BERNARD G. SEGAL

JAMES O. FREEDMAN†

On the evening of November 17, 1980, Bernard G. Segal joined the Chief Justice of the United States, Warren E. Burger, and Justice Samuel J. Roberts of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in forming the judicial panel that heard the final argument in the Edwin R. Keedy Moot Court Competition. The honor was altogether fitting because Bernard Segal has been a close associate of the Chief Justice in many noble endeavors to strengthen the law and the legal profession over the course of the decades.

In introducing the members of the bench to the audience that evening, I made the following remarks about Bernard Segal, and I repeat them in this celebratory issue of the Law Review because I hope they capture the range and depth of his many contributions to our common enterprise:

Bernard G. Segal has had one of the great careers in the history of the American bar. He began that career as a deputy attorney general of Pennsylvania, during which time he drafted the state’s banking code, its building and loan code, and its milk control law. He has practiced law in Philadelphia since 1934 with the law firm of which he is now chairman, Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis.

Throughout his years at the bar, Bernard Segal has consistently worked to strengthen the profession and to ensure that every citizen enjoys equal justice under law. He has served as Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association and President of the American Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation, and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has received the Gold Medal of the American Bar Association, its highest award, and the World Lawyer Award of the World Peace Through Law Center.

He was appointed by President Kennedy to serve as co-chairman of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. And he has served on many national commissions, including the Attorney General’s Committee to Study the Antitrust Laws, the Attorney General’s National

† Dean, University of Pennsylvania Law School. A.B. 1957, Harvard University; LL.B. 1962, Yale University.
Conference on Court Congestion, and the National Commission on Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System.

He serves today, by appointment of the Chief Justice, as a member of the United States Commission on Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Salaries. He has devoted endless hours to the important work of the American Bar Association in passing upon the quality of federal judicial nominations. And he has been an indispensable source of encouragement and assistance to many deans of this Law School, as Jeff Fordham, Bernie Wolfman, Lou Pollak, and I can gratefully attest.

Bernard Segal has worked to strengthen the central institutions of our society so that they will better serve the needs of his fellow man. He has given his energies to the great challenges of alleviating poverty, eliminating unequal justice, and enhancing judicial competence.

I think it is fair to say that Bernard Segal's career as a public lawyer bears comparison with that of three of the greatest graduates of this Law School: George Wharton Pepper, Owen J. Roberts, and William A. Schnader. Bernard Segal is a man of learning, humanity, and dedication, and his qualities of character and mind have made him the most respected leader of the bar of his generation.

As I look at his remarkable career, I think of Justice Holmes's statement that "not place nor power nor popularity makes the success that one desires, but the trembling hope that one has come near to an ideal."

Bernard Segal has come near to an ideal that is important for all of us—the ideal that one of the highest functions of a lawyer is to discharge fully the responsibilities of citizenship. He has devoted his talents and his time to strengthening those institutions—our courts, our bar associations, our law schools, our law firms—that together serve to ensure that the rule of law will prevail. For many years to come, the values embodied in his careers will nourish the resolve of others and illuminate the paths that lawyers, as citizens of a commonwealth, should strive to follow.

At this distance of several months, I would add to those public remarks my own personal gratitude for the guidance and wisdom that Bernie has so generously offered to a new dean on virtually countless occasions.