

1-23-2004

2004 Commencement Speaker

Boston College Law School

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2004 Commencement Speaker

WALTER DELLINGER

1/23/04—Boston College Law School is pleased to announce that Walter Dellinger, a distinguished professor and highly regarded appellate advocate, has accepted the School's invitation to speak at the 2004 Law School Commencement.

"Walter Dellinger has had a remarkable career," said BC Law Dean John H. Garvey. "He has argued some of the most important cases before the Supreme Court in the last decade. He's a very influential figure in the profession. I am very pleased that our graduating class will have the chance to hear what he has to say."

Mr. Dellinger is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Yale University Law School, and clerked for Associate Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in the Court's 1968-69 term. Currently, he is the Douglas B. Maggs Professor of Law at Duke University and also is the head of appellate practice at O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C. Professor Dellinger served as acting Solicitor General for the 1996-97 Term of the Supreme Court. During his tenure, he argued nine cases before the Court, the most by any Solicitor General in more than 20 years. His arguments included cases dealing with physician-assisted suicide, the line item veto, the cable television act, the Brady Act, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the constitutionality of remedial services for parochial school children.

Prior to his appointment as acting Solicitor General, Professor Dellinger served in numerous other capacities in the Clinton Administration. In 1993 Dellinger was nominated by the President to be Assistant Attorney General and head of the Office of Legal Counsel and was confirmed by the Senate in October 1993. During his three years as Assistant Attorney General, he served as the Department's principal legal advisor to the Attorney General and the President. As head of the Office of Legal Counsel, Dellinger issued opinions on a wide variety of issues, including: the President's authority to deploy United States forces in Haiti and Bosnia; whether the President may decline to enforce statutes he believes are unconstitutional; affirmative action; religious activity in public schools; whether the Uruguay round GATT Agreements required treaty ratification; and a major review of separation of powers questions. He provided extensive legal advice on questions arising out of the shutdown of the federal government, on national debt ceiling issues, and on loan guarantees for Mexico.

Professor Dellinger has published articles on constitutional issues for scholarly journals including the Harvard Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, and the Duke Law Journal, and has written articles for the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, the New Republic and the London Times. He has testified more than twenty-five times before committees of the Congress, including the Senate Budget Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and the House Judiciary Committee.

Professor Dellinger has given endowed lectures at numerous American and European universities and has lectured at Leiden, Utrecht, and Tilburg Universities in the Netherlands; the University of Florence and the University of Siena in Italy; the University of Copenhagen in Denmark; Nuremberg University in Germany; the National University of Mexico; the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium; and at conferences in Rio de Janeiro and Rome. He has

addressed the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Conferences of the DC Circuit, the Fifth Circuit, the Second Circuit and the Fourth Circuit, the American Bar Association, the American Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Association of American Law Schools, the Organization of American Historians, the American Political Science Association, the Modern Language Association, the Federalist Society, the United States Supreme Court law clerks and other groups. He has been a member of the Board of Editors of The American Prospect and a member of the Executive Committee of the Yale Law School Association.

Updated: May 10, 2010

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