

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

*Carol Henderson, J.D.**

At the 49th Annual Meeting of the AAFS in New York, a new educational venue was offered: the Academy-Wide Luncheon. Modeled after the breakfast seminars, the luncheon seminars try to feature presentations on intellectually challenging and stimulating topics by distinguished speakers. We reproduce here, as a service to readers, one of the presentations at the inaugural Academy-Wide luncheon seminar from the 49th annual meeting in February, 1997.

Introduction

It is an honor and a privilege for me to introduce Judge Jack Weinstein as our Inaugural Academy Wide Luncheon speaker. As a complete recitation of Judge Weinstein's many accomplishments would take up the entire time allotted for his presentation, I have chosen to mention some of the highlights of his illustrious career.

Judge Weinstein was born in Wichita, Kansas, and educated in New York City. He received a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in 1943, and a law degree from Columbia University in 1948. In 1949 and 1950 he served as a law clerk to Judge Stanley Fuld of the New York Court of Appeals. After a brief time in private practice, he joined the law faculty of Columbia University. He has continued to teach there and at many other law schools. He was the chief drafter of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, and was a member of the Advisory Committee that drafted the Federal Rules of Evidence.

After serving as County Attorney of Nassau County, New York,

*Professor of Law, Shepard Broad Law Center, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale FL; a fellow of the jurisprudence section, and a member of the Academy's Board of Directors, Prof. Henderson was co-chair (with Dr. Robert Weinstock) of the academy-wide luncheon seminars.

Judge Weinstein was appointed to the federal bench in 1967 by President Johnson on the recommendation of Senator Robert Kennedy. He was Chief Judge of the Eastern District of New York from 1980 to 1988.

Judge Weinstein is renowned as a scholar as well as an innovative jurist. His long time interest in Scientific Evidence and other evidentiary issues has resulted in a prolific body of insightful scholarship.

He is the author of 145 articles as well as many books including the well known multi volume treatise, *WEINSTEIN'S EVIDENCE*.

In recent years, Judge Weinstein has influenced substantive and procedural aspects of the law of mass tort litigation. He has helped create efficient yet compassionate solutions to problems created by Vietnam veterans' exposure to Agent Orange and to the health hazards associated with asbestos and DES.

Judge Weinstein is also active in many professional and charitable organizations. He has been the recipient of numerous honors including Honorary Doctorate Degrees from 5 universities and the National Law Journal's Lawyer of the Year Award (1993).

Thus, Judge Weinstein is bringing us his unique judicial perspective developed during a lifetime of dedication to public service, legal education, scientific and ethical pursuits.

Today Judge Weinstein will be addressing us on the timely topic of: "Enhancing the Relationship of Science and the Courts."