2020

John H. Pickering Award

Wednesday, July 29, 2020
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CT

Through August 4, 2020
PROGRAM

WELCOME
Albert C. Harvey
Chair, ABA Senior Lawyers Division

ABOUT JOHN H. PICKERING
Stephen W. Preston
Partner, WilmerHale

INTRODUCTION OF STEVEN A. REISS
Adam C. Hemlock
Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

REMARKS FROM AWARD RECIPIENT
Steven A. Reiss
2020 Recipient, John H. Pickering Achievement Award

CLOSING
Albert C. Harvey

A WORD FROM THE ABA PRESIDENT

“Mr. Reiss’s extraordinary dedication to pro bono and access to justice embodies the spirit of what this award represents. It is lawyers with this selfless dedication to representing underserved communities who remind us of the positive effect we can have on lives and how fulfilling a career in the law can be.”

Judy Perry Martinez
2019-20 ABA President
The award honors the life and accomplishments of John H. Pickering, an outstanding lawyer who was involved in a wide variety of pro bono activities and law-related societal issues affecting the elderly. This award is also cosponsored by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, and Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service.

2020 PICKERING AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

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Orlando Lucero

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Senior Lawyers Division
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Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service
L. Jonathan Ross
MESSAGE FROM
ABA SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION CHAIR
ALBERT C. HARVEY

The Senior Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association welcomes you to the John H. Pickering Achievement Award virtual presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association.

A founding partner of the Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering law firm (now WilmerHale), John Pickering was an outstanding lawyer who was involved in a wide variety of pro bono activities and law related societal issues.

Established in 2007 by the ABA Senior Lawyers Division, the John H. Pickering Achievement Award honors Mr. Pickering’s life and accomplishments. The award is sponsored by Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, and WilmerHale, and is co-sponsored by the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, and the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants.

The Pickering Award annually recognizes members of the legal profession for their brilliant legal work, advocacy of pro bono service, dedication to the cause of equal justice for all, and promotion of the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in the law.

The 2020 Pickering Award honoree, Steven A. Reiss, has a long and distinguished career litigating significant civil and criminal cases for corporations, individuals, and numerous public interest groups. He has compiled an impressive record of dedicated service to both the legal profession and the community at large and has received honors from many organizations for the breadth of his pro bono work. He is general counsel of the The Brennan Center, lecturer at Columbia Law School, and recently retired partner of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP.

For the past 35 years since 1985, the Senior Lawyers Division has served experienced lawyers and American families. The Division promotes professionalism in the law and assists lawyers and judges transitioning in their careers. On behalf of over 45,000 members of the Senior Lawyers Division, I congratulate and thank Mr. Reiss for his accomplishments and dedication to our profession and to the public. And we thank you for joining in this award presentation recognizing one of the outstanding lawyers in America.

Respectfully,
Albert C. Harvey
Chair, ABA Senior Lawyers Division
MESSAGE FROM ABA SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION CHAIR

STEVEN A. REISS

Steven Reiss is a recently retired partner of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School, author to numerous books and articles on jury instructions and white collar crime, and serves as General Counsel to The Brennan Center. He has received numerous accolades both for his litigation skills and his dedication to pro bono work.

During his time at Weil, he was an internationally recognized litigator known for his expertise in complex civil, criminal and international matters, especially those with multi-national or parallel civil and criminal components. In recent years, he represented companies in many of the major international antitrust investigations and litigations, including those involving airlines, auction houses, auto parts, carbon fiber, cargo, chemicals, EPDM rubber, freight forwarders, graphite electrodes, helicopter services, lysine, military insignia, milk, MSG, orthopedic implants, and vitamins industries.

He also had extensive experience in representing companies and individuals in a variety of other high stakes/high profile matters – including major constitutional litigation – at trial and on appeal. He headed the Firm’s appellate practice and successfully argued in the U.S. Supreme Court. View a list of Mr. Reiss’ clients at https://ambar.org/pickeringawardee.

Mr. Reiss was named a “recommended” lawyer by Legal 500 in four categories: Antitrust: Cartels, Antitrust: Civil Litigation and Class Actions, Appellate: Supreme Court, and Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense. He was also recognized by The Best Lawyers in America, Benchmark Litigation, Who's Who Legal, and Chambers USA.

Mr. Reiss has served on the boards of The Brennan Center, The Innocence Project, Oxfam America, Volunteers of Legal Services, and Modern States, an organization dedicated to making college education more affordable. He currently serves as General Counsel to the Brennan Center. He has litigated significant cases for numerous civil rights organizations, including The Brennan Center, The Center for Constitutional Rights, The Center for Reproduction Rights, The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the ACLU and The Vance Center. He has been honored by numerous organizations for his pro bono work, and was the recipient of The Law & Society Award given by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

Prior to joining Weil in 1989, Mr. Reiss was a tenured professor of law at New York University Law School, where he taught criminal law, constitutional law, evidence, and trial advocacy. He is currently a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School teaching an advanced seminar on “U.S. Civil and Criminal Enforcement of International Cartels.” He has published numerous books and articles and co-authored Modern Federal Jury Instructions, a standard reference work on jury instructions and practice in the federal courts. He was the Reporter for Second Circuit Judicial Conference Committee on Juries.

Mr. Reiss served as a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court and to Judge John Minor Wisdom of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is a graduate of Stanford Law School, where he was articles editor of the Law Review, and Vassar College, where he has served as a trustee.

THE 2020 JOHN H. PICKERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

STEVEN A. REISS

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He also had extensive experience in representing companies and individuals in a variety of other high stakes/high profile matters – including major constitutional litigation – at trial and on appeal. He headed the Firm’s appellate practice and successfully argued in the U.S. Supreme Court. View a list of Mr. Reiss’ clients at https://ambar.org/pickeringawardee.

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PAST RECIPIENTS

2019
James J. Brosnahan

2018
Michael J. Gonring

2017
Robert E. Juceam

2016
Edward D. “Ned” Spurgeon

2015
Pascal H. Goddard

2014
Hon. Bernice B. Donald

2013
Hon. U.W. Clemon

2012
Anthony R. Palermo

2011
T. Maxfield Bahner

2010
S. Shepherd Tate

2009
Leigh Middleditch, Jr.

2008
Neal R. Sonnett
Steve,
Your rigorous advocacy and dedication to justice shine brightly. We are honored to call you our colleague.

Congratulations from all of us at Weil on your recognition.
WilmerHale is proud to honor one of its founding partners, John H. Pickering, and to support the ABA Senior Lawyers Division’s 2020 Pickering Achievement Award presentation.
ABA CO-SPONSORS

Commission on Law and Aging

Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice

Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service

Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants