The Owen J. Roberts Memorial Lecture

The Battle Against Terror
The Judicial Role

Lecture: Justice Aharon Barak
Former President of the Supreme Court of Israel

National Constitution Center
Kirby Auditorium
525 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA

Monday, September 17, 2007 • 5:30 p.m.
The Roberts Lectureship was established in 1957 to honor Owen J. Roberts, an 1895 Graduate of the College of the University of Pennsylvania and an 1898 graduate of the Law School. He was a former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (1948-1952). It is considered the foremost endowed lectureship at Penn Law School. Over the years the Roberts Lectureship has brought to the Law School such distinguished jurists and scholars as Felix Frankfurter, Antonin Scalia, William Hastie, Louis Pollak, Herbert Wechsler, Archibald Cox, Paul Freund, Ronald Dworkin, John Rawls, Guido Calabresi, and Kathleen Sullivan.

Aharon Barak was President of the Supreme Court of Israel from 1995-2006, when he reached the age of mandatory retirement. Legal scholars have called him the “John Marshall” of Israel and the “world’s greatest living jurist.” In 2006 he published “The Judge in a Democracy,” in which he describes the role of a judge as one that goes beyond dispute resolution to connect law with society and to protect the Constitution and democracy. Barak studied law, economics, and international relations at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He received an MA in law in 1958 and a doctorate in 1963.

Born in Lithuania in 1936, Barak was smuggled out of Kovno Ghetto as a child, and hidden by a Lithuanian farmer. He immigrated to Israel with his parents in 1947. Barak is married and the father of four.