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Matthew Ryan Law & Public Policy Forum: 2007

Marjorie O. Rendell

Stephen J. McEwen Jr.

Jane Leslie Dalton

Rebecca Love Kourlis

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First Annual
MATTHEW J. RYAN
LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY FORUM
JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY
March 30, 2007 | National Constitution Center | Philadelphia, PA
THE MATTHEW J. RYAN
LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

honors the memory of one of Villanova Law's most distinguished alumni, the Honorable Matthew J. Ryan '59, the former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. This annual public forum will foster discussion of current questions of law and public policy important to the Commonwealth and the nation.

The Matthew J. Ryan Law and Public Policy Forum brings together distinguished legal scholars, legislators, government officials and other public figures in a bipartisan atmosphere of full and frank discussion and analysis. The goal of the Forum is to make a significant contribution to important public debates, to perpetuate the memory of Matthew J. Ryan's many contributions to public service.

Mr. Ryan who died in March 2003, was elected to his first house term in 1962, a Republican representing Delaware County. He served as majority leader for the 1979-80 session, and was first elected speaker in 1981. From 1983 to 1994, he was minority leader. He was elected speaker for his second two-year term in 1995 and for each successive two year term until his death. In 1999, the Capitol Annex was renamed the Speaker Matthew J. Ryan Legislative Office Building, a rare honor for a living legislator.

The Ryan Forum was made possible by the generosity of his many friends and the leadership of Arthur J. Kania '56, Albert A. Lindner '68, James E. McErlane '67 and Richard Phillips '66.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

is a cornerstone of American society. However, aspects of judicial independence are also controversial, sparking pockets of opposition. The collection of distinguished speakers at the Inaugural Ryan Forum will explore judicial independence from a variety of angles. For example, how can accountability enhance judicial independence? Furthermore, what is the connection between judicial independence and modes of judicial selection?
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<td>8:00-9:00</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Welcome, Introduction and Background</td>
<td>Dean Mark A. Sargent and PBA President Ken Horoho</td>
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<td>10:45-11:00</td>
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<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td>Judicial Accountability</td>
<td>Moderated by PBA President-elect Andrew Susko, The Honorable Rebecca Love Kourlis, former Justice, Colorado Supreme Court; Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, University of Denver, Penelope Pether, Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law, David B. Rottman, Principal Court Research Consultant, National Center for State Courts. Questions and Answers.</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>3:15-3:30</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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Judicial Independence in Perspective

MARJORIE O. RENDELL is a cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received her Juris Doctor degree from the Villanova University School of Law in 1973. Upon graduation from law school, she joined the law firm of Duane, Morris & Heckscher, where she subsequently became the firm's second woman partner. Over the course of her 20-year career as a practicing attorney, she specialized in bankruptcy law and commercial litigation, served as a mediator for the United States District Court, and was a frequent speaker at law-related seminars and panels.

She was inducted as a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in March of 1994. Judge Rendell was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in November of 1997. She is the Chair of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and also serves on several Third Circuit committees.

Judge Rendell is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, an inaugural member and Master of the Villanova University School of Law J. Willard O'Brien Inn of Court, an elected member of The American Law Institute, a member of the Federal Judges Association, the American Judicature Society and the National Association of Women Judges.

Judge Rendell is a former Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia and has served on the boards of many charitable and civic organizations. At Penn, Judge Rendell is currently Chair of the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, a member of the Board of Overseers of Penn Medicine, and a member of the Trustees Council of Penn Women. Additionally, she is the Chair of Avenue of the Arts, Inc., and a member of the board of directors of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

STEPHEN J. MCEWEN, JR. commenced service on the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 1981, and was President Judge from 1996-2001. He was twice appointed by the Supreme Court in the 1980s to the Judicial Inquiry and Review Board, and in 1996, was appointed by Governor Tom Ridge to the Court of Judicial Discipline, and was thereafter elected President Judge of that Court.

The Supreme Court appointed him in October 2005 to serve with Chief Justice Emeritus John P. Flaherty as co-chair of the Pennsylvania Judicial Independence Commission.

Judge McEwen pursued his study of the law at St. Joseph's College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, was in 1986 awarded the degree of Master of Laws by the University of Virginia Law School, and has received Honorary Doctorates from DeSales University, Widener University Law School, and the University of Scranton.

Judge McEwen, a trial lawyer for 23 years, was the elected District Attorney of Delaware County from 1967-1976, and thereafter served as General Counsel for the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. He was a Professor of Trial Advocacy at Villanova University Law School for 10 years, and recently served as Editor of the “Appellate Judges News” section of the ABA Judicial Division Record and on the Editorial Board of the ABA Judges Journal.

