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U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Reena Raggi Visits Domus

Addresses Roosevelt Inn of Court Annual Dinner

by Craig D. Robins, Esq.

On September 18, 2008, Reena Raggi, a judge sitting on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, appeared as the keynote speaker and special honoree at the annual dinner of the Theodore Roosevelt Chapter of the American Inns of Court held at Domus.

The event was very well attended and included many judges from the federal, state and local branches, and numerous other dignitaries. Domus has regularly hosted the Inn's annual dinners for the past two decades.

The guests had a great opportunity to mingle with Judge Raggi during a cocktail reception

prior to the dinner.

A classical music duo provided background music. The highlight of the evening was a half-hour speech in which Judge Raggi discussed the history of the United States District Courts, while providing some commentary on jurisdiction. She also highlighted some interesting distinctions between the district courts and circuit courts. Judge Raggi was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2002, after sitting as a District Court judge for the Eastern District of New York for 15 years.

The evening included several other Inn of Court presentations. Out-going

president, Leonard B. Austin, a Nassau County Supreme Court judge, delivered some opening remarks.

Lois Carter Schlissel, who is the managing attorney of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klien, and a former president, delivered the invocation. President of the Nassau County Bar Association, Peter H. Levy, offered the toast to Domus.

United States District Court Senior Judge, Arthur D. Spatt, detailed Judge Raggi's lengthy and impressive background and provided her introduction, which was infused with anecdotes about the time he joined the bench and sought advice from Judge Raggi.

Judge Raggi swore in the Theodore Roosevelt Inn's new 2008-2009 board, officers and president. Incoming-president, Douglas T. Burns, a white-collar defense litigator in Westbury, who previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney, delivered an address about the importance of civility in the practice of law.

Also sworn in was the new president-elect, Judge John L. Kase, who sits on the Nassau County Court. On behalf of the Inn, Marjorie Bornes, Dinner Chair, presented Judge Raggi with an engraved gift – A statue of Lady Justice. She also presented Judge Leonard B. Austin with a gift for his service as past president, a statue of a globe, held up by three standing justices. The Inn customarily makes a donation each year to a local law school and this year the recipient was Hofstra Law School.

For more information about the Theodore Roosevelt Inn of Court, a chapter of the American Inns of Court, contact Lois Carter Schlissel (516) 741-6565.

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Editor's Note (revised 2008): Craig D. Robins, Esq., a frequent contributor, sits on the Board of the Theodore Roosevelt Chapter of the American Inns of Court. He is a Long Island bankruptcy lawyer who has represented thousands of consumer and business clients in Chapter 7, Chapter 11 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy cases during the past twenty years. He has offices in