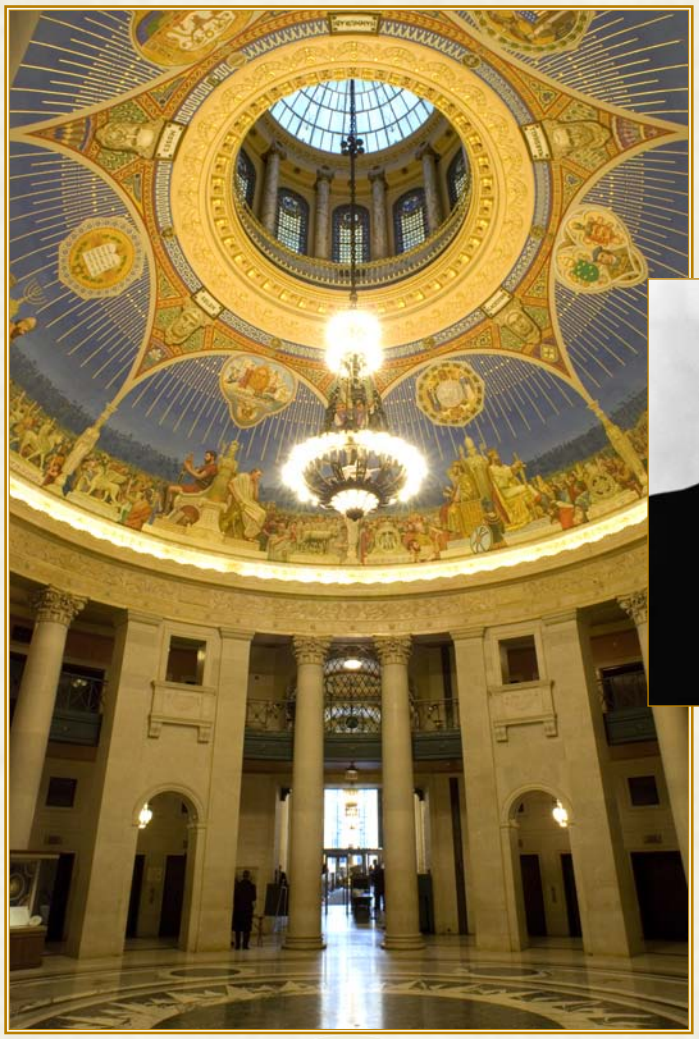
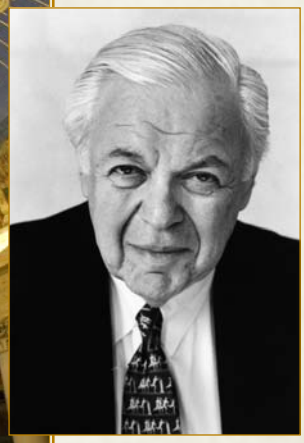
The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

2008 Gala Dinner

MARKING SOME IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARIES





Monday
April 7, 2008

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HON. NORMAN GOODMAN
COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLASSIC FILM TWELVE ANGRY MEN
FAMOUSLY FILMED AT 60 CENTRE STREET

CIPRIANI • 110 EAST 42 STREET • NEW YORK CITY

The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

The Society was launched in 2003 with the mission of preserving the legal and judicial history of the State of New York. It seeks to foster scholarly understanding and public appreciation of the rich legacy of the New York courts, the legal profession and their contributions to the State and nation.

The Society presents programs on a wide variety of topics about New York's legal history that are CLE-accredited; it publishes a scholarly newsletter and is in the process of publishing several books; it has initiated a program to collect the oral history of former New York Court of Appeals Judges; it exhibits New York legal history in Court of Appeals Hall and at the New York State Judicial Institute; and it has created a website that contains a rich and growing library of New York judicial history.

Annual Series, Occasional Lectures & Events

The Society holds an annual lecture each year at the New York City Bar, as well as lectures held at other forums across the State. The programs feature guest lecturers who are prominent lawyers, jurists and law school and university professors who are experts in their fields.