Judge McEwen is a Past President of the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal, is on the Board of Advisors of the ABA United Nations Development Project, and is a member of the American Law Institute. During the summers of 2000-2002, he was a USAID lecturer in Bulgaria, and in July 2004 was appointed by the Republic of Bulgaria to serve as Honorary Consul.

JANE LESLIE DALTON is a partner in the law firm of Duane Morris LLP, head of its nationwide employment litigation group, and practices in the areas of employment discrimination and personnel law. She defends in court and at the agency level all claims of discrimination, including those based on age, race, sex, handicap, religion, national origin, disability or other discrimination, and alleged violations of the Commonwealth's fair housing practices laws. She also represents clients regarding sexual harassment claims, which are often coupled with others, such as wrongful discharge, breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, intentional infliction of emotional harm and defamation. In addition, Dalton consults with clients to avoid litigation related to termination decisions, disciplinary actions, or sexual or discriminatory harassment by employees. She also advises clients on complying with requirements under federal laws, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act. She has represented numerous diverse clients including various colleges and universities, health care providers and medical
facilities, apartment complex owners, and financial and legal institutions. Dalton is the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. She is a member of the Section of Litigation and the Labor and Employment Law Section of the American Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Additionally, she is a member of the Defense Research Institute and the National Association of College and University Attorneys. In 2006, Dalton served as Chair of the Merit Selection Panel for the Appointment of U.S. Magistrate Judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is a 1971 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a graduate of Smith College.

Moderator

MARK A. SARGENT was born in New London, Connecticut in 1951 and was educated at Wesleyan University, where he graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in the College of Letters in 1973. Awarded a Danforth Fellowship for graduate study in 1973, he earned an M.A. in Medieval Studies in 1975 from Cornell University, where he concentrated in political theory and Italian literature. He entered Cornell Law School in 1975, graduating in 1978, and went on to practice corporate and securities law with the Boston law firm of Caspari & Bok.

He began his law teaching career in 1980, and is currently Dean and Professor of Law at Villanova University School of Law. Before coming to Villanova in 1997, he was Piper & Marbury Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the Law & Entrepreneurship Program at the University of Maryland School of Law. He has also taught at the law schools of American University, Southern Methodist University and the University of Baltimore.

Dean Sargent's legal specialties are securities regulation and corporate law, and he has published extensively in those fields. Among his distinctions in his areas of expertise are his appointments as a member of the American Law Institute, as Reporter for the Revision of the Uniform Securities Act for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, as Editor of The Business Lawyer, and as a former member of the National Adjudicatory Council of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., the national self-regulatory organization for the brokerage industry. He also has served as an arbitrator in securities and corporate law disputes, an administrative hearing judge in state securities enforcement actions and an expert witness for the Securities and Exchange Commission, state securities regulators and private litigants. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Villanova Journal of Law and Investment Management, a peer-reviewed journal he founded in 1997.

Dean Sargent has served on the boards of community organizations as well as business entities, and has assumed leadership roles in bar activities at both the national and the state levels. While at the University of Maryland, he chaired a successful search committee for the presidency of a major research university and served in leadership capacities at both the campus and inter-campus levels.

In addition to teaching courses in securities regulation, business associations, mergers & acquisitions, corporate and white collar crime and related topics, he has taught law school courses in American legal history, which he studied as a participant in a National Endowment for the Humanities program at Stanford Law School. He also has been long active in creating clinical law and pro bono service programs in various aspects of poverty and human rights law at both Villanova and the University of Maryland. His current research and teaching interests are principally in the area of Catholic Social Thought and the Law.

Judicial Accountability

REBECCA LOVE KOURLIS served as a Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court for eleven years, the third woman ever to serve in that capacity. During her tenure, Justice Kourlis authored more than 200 opinions and dissents and spearheaded significant reforms in the court system relating to matters such as family law, juries and attorney regulation. She also served as a trial court judge for eight years.

Justice Kourlis resigned from the state Supreme Court in January, 2006 to establish the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver, where she is Executive Director. IAALS is a national legal reform organization whose primary mission is to provide innovative and actionable recommendations for the improvement of America's courts. It is the only university-based institute of its kind in the nation.

Under her leadership, the Institute recently released an exhaustive study detailing judicial performance standards on a state-by-state basis. Entitled, "Shared Expectations: Judicial Accountability in Context," the nationally lauded report is the first comprehensive survey of judicial performance standards nationwide. It showcases the best practices of several states, and offers a blueprint for jurisdictions that are struggling to implement their own judicial performance evaluation programs. Since its release in October, 2006 IAALS has been contacted by 36 states, including 10 Supreme Court Chief Justices and 28 state court administrators.
Justice Kourlis has received a number of honors, including the Colorado Judicial Institute's 2006 Judicial Independence Award, the Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Judicial Excellence Award in 2002 and the Colorado Women's Bar Association Mary Lathrop Award in 2001. Justice Kourlis earned her B.A. in English from Stanford University and her J.D. from Stanford University Law School.

