

Introduction

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**INTRODUCTION: THE 21ST ANNUAL CLIFFORD
SYMPOSIUM ON TORT LAW AND SOCIAL
POLICY: THE SUPREME COURT, BUSINESS
AND CIVIL JUSTICE**

*Stephan Landsman**

In 1994, DePaul University College of Law alumnus Robert A. Clifford ('76) endowed a faculty chair in tort law and social policy. The chair gives meaningful expression to his belief that the civil justice system serves a number of vital interests in American society. The Clifford Chair at DePaul provides a vehicle for exploration of the civil justice system in an intellectually rigorous fashion. In addition to providing support for faculty research and teaching, the endowment makes possible an annual symposium addressing a timely issue in the civil justice area. The purpose of the symposium is to bring the latest scholarship and advances in legal practice to lawyers and scholars who specialize in tort law, civil justice, and related fields.

Recent empirical research suggests that corporate interests do unusually well in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court's decisions concerning business entities do not only affect matters of corporate law and regulation, but also a wide array of civil justice issues. They have enhanced the reach of arbitration as a substitute for court-based adjudication. They have dramatically altered federal civil procedure. And they have changed the tort law landscape despite the traditional anchoring of tort principles in state legislation and judicial precedent. These shifts and their implications for the civil justice system were the focus of this year's Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy.

* Robert A. Clifford Professor of Tort Law and Social Policy, Emeritus; Visiting Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School; A.B. Kenyon College; J.D. Harvard University.

