

***SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
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ROBERT A. KATZMANN
CHIEF JUDGE

KAREN GREVE MILTON
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Circuit to Commemorate 125th Anniversary and Hold Hands Lecture

Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit announced that, on Wednesday, October 26th, the Court of Appeals will sit in Special Session to commemorate the Court's 125th Anniversary. This Special Session of the Court of Appeals will commence at 4:00 p.m. in the historic 17th floor appellate courtroom at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse at 40 Foley Square in downtown Manhattan. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Justice Sonia Sotomayor will be sitting with the judges of the Second Circuit and will offer remarks.

With the passage of the Second Judiciary Act of 1891, known as the Evarts Act, after its prime sponsor, William M. Evarts of New York, Congress created a court of appeals in the nation's nine circuits, including the Second Circuit. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals, today numbering 13 active judges with the support of senior judges, began as a three-judge court, hearing appeals from the federal district courts of New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

At this Special Session of the Court, the 125th Anniversary Committee will sponsor a Hands Lecture. Named after first cousins Learned and Augustus Hand, who sat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for over thirty years, this lecture series sponsors addresses by well-known authorities on topics of interest to the judiciary and the bar of the Second Circuit. On October 26th, Professor John Fabian Witt of Yale Law School, will speak on the topic: “Adjudication in the Age of Disagreement.”

Chief Judge Katzmann stated, “ It is important for any institution, in order to continue to do its work well, to reflect on its past. The October 26th Special Session of our Court inaugurates our 125th Anniversary year of programs, events and special exhibits, here at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse and throughout our Circuit. I am grateful to my colleague, Judge Richard C. Wesley, for so skillfully chairing this 125th Anniversary retrospective, and to the many judges, court staff and members of the bar who have worked so hard to make these programs memorable. We are delighted that our Court will be embarking on a year-long commemoration of its rich 125-year history in the presence of our beloved Circuit Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and our dear colleague Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and that Professor John Fabian Witt has agreed to deliver the 2016 Hands Lecture to mark the occasion.”

The Hands Lecture will be followed by a reception in the Main Lobby of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse. All are invited to attend this Special Session of the Court, the Hands Lecture and the post-lecture reception. A copy of the 125th Anniversary Calendar is attached.