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The Board of Editors and Staff
of the Hofstra Law Review
dedicate this issue to:

ERIC J. SCHMERTZ

Dean, Hofstra University School of Law
1982-1989
Eric Schmertz is a "presence" who makes a difference. This has been the reward of Hofstra University's School of Law which he led for six and one-half years.

Eric added his own touch of class as well as concrete and permanent achievements to the vibrant life of this still young law school. All parts of the law school benefitted from his deanship. He dealt with the very spirit of the school when at the outset of his deanship, he encouraged what continues to be a successful effort to increase the number of minority group students at the law school. He addressed significant physical needs of Hofstra Law School — at the end of the deanship, builders began digging the foundation for a new law school library building. Much was accomplished for students and faculty and the institution as a whole. University and private contributions to the law school's scholarship funds increased dramatically during his tenure as dean. As a final expression of his concern for students, Eric, who worked his way through New York University's Law School, began the Alumni Scholarship Fund which continues to receive contributions from loyal alumni. The quality of placement, as well as the numbers placed, were dramatically enhanced by virtue of his support of the competent and dedicated placement office created during his tenure. For the faculty, who he believed should be recognized in a way consistent with the esteem in which he holds them, he created fourteen endowed professorships. Through these professorships and the contributions by friends of the Hofstra Law School, distinguished speakers regularly appeared at the school, and the law school's reputation and value to the community, its students and alumni grew.

The Schmertz deanship began and ended with those great black tie dinners when the faculty and staff felt as one with each other and Hofstra Law School; there were many dinners and festive occasions in-between. These festivities and the physical and financial benefits are only a part of the Schmertz experience and legacy. For the faculty, at least as important, is the knowledge that it was a period in which they were afforded the freedom to realize the best in themselves, for themselves and for the school. The faculty is grateful that they were there when Hofstra was (heaven forbid) fun and growing. They, the students, the alumni and the staff hope that Eric feels the same way — it was a delightful period, black tie and all, and a source of pride for all who shared it.
THE HONORABLE ROBERT W. SWEET
United States District Court Judge,
Southern District of New York

Deaning is yet another example of Eric Schmertz's versatility. A lawyer, arbitrator, negotiator, and problem-solver, he has now added to his laurels academic achievement at the highest level—strengthening and enhancing a fine law school.

Central to this latest success is his understanding and devotion to process, a key element to both education and justice. For over twenty years I have seen Eric's skill and wisdom as he has dealt with process, whether a complicated negotiation, a difficult arbitration, or a complex institution. His clear head, strong back, and iron posterior have produced great results for his city, his clients, and his school.

The concept of process, the law, society, and Hofstra Law School have been benefitted by Eric's participation and will continue to be so in the future.
ROBERT COLSON
President, American Arbitration Association

Dean Eric J. Schmertz is a model alumnus of the American Arbitration Association where he labored, early in his distinguished career, as assistant vice president. Since then, Dean Schmertz has become one of the nation's popular labor arbitrators and provided strong and effective leadership to Hofstra University Law School.

Entering labor arbitration in 1960, Schmertz built a strong reputation in the emerging field, serving as impartial chair for the nursing home industry, for the New York City Firefighters and for numerous private sector industries. He served as a public member of the New York City of Collective Bargaining and was selected to arbitrate thousands of ad hoc cases involving almost every kind of job. An active member of the National Academy of Arbitrators, Schmertz has given himself to educating members of the labor management community and the public.

A graduate of Union College and New York University Law School, Schmertz continued his interest in the academic world. During his tenure at Hofstra, he has strengthened the standing of the Law School, encouraging it to develop a special interest in alternative dispute resolution, a growing field of intense practical importance to lawyers. Among many improvements, he created a funded chair of alternative dispute resolution, a first in legal education.

Eric Schmertz is a welcome combination of professional competence and cheerful skepticism, exactly the correct recipe for a mediator or arbitrator. He quickly understands the underlying causes of his client's controversies and is able to help them find a reasonable solution in virtually every case.

It has been a personal pleasure for me to have worked with Dean Schmertz for over twenty-five years, particularly since he became a member of the board of the American Arbitration Association. He has been a valuable source of advice and enthusiasm.

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