- **2003 -** The Framing of the Constitution: New York's Role
- **2004 -** Chancellor James Kent and the Origins of Law Reporting and Legal Education
- **2005 -** David Dudley Field and the Code Concept
- **2005 -** An Empire of Reason — The History of Federalism in America
- **2006 -** The Scales of Justice: a Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co.
- **2006 -** Frontier Justice: Western New York Blazes the Trail on the Underground Railroad and Down the Erie Canal. (Buffalo, New York)
- **2006 -** Encore Presentation of The Scales of Justice: a Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co. (White Plains, New York)
- **2007 -** Encore Presentation of The Scales of Justice: a Reargument of Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R. Co. (Nassau County Bar Association)
- **2007 -** The New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical, Pictorial, Jurisprudential History with Dramatic Readings
- **2007 -** Inaugural Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Program: Alexander Hamilton, The Anchoring of American Law
- **2007 -** Inaugural Society Gala: A Living Legacy Honoring the Retired Judges of the New York Court of Appeals

New York Court of Appeals Lecture Series

The Society co-sponsored with the New York Court of Appeals a 2006 and 2007 series of lectures at the New York Court of Appeals. This represented the first time this important

building had been open to the public as well as Society members for an educational lecture series.

- *Democracy* — a lecture delivered by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer
- Geoffrey Canada: The Courts and Children
- Jeffrey Toobin: The Courts and the Media

2008 New York Court of Appeals Lecture Series

- David J. Stern, Commissioner, National Basketball Association

Scholarly Publication

The Society publishes twice yearly a literary publication, *Judicial Notice: A Periodical of New York Court History*, containing articles of historical substance and scholarship, including writings by distinguished historians, attorneys and other presenters.

Book Publications

The Society has published or is in the process of publishing the following:

- **The Judges of the New York Court of Appeals A Biographical History,** edited by Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt with foreword by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, providing a comprehensive, authoritative guide to 160 years of the important legal legacy of the New York Court of Appeals. (Fordham University Press 2007)
- **Historic Courthouses of the State of New York: A Study in Postcards,** by Julia and Albert Rosenblatt, featuring rare postcard images of county courthouses throughout New York State with accompanying text. (Turner Publishing Company 2007)
- 2006 Court of Appeals Lecture Series: Compendium of the three lectures comprising the 2006 Court of Appeals Lecture Series
- Oral History of Judge Bernard S. Meyer by Norman I. Silber, Professor of Law, Hofstra University, compiling the oral interviews conducted by Professor Silber with former Court of Appeals Judge Bernard S. Meyer

Oral History

The Society is committed to recording the oral history of New York Court of prominent figures in New York's legal history in order to preserve the living record of their experiences, and to provide future generations with their words and thoughts. The Society has completed four oral histories, including New York Court of Appeals Judges Richard D. Simons, Bernard S. Meyer and Hon. Richard J. Bartlett and Matthew J. Jasen

Website

The Society designed and launched its website in 2003. It contains an extensive library, including portraits and photographs of judges and other notable legal figures accompanied by biographies, documents of important note in the State's legal history and Society publications. We are in the process of including as webcasts all lectures given after the 2006 annual lecture, as well as the Court of Appeals lecture series. ■

The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

Officers

Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, *President*
John D. Gordan, III, *Vice President*
Frances Murray, *Secretary*
Stephen P. Younger, *Treasurer*

Marilyn Marcus, *Executive Director*

Board of Trustees

Helaine M. Barnett
Barbara A. Brinkley
Hon. Penelope D. Clute
Barry H. Garfinkel
Hon. Norman Goodman
Henry M. Greenberg
Hon. Judith S. Kaye
Hon. Robert G. M. Keating
Greta K. Kolcon
A. Thomas Levin
Hon. E. Leo Milonas
Hon. Leon B. Polsky
Michael B. Powers
Roy L. Reardon
Leon Silverman
Hon. Edward O. Spain

Hon. Richard J. Barlett & Hon. Jonathan Lippman, *Trustees Emeritus*
Christine W. Ward, *N.Y.S. Archivist, Ex Officio Trustee*

Advisory Board

Hon. E. Leo Milonas *and* Roy L. Reardon, *Co-Chairs* • Michael A. Cooper
Louis A. Craco • Evan A. Davis • Haliburton Fales, II • Barry H. Garfinkel
John J. Halloran, Jr. • Patricia M. Hynes • Henry L. King • Joseph T. McLaughlin,
Gary P. Naftalis • Bernard W. Nussbaum • Michael B. Powers
M. Catherine Richardson • Barbara Paul Robinson • Arthur V. Savage
Whitney N. Seymour, Jr. • John S. Siffert • Mary Jo White • Stephen P. Younger

