

1993

Opening Greeting

Elliot S. Milstein

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/auilr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Milstein, Elliot S. "Opening Greeting." American University International Law Review 8 no. 2/3 (1993): 355-356.

This Symposium or Conference is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington College of Law Journals & Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in American University International Law Review by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. For more information, please contact fbrown@wcl.american.edu.

OPENING GREETING

Elliott S. Milstein*

Today we invoke the spirit of the Constitutional Convention of the United States. I am Elliott Milstein, the Dean of the Washington College of Law of The American University.

Our law school is well known for a number of other things. The Washington College of Law was founded in 1896 by two women. We have an International Legal Studies Program that we believe offers the largest selection of international law courses in the country. We have 140 LL.M. students from 50 different countries who can take courses concentrating in international human rights, international environmental law, international organizations, and international trade and banking. We have a well-developed clinical program which includes an international human rights clinic. Because of the circumstances of our founding, we have a Women and Law Program, which provides leadership in developing similar law curricula in law schools around the country. We have an outstanding curriculum in the public law area, particularly constitutional and administrative law.

We are proud to host this conference, which has attracted representatives from 19 delegations to the constitutional process in South Africa. These people have taken time from their deliberations, or at least have brought their constitutional deliberations across the world, to reflect on whether the experience with the United States Constitution has any lessons that will be helpful in the process in which they are engaged. We have hosted many conferences at our law school, but none of them featuring such an illustrious array of speakers and participants as this. It is an important moment in the history of our law school and we hope that this will become an important event in the development of the new order in South Africa.

I know that many of us in the United States have long been concerned about apartheid and injustices in South Africa, and it is with a sense of tremendous pride that we play a tiny role in working with the people who are courageously involved in changing that situation. We are

* Dean, Washington College of Law, The American University.

hopeful that a new constitution can be fashioned that accomplishes political change both peacefully and with justice.

Every child in the United States is taught that our Constitution was crafted in the crucible of creative compromise. As a teacher of negotiation, I think, in some ways, that fact transcends the particular details of the compromise that constitutes our Constitution. I only hope that you have creative people who are able to fashion a compromise that works for you and I hope that some of the examples from our own experience can inform your deliberations.

It is always an honor for me to introduce the Honorable Connie Morella because she is not only a good friend of mine, she also represents my congressional district. We also refer to her as the Congressperson from American University, since her husband is on our faculty. Prior to her election in 1986 to the United States Congress, she was a Professor of English and served in the Maryland state legislature. She has made several trips to South Africa as part of the Aspen Institute's work there, and as part of the work organized by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.