Professors Pether is Professor of Law at Villanova University School of Law, where she teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Law and Literature, and Comparative Constitutional Law. She was formerly Professor of Law and Director of Legal Rhetoric at American University Washington College of Law, and Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Sydney, where she earned her bachelor's and law degrees and Ph.D. in English Literature. She has been a visiting faculty member at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in English literature as a visiting faculty member in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California-Irvine, and as a member of the Department of English at the University of Sydney, where she also taught courses in Semiotics and Women's Studies.


Professor Pether is a member of the ABA Criminal Justice Section's Judicial Function Committee, and a former member of the Operations Review Committee of the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption. She was the first non-judge to teach opinion-writing in Australia's National Judicial Orientation Program.

DAVID B. ROTTMAN is a Principal Court Research Consultant at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), where he has worked since 1987. His responsibilities include compilation of four editions in the State Court Organization reference series, including the recently published 2004 edition. His research interests include minority group perceptions of the courts, the pros and cons of problem-solving courts, judicial selection, and judicial campaign oversight committees. Rottman is a former director of the NCSC Court Statistics Project and is the lead staff for the Election Law Program established jointly by the NCSC and the College of William and Mary School of Law. His recent publications include "The White Decision in the Court of Opinion," "Trust and Confidence in the California Courts: A Survey of the Public and Attorneys" and "The State Courts in 2005: A Year of Living Dangerously." Rottman's work on judicial selection includes the expanded edition with commentary of the "Call to Action: Statement of the National Summit on Improving Judicial Selection." A sociologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Rottman previously worked at the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin, Ireland, and taught at the National University of Ireland and the University of Connecticut. Rottman is the co-author of books on community justice, social inequality, and modern Ireland.

Moderator

ANDREW SUSKO is currently President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and will become President of the 28,000 member organization in June of 2007. He is a Past Chair and present member of the PBA House of Delegates, 1998-99, and a past Chair of the PBA's Young Lawyers Division, and is serving in his third term on the PBA's Board of Governors. He is also a past Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and later served as an elected member of the Philadelphia Bar's Board of Governors. Susko is a past Chair of Project Peace, 1999-2000, dispute resolution for elementary and middle school students, and is active in the Philadelphia area pro bono community as a member of the Advisory Board of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled and as a previous member
of the Board of the Homeless Advocacy Project. In 2004, 2005 and 2006, Susko was selected in a survey of his peers as a Pennsylvania “Super Lawyer” by Law & Politics magazine. He has been AV rated by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system.

Susko is a partner in and chair of the Litigation Department at White and Williams. He also chairs the Life, Health, and Disability and Insurance Fraud Practice Groups. He has been a trial attorney for the past 20 years and has extensive jury trial experience in the areas of insurance fraud, disability law, bad faith and extracontractual damage claims, medical malpractice, products liability, and general commercial and negligence cases.

Susko concentrates his practice on fighting insurance fraud, including fraud in insurance applications and in the presentation of fraudulent insurance claims. He lectures extensively in the areas of insurance fraud, the trial of civil cases, including presenting the company witness for deposition and trial, and litigation of bad faith and extracontractual damage claims. Susko is a former President of the Pennsylvania Defense Institute.

Susko received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics in 1978, graduating summa cum laude, from Florida State University. He received his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 1981 where he served as a member of the Law Review and was selected to its Board of Editors.

The Link Between Judicial Selection and Judicial Independence

DARREN M. BRESLIN received his Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Joseph’s University in 1994 and his Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law in 1999. From 1995-1999 he served as a Legal Intern for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court (AOPC). Upon graduating from Widener University School of Law, he accepted a position as a Staff Attorney with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court’s Legal Department. In this position Breslin represented Pennsylvania jurists and the Unified Judicial System in federal and state courts. He also served as Counsel to Intergovernmental Task Force to Study the District Justice System, Quality of Justice Subcommittee and as Counsel to the District Justice Ad Hoc Committee from 2001 - 2002. In 2003, he left the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to be an Assistant Public Defender in Delaware County. He returned to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in 2004 where he currently serves as Special Projects Advisor. As the administrative arm of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) carries out the court’s policy and management directives while also providing policy guidance, administrative support, technical assistance, and legal representation for the jurists and staff of Pennsylvania’s Unified Judicial System and its 60 judicial districts. Breslin also serves as Counsel to the Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence. In February 2007, Breslin served as a researcher and co-author for the Pennsylvania Public Health Law Bench Book.