2008 Gala Dinner

Marking some important anniversaries

Program

Welcome
Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye

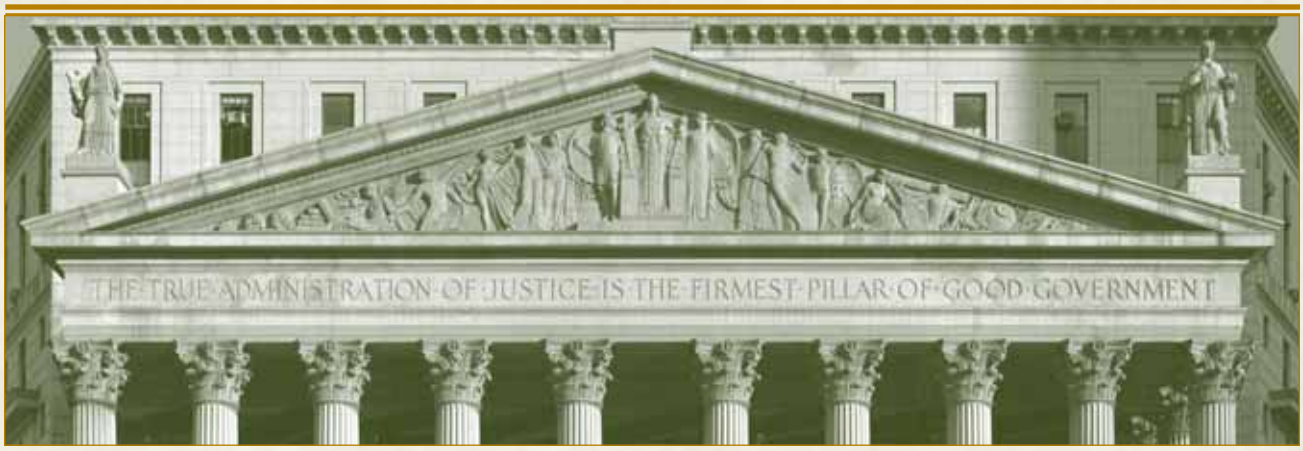
Master of Ceremonies
Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt

A Photographic Tour of the Courthouse
by Teodors Ermansons
video by Nicholas Ullo

A Personal Tribute to Norman Goodman
As Guardian of the Courthouse and its Jurors

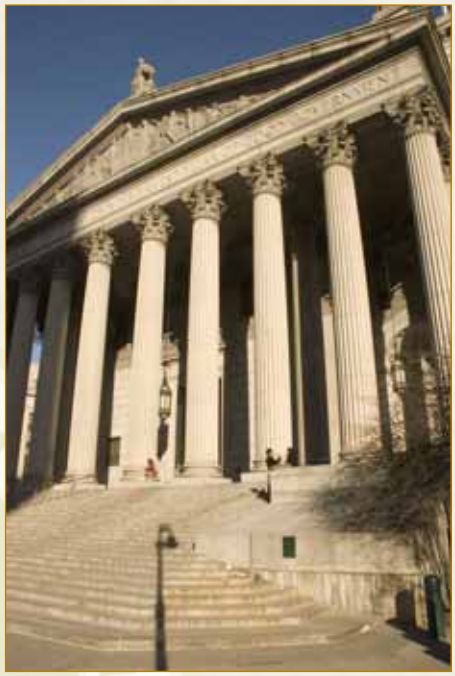
Travel back to the 1950's

Entertaining clips from Twelve Angry Men
famously filmed at 60 Centre Street



History and Architecture of New York County Courthouse

The New York County Courthouse, located at 60 Centre Street, overlooks Foley Square. The building houses the Supreme Court and the Office of the County Clerk, currently the Honorable Norman Goodman. The building was designated as a New York City Landmark in 1966.



The New York County Courthouse was formerly housed in the old Tweed Courthouse. When additional space was needed, the New York State Legislature created a "Courthouse Board" to select an architect and design. The Boston architect Guy Lowell (1870-1927) won the competition in 1913 with his design for a circular building. The cost estimate for this design was an astronomical 20 to 30 million dollars. World War I brought construction delays and the design evolved into a smaller, more modest Temple of Justice. Lowell modified the design to a hexagonal building with a cost estimate of 7 million dollars. Work finally began in 1919. The Roman classical style chosen was popular for courthouse architecture in the first decades of the 20th century and compliments the nearby Municipal Building.

