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The President's Letter

This issue of *The ALI Reporter* carries the story of the awarding of the first Henry J. Friendly Medal to the recently deceased Judge Edward Weinfeld. However, that factual report should be supplemented by my conveying to you the sense of warmth and affection that prevailed in Judge Weinfeld's home, when, on the day before his death, in the presence of his family and a few of his clerks and close friends, we presented to him a handsome framed scroll commemorating the awarding of the Medal. I spoke briefly, and referring to the lives of Judges Friendly and Weinfeld, I said:

We view this as a celebration of the intellectual and spiritual kinship of two individuals that have so much in common. There is a universal admiration in the legal world for the integrity and quality of the scholarship of these two men; a universal appreciation of their dedication to public service and to the improvement of the processes of government; and a universal recognition of the humanity and quality of friendship and love that is in you, Ed, and that Henry displayed in his lifetime.

I also read a few passages from Henry Friendly's great tribute to Judge Weinfeld in an essay entitled *The Ideal Judge*, 50 N.Y.U.L. Rev. 977 (1975).

Judge Weinfeld replied at some length, in an extraordinarily clear and strong voice, expressing his great appreciation to the ALI, his admiration for Henry Friendly, and his reminiscences as to events

shared with some of those present. It was a moving occasion that none of us will ever forget.

Members of the Institute will appreciate the letter Judge Weinfeld had written to me four weeks earlier, while still in the hospital:

I cannot tell you what extraordinary joy and pleasure I received from your unexpected announcement that the American Law Institute had designated me as the recipient of the Henry J. Friendly award. Henry, of course, was one of the recognized legal giants of the Twentieth Century, together with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Benjamin N. Cardozo and Louis D. Brandeis. Entirely apart from Henry's extraordinary contribution to our constitutional system, I had a rare and close friendship with him. It existed from the time he came to the Court, and as often as he and I discussed the alchemy that brought us into that close relationship, we could never explain it. It was a rare privilege in my life.

Needless to say, I am deeply moved by the award, and my colleagues of the Southern District of New York, who through the years have served to bring the Southern District to its place of preeminence in the judicial hierarchy, are entitled to share this award with me.

With deepest gratitude,

Sincerely,

Edward

--Roswell B. Perkins

Judge Weinfeld First Recipient of Friendly Medal

President Roswell B. Perkins presented the Institute's first Henry J. Friendly Medal to Judge Edward Weinfeld of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on January 16 in a ceremony at Judge Weinfeld's home in New York City. The presentation took place just one day before Judge Weinfeld's death of cancer at the age of 86.

(Continued on page 8)

Friendly Medal

(Continued from page 1)

The Medal is a new award created by the Institute in memory of Judge Friendly and endowed by his former law clerks. The Medal will not necessarily be presented on an annual basis, but will be reserved for outstanding recipients who have made contributions to the law in the tradition of Judge Friendly and the Institute.

Born in New York City in 1901, Judge Weinfeld graduated from New York University Law School in 1921 and maintained his own law practice from 1924 until 1950. He served as a delegate to New York's Constitutional Convention of 1938 and was the nation's first Commissioner of Public Housing under New York Governor Herbert Lehman. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1950 and at the time of his death was the most senior active federal judge in the United States. From 1971 to 1979 Judge Weinfeld served as Chairman of the Bankruptcy Committee of the United States Judicial Conference, and from 1971 to 1973 he was a member of the Commission on the Bankruptcy Laws of the United States. He also served on the Panel on Multidistrict Litigation from 1968 to 1978.

President Perkins noted that Judge Weinfeld's long service on the federal bench was characterized by an

"energy, diligence, probity, fairness, learning and wisdom" that "have become legendary." President Perkins also took note of Judge Friendly's personal admiration for Judge Weinfeld and observed that Judge Friendly would have wholeheartedly approved the Institute's choice of Judge Weinfeld as the first recipient of the Medal.

Judge Weinfeld was recommended for the award by a committee chaired by Michael Boudin, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Regulation in the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice and a former law clerk of Judge Friendly. Committee members include Judge Pierre N. Leval of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, another of Judge Friendly's former clerks; Lyman M. Tondel, Jr., of the New York City bar; and the Institute's Director Emeritus, Professor Herbert Wechsler of Columbia Law School.

Judge Friendly, who died on March 11, 1986, at the age of 82, served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1959 until his death. He was a member of the Institute's Council for a quarter of a century and an Adviser to the Study of the Division of Jurisdiction Between State and Federal Courts, Model Code of Pre-Arrest Procedure, Federal Securities Code, and Corporate Governance Project.