THOMAS G. SAYLOR received his B.A. from the University of Virginia in 1969 and his J.D. from Columbia University in 1972. In 2004, he received his LL.M. from the University of Virginia.

Saylor opened his own practice in 1972. From 1973-1976 he served as First Assistant District Attorney in Somerset County. From 1982-1983 he was Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection. He then served as First Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until he returned to private practice in 1987. In 1993, he was elected as a Judge for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. He was re-elected in 1997.

Judge Saylor is a member of the American Bar Association Appellate Judges Conference, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Cumberland County Bar Association and the Dauphin County Bar Association. He also belongs to the American Law Institute and is a member of the Board of Overseers for Widener University School of Law.


BENJAMIN WITTES is a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution and a columnist for The New Republic Online. Since 1997, he has been an editorial writer for The Washington Post specializing in legal affairs. He is the author of Starr: A Reassessment, which was published in 2002 by Yale University Press and Confirmation Wars: Preserving Independent Courts in Angry Times, published in 2006 by Rowman & Littlefield and the Hoover Institution. He is a contributing editor for The Atlantic Monthly.
Before joining the editorial page staff of *The Post*, Wittes covered the Justice Department and federal regulatory agencies as a reporter and news editor at *Legal Times*. His writing has also appeared in a wide range of journals and magazines, including *Slate, The New Republic, The Weekly Standard, Policy Review*, and *First Things*.

**ROBERTO A. RIVERA-SOTO** was nominated by the Governor of the State of New Jersey on April 20, 2004 to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. He was confirmed by the Senate on June 10, 2004, and was sworn in on September 1, 2004 in a private ceremony. On September 14, 2004, he reaffirmed the oath of office in a public ceremony at the Trenton War Memorial.

At the time of his nomination, Justice Rivera-Soto was a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, resident in their offices in Princeton, NJ and Philadelphia, PA. He had previously served as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Caesars World, Inc. and as vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Great Bay Hotel and Casino, Inc. in Atlantic City. From 1980 to 1983, he was a litigation associate at Fox Rothschild. From 1978 to 1980, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. During 1977, Justice Rivera-Soto interned in the Office of the District Attorney of Delaware County, PA.

Justice Rivera-Soto graduated with high honors from Colegio Nuestra Señora Del Pilar, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1970. He is a 1974 honors graduate of Haverford College, where he was the Jose Padin Scholar of the Class of 1974. He received his J.D. in 1977 from Cornell University School of Law, where he was a Charles K. Burdick Scholar, and a Moot Court Board member.

Prior to serving on the Court, Justice Rivera-Soto was a Certified Mediator in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey; he also was a member and chair of the District VII Ethics Committee of the Supreme Court of New Jersey; a former member of the Board of Directors of the "Please Touch" Museum, the children's museum of Philadelphia; a former member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Development Authority for Small Businesses, Minorities and Women's Enterprises; a former alternate member of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of Nevada; and a former Instructor in Trial Advocacy at Rutgers (Camden) School of Law.

Justice Rivera-Soto's work as an Assistant United States Attorney was recognized by the Attorney General of the United States when, in 1980, he was awarded the United States Department of Justice's "Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney." He also received commendations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms of the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Custom Service, for his handling of various cases.

**Moderator**

**DORIS DEL TOSTO BROGAN** joined the Villanova University School of Law faculty in 1983, and has served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs since 1992. Her teaching and research focuses on Conflict of Laws, Domestic Abuse, Ethics, Torts and Family Law. Dean Brogan has published several articles on ethics and domestic relations. Her works include: "Attorney Client Privilege and Conflicts of Interest, Legal Ethics for Trial Lawyers" (Pa. Trial Lawyers Ass'n Course Text); "Lawyers Responses to Client Perjury Under the New Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct—What Judges Can Expect;" "Divorce Settlement Agreements: The Problem of Merger or Incorporation and the Status of the Agreement in Relation to the Decree," 67 Neb. L. Rev. 235; and "The Domestic Relations Exceptions to Federal Diversity Jurisdiction, Matrimonial Litigation: Across State Lines" (PBI Program Course Text).

Dean Brogan graduated *magna cum laude* from Villanova University School of Law, where she was the Research and Projects Editor of the Villanova Law Review and elected to the Order of the Coif. Following graduation from law school, she was an associate attorney in the Philadelphia office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

She has served as an instructor in ethics for Continuing Legal Education Programs of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.