Architect Guy Lowell

The courthouse was the first major New York commission for well-known architect Lowell. He designed the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the building plan for Philips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts. He was also a landscape architect and designed formal gardens for Andrew Carnegie and J. Pierpont Morgan in New York.

The courthouse was dedicated and opened in February of 1927. Luminaries presents at the dedication ceremony included then Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals Benjamin Cardozo and Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals Frederick E. Crane and Irving Lehman. Sadly, Guy Lowell died two weeks prior to the event.

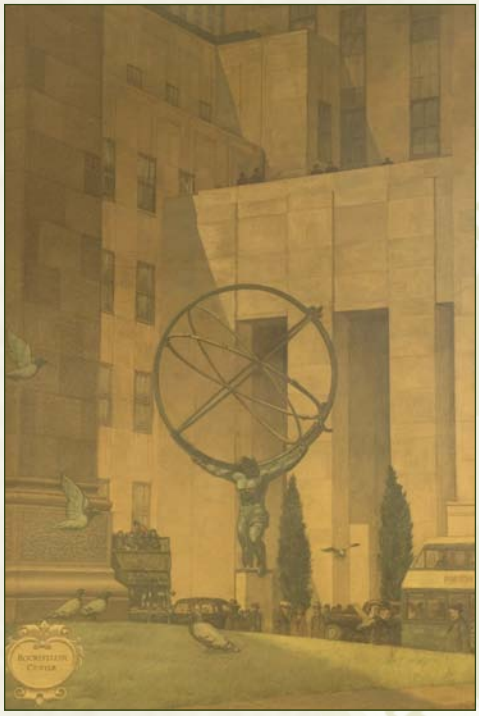
The most prominent exterior architectural feature of the courthouse is its famous portico. The courthouse rises above a 100-foot wide flight of 32 steps to an imposing colonnade of sixteen granite fluted Corinthian columns, ten of which are aligned directly beneath the portico's triangular pediment. Above the center columns are engraved words of George Washington from a 1789 letter to attorney-general Randolph: **"The true administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good government."**

The triangular pediment is 140-feet long and contains 14 classical figures in high relief. Atop the pediment are three statues representing Law, Truth and Equity, the work of master sculptor Frederick H. Allen.

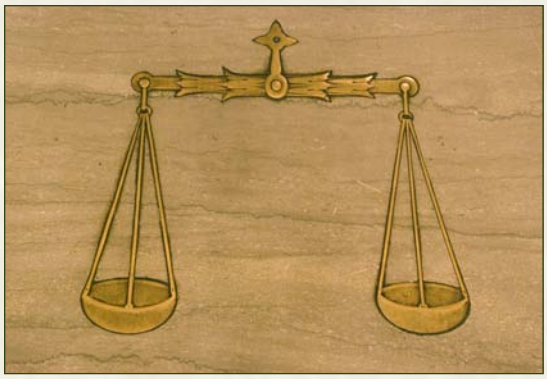
The monumental character of the exterior continues on the interior, with its central rotunda and radial corridors. The Rotunda is 200 feet in circumference and rises 75 feet to a cupola 30 feet in height, 20 feet across, with 10 stained glass windows and clerestory. It was not until the mid-1930s, however, that work commenced on the renowned Courthouse murals. Under the sponsorship of the federal government's Works Progress Administration,

WPA artists with Attilio Pusterla standing center wearing suit (left)

Attilio Pusterla and his crew of artists painted a series of murals on the vestibule ceiling and on the rotunda dome. The general theme of the vestibule ceiling is the administration of justice and includes many figures ranging from Truth and Error, to Protection and Security. The dome in the main rotunda is entitled "Law Through the Ages." It consists of six "lunettes" which depict pivotal developments in the history of the law over the millennia, including Moses, Hammurabi, and Justinian.



