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## PERSPECTIVES ON ASBESTOS LITIGATION: INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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Judy Sloan\*

PROFESSOR SLOAN: I am Judy Sloan. It is my great honor to introduce our last speaker who is a great friend of mine and a great friend of the judiciary. Her name is Barbara Jacobs Rothstein. Judge Rothstein is the head of the Federal Judicial Center. Now some of you know what this is and some of you may not. The Federal Judicial Center began when President Lyndon Baines Johnson asked the Chief Justice of the United States at the time, Earl Warren, to head the commission to study the assassination of President Kennedy, and the Chief Justice said okay, I'll do it, but here's the deal. We need a Federal Judicial Center. We need a place to educate and do work for the federal judges. President Johnson was absolutely true to his word and that is how we got the Federal Judicial Center.

The first head of the Federal Judicial Center was none other than Justice Tom Clark, who had stepped down from the Supreme Court when his son became the attorney general. Justice Clark needed a place for the Federal Judicial Center, and so he and his fellow Texan, President Lyndon Johnson, went walking in front of the White House across Lafayette Park one night, and Justice Clark said I need a home for this Federal Judicial Center, and President Johnson said: how about the Dolley Madison house, which was right there, and that's how it got started in the Dolley Madison house. That's where it was until it was moved into the beautiful Thurgood Marshal Center, which is where you will find it if you go to do research today. There have only been nine heads of the Federal Judicial Center and the last one is certainly my favorite, and I think everybody else's favorite, and it's Judge Rothstein. She began her federal career as a federal judge in Seattle, Washington, and she was certainly an outstanding federal judge.

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\* Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School.

As I mentioned there have been only nine heads of the Federal Judicial Center. Most have been federal judges, one an academic. One was, of course, that wonderful Justice Tom Clark, who started us all out.

Now the Federal Judicial Center is for the federal judges and here's what I like to call Judge Rothstein: she is the judges' judge. Whenever federal judges go to Washington, they want to go to the Federal Judicial Center. It's their place, so I would like to say nothing more, but to give her plenty of time to give her remarks, and I present Judge Rothstein.