

Dear Fellow Members:

As you read this column, my penultimate one as NYIPLA President, our March 25th Judges' Dinner will have already occurred. For those members who were able to attend, my hope is that you had a pleasant and memorable evening.

As an aside, Past President John Pegram observed that all three federal judges honored at the Dinner have names beginning with a "G", causing him to think that I must have a penchant for the letter "G". In an "ah-ha" moment, John recalled that my wife's name begins with a "G". Good golly!

Unfortunately, some of our members were not able to attend the Dinner, for reasons of health, location or schedule. Especially for you, my Welcome Letter is reproduced below, as it appeared in the Dinner program book.

If you were unable to attend, please feel free to reach out to Feikje Van Rein at fvanrein@robinrolferesources.com to request a complimentary copy of the compact disc about Judge Rich's life that was distributed at the Dinner.

"I am most pleased to welcome you to the 89th Annual Dinner in Honor of the Federal Judiciary.

On this occasion, it is fitting to consider Samuel Taylor Coleridge's words: 'often the spirits of great events stride on before the events, and in today already walks tomorrow.' Our gathering here at the Waldorf promises to be a great event. Perhaps the spirits of the great minds of those who have graced our Association's gatherings in decades past are here beside us now. If you look around the room through your mind's eye, you may sense their presence.

Tonight, we honor one such great mind from the past, that of Judge Giles Rich. Some of you knew him personally, others may know of him, and still others may wish to learn about him. For each of you, the Association has a gift for you to read and hopefully treasure.

The gift is a CD at the back of the program book. The CD contains a journal prepared by the Federal Circuit Historical Society. The journal speaks to Judge Rich's passions, including his love of the law and his family, and his resolve to maintain a strong patent system. My short article in it discusses the NYIPLA's role in facilitating Judge Rich's career growth.

Tonight, we also honor great minds from among our living federal judges. Judge Arthur Gajarsa, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, is the recipient of our Association's ninth annual Outstanding Public Service Award. Judge John Gleeson, of the U.S.

District Court for the Eastern District on New York, is our Keynote Speaker.

All three judges can truly feel at home in our region. Judge Gajarsa launched his career as a patent examiner in the U.S. Patent Office, and later worked as a patent advisor for the Department of Defense, and as a patent agent for a Washington, D.C. IP boutique in patent litigation involving an early electronic computer.

Judge Gajarsa has ties to New York and Connecticut. He received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Currently, he Chairs RPI's Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Connecticut bar, and early in his career worked for an insurance company in Hartford, CT.

Judge Gleeson began his career at Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York. Later, he became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, and eventually rose to Chief of the Criminal Division.

Judge Gleeson is co-author of the treatise *Federal Criminal Practice: A Second Circuit Handbook*, LexisNexis (10th Edition 2010). He has taught courses at Brooklyn Law School and the University of Virginia School of Law. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at New York University School of Law where he teaches courses in Complex Federal Investigations and Sentencing.

Judge Rich started at his father's patent firm in Manhattan at the beginning of the Great Depression. Later, he taught patent courses as an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's School of General Studies in the 1940s and 1950s.

Judge Rich was NYIPLA President in 1950-51. He co-authored the Patent Act of 1952. In his "second career" as a member of the judiciary, he went on to become the longest-lived, active federal judge in the history of our country, passing away in 1999 at age 95.

To each of these judges and their families, I say: 'Welcome home'.

To all judges present, and their families, I say: 'Thank you for joining us. You make this gathering possible.'

To my wife, Ginger, the rest of my family, friends, colleagues, and mentors, I say: 'Thank you. Your selfless support lifts me to the podium this evening.'

To all attendees, I say: 'Thank you for being here. Take hope from Mr. Coleridge's words: '...in today already walks tomorrow.'"

With kind regards,

Dale Carlson
NYIPLA President