The extraordinary work of Attilio Pusterla and his crew of WPA artists continued on the fourth floor of the courthouse in the jury assembly rooms with the painting of the exceptional murals gracing the walls. Jury rooms 448 and 452 are decorated with murals depicting historical and contemporary scenes of New York. In room 448, the artist Robert K. Ryland produced 11 panels depicting New York's early history. The panels include Henry Hudson's voyage on the Half-Moon; an Indian settlement; Broad Street circa 1660s; and two additional panoramas of Manhattan in the 18th century. Of great artistic importance are the nine murals in Room 452. While several artists contributed to these works, the predominant piece is by Pusterla. This mural scene depicts a panoramic view of the Manhattan skyline and harbor.



Over the years, water leaks and general neglect threatened the building and its artistic masterpieces. Through a collaborative effort, undertaken in the 1980s and continuing into the 1990s, among leaders in the Court, at the Bar, and in New York City government, a major County Courthouse conservation campaign was undertaken and successfully completed. Among court leaders most involved in this project was County Clerk Norman Goodman.

Norman Goodman, in addition to championing the cause of restoration, has given equal attention to preserving the rich historical record of the archives of the New York County Clerk. Dating back to the 17th century, the historical court documents remained unattended after Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia abolished the Office of the Commissioner of Records in the 1930s. The records are now preserved under the guardianship of the County Clerk. In the 1990s, Mr. Goodman hired two full-time archivists and created a not-for-profit organization to assist the preservation effort.

While the County Courthouse serves as one of the largest courts of original, unlimited, civil jurisdiction in the United States, it is perhaps best know to the general public as the "stage set" for the television series Law and Order and the Hollywood classic film from the 1950s Twelve Angry Men.

Notwithstanding its many attributes, the greatest contribution of this very busy court has been and always will be its contribution to the jurisprudence of our County, City, State, and Nation.

Special thanks to The Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the team of archivists and Clerks of the New York County Courthouse for information about the history of the courthouse contained in this description.

Honorable Norman Goodman

"Norman," as he is known to all has been a practicing attorney for over 50 years, the past 47 of which have been in public service. From 1966 to the present, he has served in the Office of the County Clerk of New York County, first as First Deputy County Clerk and then in 1969 and thereafter as County Clerk. The New York County Clerk is both the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Commissioner of Jurors in this the most active trial court of superior jurisdiction in the State. His tenure as New York County Clerk spans five decades and his name is practically synonymous with the office itself. Norman is one of the few constants in the ever changing scene which is Foley Square; he has long been recognized as the dean of the County Clerks serving in the 62 counties of the State.

Under Norman's leadership, the Office of the New York County Clerk has been transformed. Where pen and paper once reigned, computers now do. In 1971, he supervised the development of the first computerized plaintiff/defendant index system in the State; it continues in use to this day and serves as a model for the development of such systems in other counties. As litigation expanded exponentially over the decades, Norman developed efficient and effective means of dealing with what has become millions of filings per year. Judgments are entered by the County Clerk, and Norman has assembled and led what many have suggested is the finest judgment entry section in the State. Norman has not only witnessed but also participated actively in the evolution of New York's Civil Practice law and Rules (CPLR). Whether, for example, addressing the complexities associated with New York's transition, in 1993, from a "service" to a "full filing state" or wrestling with the conundrums presented by CPLR Sections 50-A and 50-B, Norman has set the pace for County Clerks throughout the State.

The archives of the New York County Clerk are among the most important such historical records in the nation. The Supreme Court, New York County, traces its lineage back to 1691, when the Supreme Court of Judicature was established in the then English Colony. Norman has championed the preservation of this important archive, appointing trained archivists to manage the archive and promote its availability to both trained scholars and the general public. Norman introduced the first micrographics program in the State, ensuring that through the medium of microfilm, court records will be preserved for posterity.

Norman Goodman being sworn in as County Clerk in 1969 by Hon. Harold Stevens, presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department (above) and being congratulated by the previous County Clerk James McGurrin (below)

Equally, Norman has devoted himself to maintaining the historic, landmark County Courthouse at 60 Centre Street. This is one of the most widely recognized courthouses in the country, having served over generations as a "set" for countless film and television productions. Indeed, the image of its famous portico serves almost as a logo for the legal profession. Designed by Guy Lowell, opened in 1927, and owned by the City of New York, this building requires constant attention. A major renovation occurred in the 1980's and 1990's during which literally every office, courtroom and chamber in the building was at one time or another vacated so renovation could proceed. Norman chaired the Court's Building Committee, and he has worked tirelessly to ensure that this magnificent courthouse will be preserved for future generations.

