Has Precedent Ever Really Matters in the Supreme Court?

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The Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series

The Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series is supported by the Charles Loridans Foundation, Inc. The series is named for Henry J. Miller, a partner in the law firm of Alston & Bird for more than 50 years. This lecture featuring Professor Frederick Schauer is the 41st lecture in the series.

The late Henry J. Miller was magna cum laude graduate of Emory University and a 1929 graduate of the Harvard University Law School. He was admitted in the same year to the Georgia Bar and became associated with the law firm that was the predecessor to Alston & Bird. His association with Alston & Bird lasted for more than 50 years.

During his distinguished career, Miller served as both counsel to and director of the C&S National Bank. He also served on the board of directors of the Atlanta Gas Light Company and the American Southern Insurance Company.

From 1973 to 1976, Miller was one of the three-member committee that reviewed amicus briefs for the American Bar Association. In 1980 he was designated Amicus Curiae of the Supreme Court of Georgia “in recognition of (his) distinguished service and contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice.” In 1998, Mr. and Mrs. Miller endowed the Ben F. Johnson Jr. Chair in Law at the Georgia State University College of Law, in honor of the college’s founding dean.

With his passing on February 9, 2000, the College of Law lost a great friend. Henry J. Miller’s legacy continues to live in his role as mentor to generations of Atlanta’s professional community.

The College of Law at Georgia State University

The College of Law was founded in 1982 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. The college provides both full-time and part-time programs and now has more than 3,500 graduates. It continues to earn recognition as one of the leading law schools in the Southeast.
Professor Frederick Schauer is one of America’s most distinguished scholars of constitutional law and legal philosophy. He is the current Chair of the Committee on Philosophy and Law, and the former Chair of the Section on Constitutional Law, of the Association of American Law Schools. Professor Schauer is the author of four books and more than 200 articles and book chapters. Four law schools have published special Law Review symposia honoring his work, which has also been the subject of a book-length collection of essays by leading scholars. In 2004, Professor Schauer was one of 20 faculty members across the university to receive Harvard’s Distinguished Teacher Award. For the 2007-08 academic year, he will be the George Eastman Visiting Professor at Balliol College at Oxford University.
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