

Introduction

Stephan Landsman

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INTRODUCTION

*Stephan Landsman**

Judge Jack Weinstein has led a remarkable life. He is the American Dream personified—born in the heartland in Wichita, Kansas, raised in Brooklyn, a child who had to make his way in the Depression, a student who secured his first college degree in night school, a veteran of World War II. He has been a dockworker, a naval officer, a county attorney, a law professor, and a federal judge.

At the 20th annual Clifford Symposium, we gather to honor him. He has opened new vistas in the law of procedure, torts, and evidence, to name but three. More than that, he has set a towering example of judicial independence and social conscience. His work on Agent Orange and numerous mass torts that followed set American courts on a path that has expanded protection for defenseless victims and yielded a better society. To borrow from one of his lines, “every day [he has laid] down his professional life for justice”. It does us great honor to have this opportunity to celebrate his life and achievements.

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