DEDICATION OF
THE HONORABLE ROGER J. MINER ’56
READING ROOM

Wednesday, July 10, 2013
New York Law School
The Mendik Library
Judge Roger J. Miner ’56 was a widely respected senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. His name appeared on presidential short-lists for possible nomination to the United States Supreme Court three times.

Judge Miner’s deep and long-standing commitment to the Law School was wide-ranging. He was an adjunct professor of law from 1986 to 1996 and a member of the Law School’s Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1996. He was also a recipient of several awards from the Law School. Among his lasting contributions to the Law School was the generous donation of his papers, creating a rich and permanent archive.

Judge Miner received his LL.B. degree cum laude from New York Law School in 1956. After graduation, he served on active military duty from 1956 to 1959, and later with the Army Reserve, obtaining the rank of captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. In 1976, at the age of 41, Judge Miner became one of the youngest justices of the New York State Supreme Court. He served there until 1981, when President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. In July 1985, President Reagan nominated him to fill one of two new judgeships in the Second Circuit. The nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, and Judge Miner was sworn in on September 14, 1985.

A prolific writer, Judge Miner authored more than 30 law journal and law review articles, and nearly 600 published appellate opinions. He sat on Second Circuit panels in over 4,000 matters.

Throughout his life Judge Miner manifested a profound commitment to public service. Between 1961 and 1975, he served as Corporation Counsel for the City of Hudson, New York, and as an Assistant District Attorney and then District Attorney for Columbia County. In addition, he devoted his time to many professional and community organizations.

Judge Miner was a dedicated teacher who tirelessly advocated for the importance of training lawyers for the practice of law. He was an unparalleled mentor to dozens of former law clerks, many of whom are NYLS alumni. In formal remarks, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, one of his former law clerks, remembered him as a “truly brilliant and dedicated jurist who served New York and the nation as a public servant his entire life.”
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