Related to the building renovation, but really a separate effort, was the restoration of the Rotunda mural, "Law Through the Ages," by Attilio Pusterla. This magnificent mural, one of the largest art projects undertaken during the Depression by the WPA, had fallen on very hard times. Not a fresco, the mural is painted on plaster and water seepage had caused major peeling and degradation. Norman and other concerned attorneys organized an effort to preserve the mural. Norman's leadership in that important effort was critical. The result speaks for itself. The mural, now fully restored, adorns one of the great public spaces in the State and the nation. Norman also arranged for the cleaning and restoration of the important WPA murals in the jury assembly room on the 4th floor. The work of preserving this historic building and its art is never done and Norman continues to promote this important preservation effort.

In his capacity as Commissioner of Jurors, Norman is called upon each day to make available to the courts in New York County approximately 2,000 prospective jurors. Just as he computerized the docket system, so too did he computerize the juror summons system. Whether in tracking the millions of paper submissions to the courthouse or the millions of potential jurors, Norman has successfully introduced modern technology, thereby ensuring the most accurate and dependable possible service to the public. Norman not only served on Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye's Jury Project, which was the harbinger of so many of the jury reforms which New Yorkers now take for granted, but he

has been involved intimately in introducing, refining and promoting those reforms. Not long ago, New York State had more disqualifications and exemptions from jury service than any state in the country. Today, our State has the least! Today, New York County requires its jurors to serve two to three days or one trial, representing a vast improvement over the days when jurors were summoned routinely for two weeks. Morever, once summoned, citizens will generally not be called back for at least four years. Norman is not only committed to preserving the hard-won jury reforms introduced to date, but also to identifying and introducing further reforms.

Norman's commitment to improving public access and the experience of jurors is not only long-standing, but is reflected in his many years of service on the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Justice and the Community. Indeed, for many years, Norman chaired that State Bar Committee and he continues to be an active member. He also devotes time to countless other important initiatives to promote continuing improvements.

As compelling as Norman's professional accomplishments are, his personal qualities are equally impressive and have endeared him to so many. His high intelligence, personal integrity, wonderful sense of humor, wide range of interests, loyalty and self-effacing manner constantly impress all privileged to work with and know him. He seems to thrive on work, works at a heroic pace and rarely takes time away from the courthouse. Invariably, his all too short vacations are centered around visits to his adored grandchildren.

Norman has an abiding interest in education. A voracious reader and born teacher, he has participated in countless bar seminars, panel discussions, and CLE programs. He is an ardent supporter of the Tour Program, which hosts thousands of students each year for tours of Foley Square courts. He also participates regularly in navigating the Supreme Court CLE program, which introduces attorneys to all of the departments and back offices at 60 Centre Street. Norman has served as Chair of the Alumni Association of his beloved Alma Mater, New York University Law School, and he is a Trustee of New York University, from which he obtained his undergraduate degree. Norman serves on the Character and Fitness Committee of the Appellate Division, First Department, and relishes meeting with those from New York County who have recently passed the Bar and are seeking admission.

James A. Rossetti, the author of this piece, was hired by Norman in 1985 for the position of First Deputy County Clerk as a 30-year-old with only five years of experience. He has served as the First Deputy/Chief Deputy County Clerk under Norman for 23 years.

An Ode to Norman

Tonight we meet to celebrate
a person and a place:
A certain famous building
And a certain famous face.

The structure is a landmark
that bestrides a well known street.
The person is an institution
frequenting that beat.

The building, 60 Centre Street,
has garnered much renown.
Its primary inhabitant
is known all over town.

We speak of Norman Goodman
who each day goes there to work
Commissioner of Jurors, he is
New York County Clerk.

He sends out jury notices —
a thousand every week.
Those folks receive their envelope
and then can hardly speak.

"WE HEREBY FURNISH NOTICE
THAT ON MONDAY NEXT YOU'RE NAILED
DON'T EVEN THINK OF MISSING IT;
IF SO YOU WILL BE JAILED."

There's no excuse he hasn't heard;
each day he gets a bunch:
My dog consumed the summons.
It was all he had for lunch.

