THE MEDAL
FOR EXCELLENCE
2009 WINTER LUNCHEON

February 6, 2009
The Waldorf=Astoria
New York City

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
2009 WINTER LUNCHEON

Welcome
John M. Olivieri, ’94
President, Columbia Law School Association

Introduction
David M. Schizer
Dean and the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law

Presentation of the Medal for Excellence to
Steven Epstein, ’68
Senior Partner, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.

and presented posthumously to
Jerome L. Greene, ’28, ’83 HON
1906–1999 | Lawyer, real estate investor, philanthropist
After graduating from Tufts University (B.A., ‘65) and Columbia Law School, Epstein began his career working for the Wall Street law firm of Barrett Knapp Smith & Shapiro. In the early ‘70s, intrigued by an offer to work in an entirely new legal field, he moved to Washington, D.C., to work for what was then the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Immediately engrossed in the emerging field of health care law, he became instrumental in developing the legal basis for, and acceptance of, managed care as the most prominent form of health care delivery.

In 1973, Epstein founded Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. The firm now employs approximately 400 attorneys working in 10 cities and is regarded as one of the leading law firms in health care law. Epstein himself has been referred to as the “father of the health law industry” by Chambers USA. As the senior health partner in his firm, Epstein provides strategic legal guidance to a wide range of health care organizations and providers who face both legal challenges and opportunities in the ever-changing American health care system. In this connection, he sits on the board of directors of a number of public and private health care companies and the advisory boards of several venture capital firms.

Outside his trailblazing professional pursuits, Epstein takes an active role at his alma maters. For the past 15 years, Epstein has been a member of Columbia Law School’s Board of Visitors and has served as chairman since 2004. In addition to teaching a popular seminar, Business and Law of Health Care, he has also endowed the Steven B. and Deborah L. Epstein Professorship at the Law School. A trustee of Tufts University since 1999, Epstein has had the honor of receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from both his graduate and undergraduate institutions—from Columbia University in 2007 and Tufts University in 1999.

Epstein maintains a strong commitment to charity work as well. He is on the board of directors of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C.; Street Law, an education program designed to teach youth about law, democracy and human rights; and on the international board of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He also sits on the board, and was instrumental in the founding, of the Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Health Care Industry Foundation, which addresses the unique needs of women serving in a senior executive capacity in the U.S. health care industry. Epstein also supported the creation and growth of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, which seeks to prepare young African-American men to become exemplary citizens and leaders.

Through his influential role in building a legal foundation for the health care system, as well as his support of education and wellness efforts, Steven Epstein demonstrates a level of excellence that is an inspiration to all.
Greene served as a trustee of the Juilliard School and WNET/Channel 13 and as chairman of the board of the Hirshhorn Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. At Juilliard he established the Jerome Greene Fellowships, which support all three phases of performing arts taught at the school. A longtime member of Lincoln Center’s board of directors and emeritus council, he underwrote the Center’s annual “Mostly Mozart” festival (in celebration of his favorite composer). He also profoundly influenced health care, creating the Jerome L. and Dawn Greene Medical Arts Pavilion and supporting the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center. And to stimulate development efforts in the Center’s Bronx community, Greene also helped found the Moshulu Preservation Corporation.

Through his generosity and wise counsel, Greene made a lasting impact on Columbia University. He was an especially great benefactor to the Law School, which he credited with providing him with the tools that made possible his professional success. His contributions included the establishment of the Jerome Greene Fund for Clinical Education, several scholarship funds and major gifts for three phases of renovations to the main Law School building that was named in his honor in 1990.

Greene has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Judge Learned G. Hand Human Relations Award, the Oscar S. Straus Award for Philanthropy on Behalf of New York City, the Law School’s James Kent Award and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Columbia (’83).

Today his wife, Dawn, president and CEO of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, continues his legacy and commitment to his alma mater and New York City. Her efforts include the establishment of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center at Columbia and a contribution to WNYC, New York Public Radio, that represents the largest gift ever made to a public radio station.

The contributions of Jerome Greene in both his life and through his Foundation have truly changed the lives of countless people and communities in New York and across America.
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THE MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE

The Medal for Excellence, Columbia Law School’s most prestigious award, is presented annually to an alumnus or to a past or present faculty member who exemplifies the qualities of character, intellect, and social and professional responsibility that the Law School seeks to instill in its students.

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2006  Professor R. Randle Edwards
2007  Michael E. Patterson, ’67
2007  Esta Eiger Stecher, ’82
2008  H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest, ’58

*deceased