



Supreme Court Justice Scalia Speaks at Hofstra

On Wednesday October 2, 1991, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia spoke to an audience of nearly 1,000 Hofstra law students, attorneys, alumni, members of the state and federal bench and other invited guests. In his address, Justice Scalia criticized the reliance on legislative history in statutory interpretation. After lunch at the University Club, Justice Scalia met with the Law School faculty for a discussion of the topic of his speech as well as other areas of interest. In a lively session, Justice Scalia answered questions on a variety of topics including constitutional interpretation. At the end of the day, Justice Scalia was the guest of honor at a reception held in the Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall on the 10th floor of the Axinn Library. At the reception, students had an opportunity to talk with Justice Scalia informally.



Hofstra Graduate Ann Lokuta Becomes First Women Judge Elected in Luzerne County

"If you aspire to become an attorney, the idea of being a judge must follow" said Ann Lokuta '78 following her election as Luzerne County (PA) Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Lokuta was one of five candidates for four judgeships, but since three of the candidates held the nominations for both the Democratic and Republican Parties, the only real contest was between Democrat Lokuta and the Republican candidate, an experienced courtroom attorney and former Assistant District Attorney. Although he had years more experience than Lokuta, who was only 37 at the time, she had something else: strong grass roots support and a reputation earned in a previous bid for a judgeship as one of the hardest working campaigners on the local political scene. Despite the attacks made by her opponent based on her lack of experience, Lokuta cultivated the support of the Polish-American residents of the County and of women of all nationalities.

Such grass roots support was only natural for Lokuta who was born and raised in the area and who points with pride to her Polish heritage and to the fact that she achieved her success by her own hard work. Lokuta's family ran a neighborhood tavern in Dupont, PA and she often helped out there while she was growing up. After graduation from Hofstra in 1978, she returned to Dupont to practice law. She has maintained a private practice in the town where she was born and raised, also serving at times as an Assistant District Attorney in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, as a Mental Health Hearing Officer and as solicitor to the Luzerne County Register of Wills.

Judge Lokuta stated during her campaign that "These are challenging times and they require individuals who are prepared to dedicate themselves to confronting these challenges." There is no doubt that she is up to that challenge and that her intelligence and integrity will make her a valuable asset to Luzerne County.



Hon. John R. Dunne, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, with students Lourdes Reyes and Robert Pipia, following the Max Schertz Distinguished Professorship Lecture "Civil Rights in the 1990s" delivered by Mr. Dunne.