But Norman will not hear of it,
The portals open wide
It makes no difference who you are,
Right this way, step inside.

And as they enter through those doors
We think of what they face —
the tribulations and the trials
that permeate the place.

He gently tells them it's their duty
and they can't escape.
It seems like Emma Lazarus's words
have taken shape:

Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to be free.

The calls come in from big shots
and their agents high and low:
On bended knee they plead with Norman,

"Let my people go" (sing)

But Norman knows no favorites.
He gives his standard line:
"If this case doesn't settle,
make a verdict, you'll be fine."

He treats them all with courtesy,
with energy and verve
Some jurors are peremptoried
while others get to serve.

And when they do they leave inspired —
duty was a treat.
We owe a lot to Norman Goodman —
Prince of Centre Street.

Words by Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt
Recitation by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye
and Judge Rosenblatt

The Historical Society *of the* Courts *of the* State *of* New York

2008 Gala Dinner

Hidden Treasures of 60 Center Street: Discovering the Artistic Wonders of the New York County Courthouse and Honoring its Dutiful Guardian, Hon. Norman Goodman

Dinner Committee Co-Chairs

Barry H. Garfinkel
Hon. E. Leo Milonas
Michael B. Powers
Roy L. Reardon
Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt

Dinner Committee

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alston & Bird
Richard Babinecz, Esq.
Max W. Berger, Esq.
Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann, LLP
Bingham McCutchen LLP
Jonathan I. Blackman, Esq.
John A. Borek, Esq.
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Cahill Gordon Reindel LLP
John M. Callagy, Esq.
Vito A. Cannavo, Esq.
Nicholas M. Cannella, Esq.
Evan R. Chesler, Esq.
Clark, Gagliardi & Miller. P.C.
Cleary, Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Con Edison
Cooley Godward Kronish LLP
Michael A. Cooper, Esq.
Leslie D. Corwin, Esq.
Cravath, Swaine & Moore, LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto
Edward Flanders, Esq.
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Barry H. Garfinkel, Esq.
Karl Geercken, Esq.
Godosky & Gentile, P.C.
Richard Godosky, Esq.
Hon. Norman Goodman
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Gregory P. Joseph Law Offices, LLC
John J. Halloran, Jr., Esq.
Historical Records of the NY County Clerk Inc.
Patricia Hynes, Esq.
Gregory P. Joseph, Esq.
Kantor Davidoff Wolfe Mandelker & Kass, P.C.
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore
Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Philip Allen Lacovara
Lankler, Siffert & Wohl LLP
Alan Levine, Esq.
Judith A. Livingston, Esq.
Michael D. Lockard, Esq.
Lawrence A. Mandelker, Esq.
David Marcus, Esq.
Gregory A. Markel, Esq.
Mayer Brown LLP
Maura McLoughlin, Esq.

Henry G. Miller, Esq.
Hon. E. Leo Milonas
Charles M. Moerdler, Esq.
Thomas A. Moore, Esq.
Gary P. Naftalis, Esq.
Nixon Peabody LLP
Lynn K. Neuner, Esq.
Bernard W. Nussbaum, Esq.
Brian E. O'Connor, Esq.
Patricia M. Hynes & Roy L. Reardon Foundation
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, LLP
Frank H. Penski, Esq.
Phillips Lytle LLP
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Charles Platt, Esq.
Michael B. Powers, Esq.
James W. Quinn, Esq.
Roy L. Reardon, Esq.
Marian Rosner, Esq.
Hon. Israel Rubin
Paul C. Saunders, Esq.
Shearman & Sterling LLP
John S. Siffert, Esq.
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
Speiser Krause Nolan & Granito
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
Guy Miller Struve, Esq.
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo P.C.
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Warner Partners P.C.
Kenneth E. Warner, Esq.
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Ira E. Wiener, Esq.
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Wolf Popper LLP
Stephen P. Younger, Esq.

The Historical Society *of the* Courts
of the State *of* New York

140 Grand Street, Suite 701 White Plains, NY 10601 • tel: 914.824.5717
e-mail: The_Historical_Society@courts.state.ny.us • website: www.courts.state.ny.us/history

graphic design: Teodors Ermansons & Patricia Everson Ryan
photography: Teodors Ermansons cover portrait of Norman Goodman: © Faye Ellman
print/production: Zola Hill