ryan was admitted to Fordham Law School, Professor Katsoris was very supportive and was genuinely excited about his admission (although not quite as excited as his proud Dad).

Professor Katsoris has always been there for me, starting as a student and in the decades that followed. It is hard for me to believe at this point how many years we've known each other. I was privileged to be his student and am privileged now to be his colleague and friend. He is truly one in a million.⁴³

D. Student 4—Matthew McLaughlin ('94)

Stirred memories of Gus Katsoris in the classroom surface one word: devotion. When Professor Katsoris strode to the lectern, binder and books tucked under arm, he exuded devotion and dedication. Katsoris threw his full self into the task of teaching. I took him for income tax in the early 1990s and, some 30 years later, memories of the Katsoris dynamic, dervish personality remain strong.

Let's be honest. The tax code makes for tough teaching. It's dry; it's complicated. Katsoris knew that. Against this weight, he wielded his charisma and earthy, boisterous grit. He relished blurring the lines between hypotheticals and real tales in a way that turn clunky rules into memorable pictures. As a result, his lectures had a richness of reference that irradiated the sterile code and made it shimmer. Katsoris knew that the bulk of his students would do everything possible to avoid tax law after law school, but he used his towering abilities to ensure that his students could converse in the principles underlying the tax code. In the process, Professor Katsoris taught students to be simplifiers, rather than complicators. He taught us to drill down, to reduce problems to their essentials, to untangle twisted lines of thought until a simple, decisive, thread remain[ed]. Behind the subject matter stood a superb teacher, who modeled personal rectitude, fairness, courtesy, and [innate] concern for service. The poet Mary Oliver taught us that "Attention is the beginning of devotion." Gus Katsoris was singular in the level of attention he brought to his students. He was an uncommonly caring teacher without guile or pretense who made students proud of

43. Letter from Theodore Krebsbach, Partner, McGonigle, P.C., to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

themselves and proud to be students at Fordham Law. He will always stand among the Giants at Fordham Law School.⁴⁴

E. Student 5—William Mulligan, Jr. ('74)

I am a very lucky man. Born in the Bronx in 1948 to two of the greatest people I have ever known—my father, William Hughes Mulligan, and my mother Roseana Connelly. They met in service during World War II in the counterintelligence corps. My father went on to become a professional and ultimately dean of Fordham Law School from 1956 to 1971. Growing up during those years, there were occasions when my father would refer to certain legends in his life—outstanding professors of law—among others, Crowley, Calamari, and Katsoris.

After graduating from Fordham prep in 1966 and Fordham college in 1970 I was “mysteriously” admitted to Fordham Law and graduated in 1974. Guess what? The legends I had heard about each became a professor of law for me. Let me say this out right about Gus Katsoris. He taught you more than the subject at hand. He taught you about life, he taught you about being a productive adult—man or woman to be direct and to be thoughtful. He taught you by example he set each and every day. Like the names I grew up with and then had the privilege of being their student—how fortunate we were—as Fordham Law students—to have been instructed by these men.

How fortunate was I to have Gus Katsoris not only as a mentor and teacher but to have him today as a close personal friend? As he himself notes in his fabulous *Fordham Law Review* article in 2014 entitled *In the Service of Others: From Rose Hill to Lincoln Center*—this article is dedicated to the Honorable William Hughes Mulligan, who is the sixth Dean of Fordham University School of Law. He was my professor, mentor, colleague and friend. As he noted in the article, after his own father passed away just before the start of his last year in law school my father ultimately became his “second” father.

Here’s to you Gus. This note is dedicated to a man who is first a legend, then professor, mentor, colleague and friend. As I said at the outset, I have been a very lucky man. I treasure my relationship with Gus Katsoris and always will.⁴⁵

F. Student 6—George C. Ross ('66)

Professor Katsoris graduated from Fordham College and started at Fordham Law School but for family and financial reasons, his law school dream was interrupted. Fortunately for him, and all those he touched at Fordham Law he returned and graduated at the very top of his class. Subsequently, he earned a masters in tax at New York University and began teaching at Fordham Law. Today some 50+ years later, he is the most beloved and tenured professor at the law school despite being a very hard

44. Letter from Matthew McLaughlin, Partner, Venable, LLP, to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

45. Letter from William Mulligan, Jr., Partner, Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP, to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

but fair teacher and grader. During his time at Fordham, he has served and advised four deans, three university presidents, and more importantly, befriended and guided thousands of Fordham Law students. He has done all of this with honesty and care with only Fordham's and at times the individual's best interest in mind. Gus has held the Wilkinson Chair, was awarded the Fordham Medal of Achievement, the Ellis Island medal along with a long list of other well-deserved honors and awards. He is a well-recognized arbitration expert, and a very prolific writer with articles published almost every year. He continues to teach and invite students and is a loved and respected member of the Fordham Law School Alumni Board. He is co-founder of the William Hughes Mulligan Scholarship Fund, and the conduit through which a stream of Fordham Law students were able to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Personally, I consider Gus a man for all seasons. He has the highest level of honesty, integrity and loyalty of anyone I have ever known, and he always stood for what was right and fought for it. He loves life and lives by the basic principle of family, God and country and Fordham.

