

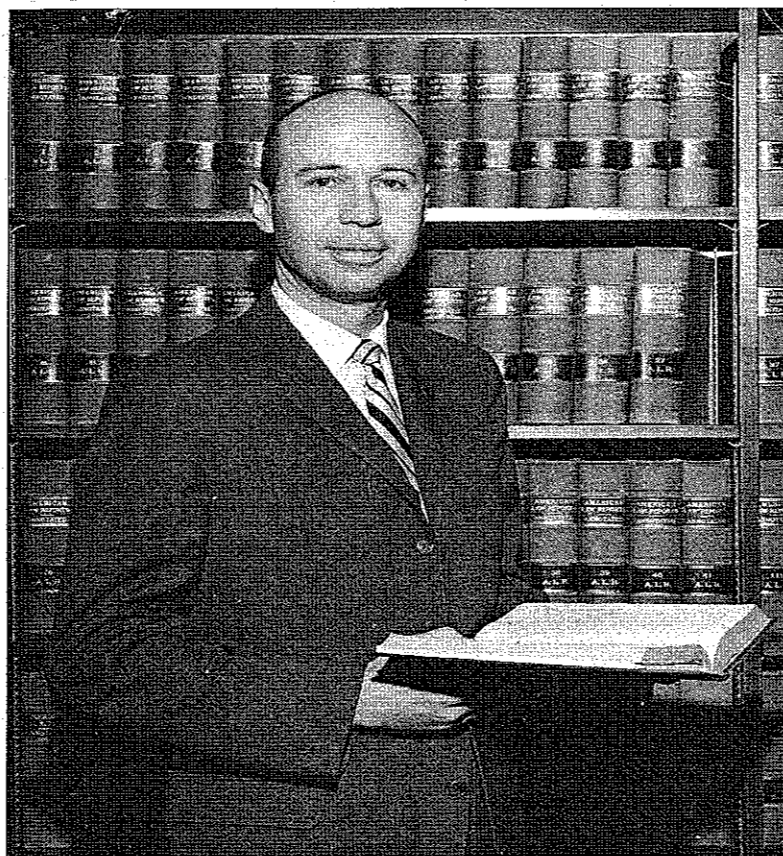
A MEMORIAL
HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE
43RD SESSION OF UNCITRAL
TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE

OF

ALBERT H. KRITZER
APRIL 21, 1928 – JUNE 1, 2010

June 24, 2010

The Tillman Chapel
Church Center for the United Nations



Born April 21, 1928 in Brooklyn, NY, Albert Kritzer was the son of immigrants Abraham and Augusta Kritzer. He married Jacqueline Landry Hubert in 1957, and together they raised four daughters. He is survived by two sisters: Marilyn Shorenstein of Boca Raton, FL and Ruth Rhett (Mrs. George) of Naples, FL, three daughters: Germaine Koomen (Mrs. William) of Newburyport, MA, Lise Marie Gander (Mrs. Stuart) of Milton, VT, and Rachelle Kritzer Filipek (Mrs. Stephan) of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, seven grandchildren: Emily and Elise Koomen, Everett and Celeste Gander, Claire, Matthew and Brian Filipek, and

numerous beloved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by spouse of 46 years Jacqueline Kritzer, daughter Annette Kritzer in whose memory he dedicated his scholarly work, brother Walter Kritzer, brother-in-law Joel Shorestein, and sister-in-law Sylvia Kritzer Baumwald. After graduating from the College of William and Mary in 1948 with an AB in Economics, Kritzer earned a JD with distinction (Phi Kappa Phi, Order of the Coif) at Cornell Law School in 1951. He was admitted to the New York Bar (1952) and Bar of the US Supreme Court (1955) and began his legal practice as a Judge Advocate, serving the US Air Force in Japan after the Korean War. He practiced law with Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Irvine in NYC then, in a span stretching 25 years, he was counsel to General Electric, including several positions in Major Appliances and International Sales Operations. In 1991 Kritzer joined Pace Law School, founding the Pace Institute of International Commercial Law.

Internationally recognized as an authority on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and a leading figure in the harmonization of global commercial law, Albert Kritzer earned accolades such as, "You have done more for the success of the Convention, and more to create the infrastructure for a revolution in commercial legal practice, than anyone in the world" (words by law professor, author and CISG expert, Harry Flechtner). Kritzer wrote the multi-volume "International Contract Manual", first published in the early 1990s. He developed a unique online database of interpretations of the CISG of over 2500 international contract court decisions and arbitration rulings representing 74 countries and taught courses on the CISG. He was devoted to helping students and engaging them in international contract law.

In 1993, he co-founded two prestigious annual student competitions held in Vienna to train future leaders in dispute resolution: the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and the Clive M. Schmitthoff Student Essay Competition. Kritzer received the 1998 Award for Distinction in International Affairs from the New York State Bar Association, and the International Association of Law Libraries recognized the CISG website with its first annual award for non-commercial pursuits in 2002. In 2008, the Festschrift "Sharing International Commercial Law across National Boundaries" was published in honor of Albert Kritzer on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

A generous, warm-hearted, energetic, inspiring, much-beloved visionary scholar devoted to facilitating increased understanding, peace, and justice, Albert Kritzer created communities wherever he went and left a legacy of many projects in progress. He will be sadly missed by family members and an international network of students, colleagues and friends. Letters of condolence have poured in from all corners. To quote one of them: "The law community lost a great master, and the world lost a great human."

PROGRAM

REMARKS

Stephen J. Friedman
President, Pace University

Eric E. Bergsten
Professor Emeritus, Pace Law School
Director, Willem C. Vis
International Commercial Arbitration Moot

Hans Smit
Fuld Professor, Columbia Law School

Pilar Perales Viscasillas
Professor, University of La Rioja

Renaud Sorieul
The Secretary, UNCITRAL

Vikki M. Rogers
Director, Pace Institute of International Commercial Law

Testimonials from others in attendance