

## The Society's Achievements Since its Founding in 2003

### Annual Lecture Series

- **2003.** *The Framing of the Constitution: New York's Role.* Speakers: John P. Kaminski (University of Wisconsin-Madison), John M. Murrin (Princeton University) and Pauline Maier (MIT)
- **2004.** *Chancellor James Kent and the Origins of Law Reporting and Legal Education.* Speakers: John H. Langbein (Yale University) and Gary D. Spivey, (New York State Law Reporter).
- **2005.** *David Dudley Field and the Code Concept.* Speaker: Philip J. Bergan and Edward L. Widmer.
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### *An Empire of Reason -- The History of Federalism in America.*

- This 2005 program featured a screening of the award-winning film, *An Empire of Reason*, and a panel discussion with the Honorable Richard C. Wesley, Muffie Meyer (the film's producer), and the actor Francois Giroday.

### *New York Legal History*

The 2005 inaugural issue of the Journal includes:

- *The Empire State: The Antifederalist and Federalist Perspectives* by John P. Kaminski (University of Wisconsin-Madison).
- *Rights, Revolution, and New York's Ratification of Constitution* by Pauline Maier (MIT).
- *Ratification as a Revolutionary Moment* by John M. Murrin (Princeton University).
- *Oral History: Judge of Richard D. Simons*
- *Sketching a map for an Uncertain Future: New York's Constitution of 1777* by Edward Countryman (Southern Methodist University).

### Oral History

- **2003/04.** New York Court of Appeals Senior Associate Judge Richard D. Simons. Interviewer: David McCraw, Counsel to the New York Times and former Law Clerk to Judge Simons.
- **2004/5.** Associate Judge Bernard S. Meyer (New York Court of Appeals). Publication of the NYSBA Foundation-sponsored oral history.
- **2004/05.** Hon. Richard J. Bartlett, the State's first Chief Administrative Judge. Interviewer: Stephen Younger, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler.
- **2004/05.** New York Court of Appeals Associate Judge Matthew J. Jasen. Interviewer: Michael B. Powers, Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber LLP and former Law Clerk to Judge Jasen.

### Exhibits

- **2003-- New York's Ratification of the Federal Constitution.** A permanent exhibit in the rotunda of the New York Judicial Institute, White Plains, New York, consisting of digital prints of the engrossed parchments of (1) the proposed federal constitution; (2) New York convention's endorsing statement,

including its concerns and reservations; (3) New York's ratification; (4) the directive from the Poughkeepsie Convention to the New York delegation to Congress recommending amendments to be proposed to and adopted by the Congress; (5) the 11th amendment sent by Congress to New York for ratification and (6) the beautiful tooled leather cover that binds the parchments together. Mounted in partnership with the New York State Library and the New York State Archives.

- **2003-- 17th and 18th Century Legal Texts.** A permanent rotating exhibits in Court of Appeals Hall, Albany, New York. The books exhibited form part of the library of the Court of Appeals and were rebound and restored under the auspices of the Historical Society. Mounted in partnership with the new York Court of Appeals.
- **2004-- The History of Court of Appeals Hall, Albany, New York.** A permanent exhibit in Court of Appeals Hall, Albany, New York, documenting the history of this beautiful 170 year-old building listed in the National Register of Historic Places and home to many outstanding jurists, including Justice Benjamin Cardozo. Mounted in partnership with the New York Court of Appeals.

## Newsletter

- **Vol 1, # 1.** Judge Edward Korman of the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, describes his experience as a Law Clerk to Court of Appeals Judge Kenneth Keating from 1966-1968. Former Court of Appeals Judge Stewart F. Hancock, Jr. adds a colorful portrayal of Barnes v. Roosevelt, a 1915 libel case the Syracuse Post-Standard deemed among "the greatest political contests in the history of the United States." Lastly, Professor Merrill Sobie documents the 40-year history of New York State's Family Court.
- **Vo. 1, # 2.** Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, recounts his time as a Law Clerk to Court of Appeals Chief Judge Stanley H. Fuld. John D. Gordan III (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius) reports on an 1817 prosecution for criminal libel relating to a portrait of Aaron H. Palmer painted by European artist Francis Mezzara. Gary Spivey, New York State Reporter, celebrates the 200th anniversary of the New York Official Reports, and City Court Judge Penelope D. Clute examines the 1825 capital case of People v Peggy Facto.
- **Vol 1, # 3.** Professor David Siegel, Distinguished Professor of Law, Albany Law School, recalls his clerkship with Court of Appeals Chief Judge Albert Conway. John Q. Barrett, Professor of Law, St. John's University, describes Robert H. Jackson's oral arguments before the New York Court of Appeals. Henry Greenberg (Greenburg, Traurig) introduces Chief Judge Lehman's address welcoming General Eisenhower to New York City, Carol Kammen, Senior

Lecturer in History, Cornell University, describes the early 20th century debate over women's jury service and Judge Brian D. Burns profiles the courthouses of Cooperstown, New York.

### Calendar

- **2003.** Twelve historic pictures, reproduced in sepia, of courthouses throughout New York State. A brief historic description accompanies each photograph.
- **2004.** Reproductions in full color of late 19th and early 20th century postcards depicting New York courthouses, each accompanied by a brief historical sketch.
- **2005.** This award-winning calendar reproduces another selection of historic postcards featuring New York courthouses. Each page includes a brief description of the significance of the courthouse.
- **2006.** This year's calendar, in a rich red with a cream background, again draws on Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt's wonderful collection of historic postcards. In addition to the courthouse depictions, historians in each of the featured counties have contributed vignettes highlighting an important part of that county's legal or judicial history.

### Website

- Designed and launched in 2003
- Includes portraits and photographs of judges and other notable legal figures accompanied by brief biographies
- Contains pictures of existing and former courthouses in New York State with accompanying text
- Makes accessible commemorative booklets issued to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Court of Appeals, the centennial of the Appellate Division, and the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court.
- Showcases materials related to Crown v Zenger (free speech); and People v Gillette, the Herkimer County murder case upon which Theodore Dreiser based his novel *An American Tragedy*.
- Reproduces the text of the *1683 Charter of Liberties* as well as the texts of the constitutions and constitutional amendments of 1777, 1801, 1821, 1862, 1869 (Judiciary Article), and 1894. Also includes a tabular record of every proposition to amend the constitution since 1777, together with the popular vote for and against.