

FOREWORD

*Gillian Lester**

Over his near half-century on the Columbia law faculty, George Bermann has left an indelible mark on both the school and the profession. He earned an LL.M. degree at Columbia in 1975—the same year he joined the full-time faculty—and has spent the past 47 years teaching and mentoring students, producing scholarship that has helped shape the contours of multiple fields of law, and mediating some of the most complex multi-national commercial disputes as a practicing international arbitrator.

George's contributions have singularly cemented Columbia's place as a top institution for the study of international and comparative law, European law, and international arbitration and dispute resolution. In 1994, he founded the *Columbia Journal of European Law*, and just a few years later, in 1998, established the European Legal Studies Center, for which he continues to serve as co-director. Year after year, international arbitration scholars and practitioners from around the world convene at Columbia Law School under the auspices of the Columbia Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, which George created and directs. And he also serves as co-editor-in-chief of the *American Review of International Arbitration*—the leading academic journal in the field.

For generations of students, George has been much more than a classroom teacher. Although his courses are always in high demand, it is his steady devotion to mentoring and counseling students—particularly international and LL.M. students—that truly sets him apart. The line of students outside George's office frequently extends down the hallway, as he helps demystify the law while also providing treasured advice about legal careers and practice. George also advises multiple international moot court teams, including the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

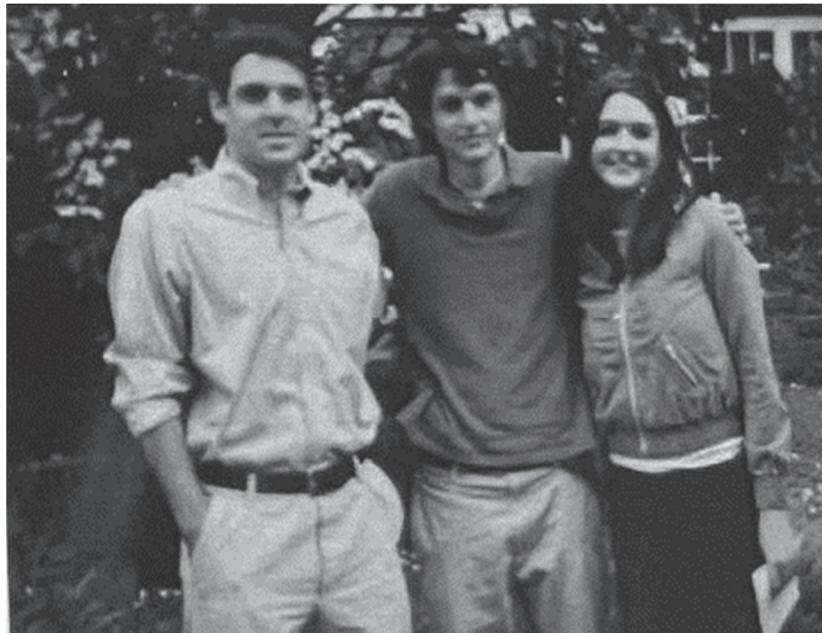
In fact, one need not look farther than this volume to grasp the significance of George's influence and the high esteem in which he is held by our global community. It is a testament to those enduring connections that four Columbia LL.M. graduates and a faculty colleague serve as editors, with numerous Law School alumni contributing as authors.

As much as this project reflects George's Columbia linkages, it is also itself a significant contribution to the field of international arbitration. In the pages that follow, more than 100 articles pay tribute to George and reflect—some critically—on his ideas and contributions. The result is a rich and thoughtful

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survey of the major topics in international arbitration; I cannot think of a more fitting way to pay tribute.

As George nears his 50th year teaching at Columbia Law School, we are—as we have always been—deeply honored to have him among us. He is a backbone of our faculty, and with his seemingly inexhaustible energy, an engine of the Law School's progress. Let this book be a joyful reminder of George's career, and a fitting expression of our admiration and appreciation for all that he has given to the Columbia Law School and international arbitration communities.



Professor Bermann's Children (from left to right):
Sloan Bermann, Grant Bermann, Suzanne Bermann.
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