In closing, Professor Katsoris has been Mr. Fordham for over six decades, and he is not replaceable. He is a brilliant scholar, a great leader, and very loyal, but most importantly, I am honored to have been his student and remained a dear and loyal friend for half a century.⁴⁶

G. Student 7—Robert Cooper ('87)

I've been thinking of you over the holidays, and I just wanted to wish you and your family the very best of the season and a Happy and Joyful New Year 2023. It's been some thirty-five years since my graduation from Fordham Law, as a member of the Class of 1987, and I felt that I should, once again, let you know that I continue to be grateful for all the kindness and help that you gave me as a student and, subsequently, as an employee at the school, where I served as director of publications and as a member of the legal writing faculty. I remember fondly your Accounting for Lawyers course, which taught the fundamentals of how businesses work, something which most liberal arts graduates, such as myself, are completely unaware of, and which stressed the importance of professional ethics—something that more teachers of law need to do. I also recall your outstanding role in garnering alumni support for the school and its many initiatives and for being an eloquent cheerleader for “all things Fordham.” During my years at the law school, I formed many wonderful friendships and enjoyed many great days, and for all of that I owe you more than I can say. Thanks, again, for everything. I thought that I'd drop you a line and I continue to be grateful for all your kindness and the help that you gave me in launching my association with Fordham Law School and all the wonderful friendships and good times that I had as a student and as a member of the staff. I will always remember your formative influence in my life.⁴⁷

46. Letter from George C. Ross to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

47. Letter from Robert Cooper to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

H. Student 8—Denis F. Cronin ('72)

Professor Gus Katsoris has been a magician for six decades. In his classes, he turned the driest of courses, tax and accounting, into classes that students looked forward to attending with great enthusiasm and interest.

So how did Professor Katsoris make tax and accounting interesting and welcoming? With his complete mastery of those subjects combined with his unique sense of humor. His class notes were humorous in themselves, with old yellowed notes sticking out of his class notebook with the new additions of fresh white notes. He told stories and jokes, and his students waited for the next tidbit to come. They were endless. He was an actor on stage, he knew his stagecraft well, and he had fun doing it all.

His courses were very challenging material and a student had to work hard to get a decent grade. There was no course for which it was harder to get a very high grade. He demanded excellence. As a student of his for four semesters of tax and accounting, I know how much to this day, in my legal and business lives, I use the tax and accounting courses he taught me so many years ago.

Gus loves Fordham Law School with a great Greek passion, and is often unable to repress his sometimes strong views on any given issue or problem the Law School is considering or in his view should be considering. Not only did he teach; he has attended countless Law School conventions, meetings and functions of all kinds and, of course, wakes and funerals. No one cares more about the people of the Fordham Law School community than Gus Katsoris. In appreciation of his sixty years of outstanding teaching and his contributions to the Fordham Law community, Gus belongs in the Pantheon of Fordham Law School professors and characters.

Thank you, Gus, for teaching three generations of law students how to think like lawyers, how to practice law in accordance with the highest ideals of the profession, and how to live our lives with the highest moral and ethical standards, a good heart, great passion, and the duty to serve others.

For all of these reasons, the legend of Professor Gus Katsoris will live on forever.⁴⁸

CONCLUSION

In September 2008, I was interviewed by *The New York Times* for an article entitled *A Legal Mind with No Quit In It*.⁴⁹ And over the years, I have always tried to reinvent myself. Accordingly, between the COVID-19 pandemic and six decades of teaching, I decided to slowly phase out my full-time teaching load at Fordham. I loved my long tenure at Fordham—particularly the pleasure of teaching so many young ambitious students in furthering their careers, a role I hope to continue as the opportunity arises. I

48. Letter from Denis F. Cronin, Chief Exec. Officer and President, Royalnest Corp., to Constantine Katsoris (on file with author).

49. Tina Kelley, *A Legal Mind with No Quit In It*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 11, 2008), <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/12/nyregion/12experience.html> [https://perma.cc/5DSA-CSKV].

wish to continue to make a difference in my aging years as a teacher and/or alumnus. Although hopefully my legal mind has not quit, my age and family obligations have started to creep up on me, and as General Douglas MacArthur once said, old soldiers never die; they simply fade away. On the other hand, the goal of service to all at Fordham *should never be permitted to fade away*.

In short, what the law school means to me is well expressed by my former colleague Robin A. Lenhardt, in a memorandum addressed to the faculty as she was leaving her post at Fordham:

When I walked through the doors of the “old law school” as a new member of the faculty, I knew that I had found what I was looking for—a career where I could continue to make a difference. But I was also clueless about the difference the Fordham community as a whole would make on me.

The last sixteen years have been some of the most important of my life. I have developed precious friendships, watched my children and those of my colleagues grow, and produced scholarship about the issues of race and equality that led me to legal academia, sometimes working in concert with Fordham colleagues. Even more, I have worked on the key initiatives and been challenged to think, stretch, and change in ways that I had never previously contemplated. As a community, we have had our hard times together and we have sometimes had our differences. But we have managed to move ahead together, focused on our students, Mission, and the larger community of which we are apart. For this and so many others, I could never hope to find the words to convey fully what my time at Fordham law school has meant. So, I won’t try to do so here. Instead, I will just say please keep in touch, keep fighting the good fight (especially in our current moment); and, of course, thank you. I can only hope that I have given you a fraction of what I have received. It has been a truly wonderful ride!⁵⁰

With gratitude and deep appreciation, I too will always be grateful for this truly wonderful ride!

50. Memorandum from Robin A. Lenhardt, Professor, Georgetown Univ. L. Ctr., to the faculty of Fordham L. Sch. (on file with author).