

**BOSTON COLLEGE LAW PROF, LEADING TAX SCHOLAR
JAMES REPETTI NAMED INAUGURAL HOLDER OF PROFESSORSHIP
HONORING FORMER DEAN WILLIAM J. KENEALY, SJ**

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (9-17-08) -- Boston College Law School Professor and leading tax scholar James Repetti has been named the inaugural holder of the Rev. William J. Kenealy, SJ, Professorship, named in honor of the member of the Law School's first class who went on to serve as dean of the school from 1939-1956.

"This is a great honor, and it is fitting that it will go to someone of Jim's distinction," said BC Law Dean John H. Garvey. The professorship is a gift of the Boston College Law School's Class of 1974.

"I'm very pleased to be the inaugural holder of the Kenealy Professorship," said Repetti. "William Kenealy is a tremendously important figure in the history of the Law School and Boston College."



Repetti, who joined the faculty of BC Law School in 1986, has been recognized for both research and teaching. Hailed as a leading tax law scholar and the author of seminal work in his field, he also was selected by the student body to be the first recipient, in 1999, of the Law School's award for excellence in teaching.

He is co-author of the texts, *Partnership Income Taxation*, *Introduction to United States International Taxation*, *Federal Wealth Transfer Taxation*, *Problems in Federal Wealth Transfer Taxation*, and *Tax Aspects of Organizing and Operating a Business* and a contributing author to the treatises, *Comparative Income Taxation: A Structural Analysis* and *The International Guide to Partnerships*.

He has written numerous articles on taxation for law reviews and other journals across the nation, including "Democracy and Opportunity: A New Paradigm in Tax Equity" in the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, which this year won the Boston College Law School prize for scholarship. Also this year, the U.S. Joint Committee on Taxation devoted several pages of its report, *Taxation of Wealth Transfers Within a Family*, to a discussion of Repetti's proposal to eliminate the estate tax on family businesses and farms, and his critique of the existing rules.

Repetti has acted as a consultant to the Internal Revenue Service and Justice Department, and has appeared as a commentator in publications such as the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Forbes Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Massachusetts Lawyer's Weekly*. He also recently organized and moderated a symposium at Boston College Law School entitled, "The State of the Federal Income Tax: Rates, Progressivity, and Budget Processes," articles from which were published in the *Boston College Law Review*, and, last year, co-launched the Boston College Law School Tax Policy Workshop. He also serves on the executive committee of the Tax Section of the American Association of Law Schools.

A 1975 *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard College, Repetti received his JD *magna cum laude* and MBA degrees from Boston College in 1980, after which he clerked for Judge Walter Skinner, then worked for five years at the Boston law firm Ropes & Gray. He also

has served as a consultant for the IRS and Justice Department and as counsel to Hill & Barlow.

Repetti has served Boston College on a number of committees, and, in his home town of Dover, Mass., currently is a scout leader and assistant town moderator. He has previously acted as chair of the Dover Planning Board and of the Dover Master Plan Committee.

Rev. William J. Kenealy, SJ, was appointed dean of Boston College in 1939. Fr. Kenealy earned his AB and AM degrees from Boston College and a PhD from the Gregorian University in Rome. He was enrolled in the first class at Boston College Law School in 1929 (though he subsequently earned his degree from Georgetown University). He also was a professor of classical Latin at Boston College and had supervised its Fulton Debating Society.



During his tenure as dean, the Law School saw a number of milestones, including an expansion of its full-time faculty members, a gift of more than 2,000 volumes from the law library of Supreme Judicial Court Associate Justice James B. Carroll which increased the school's total library volumes to 20,000, and, in 1940, a vote to admit women.

At left: Dean Kenealy receiving a Resolution of the Massachusetts legislature lauding the Law School on its Twentieth Anniversary in 1949. With Father Kenealy are, from left, Chester A. Dolan, Senate president; Charles Artesani '34, a member of the House; and Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, then Massachusetts Speaker of the House and eventually Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. (John J. Burns Library, Boston College)

When the United States entered World War II, Fr. Kenealy took leave to serve as a U.S. Navy chaplain. When he returned to the deanship, he instituted the "Post-War Program" intended to help veterans through law school. He also toughened overall academic standards and initiated a law review to publicize the scholarly work of both professors and students.

Fr. Kenealy also pressed for the construction of a separate building for the law school, away from its location in a Boston office building. In 1953, he arranged purchase from the City of Boston of the property upon which St. Thomas More Hall was built. It served as the site of the Law School from 1954 - 1975, when it moved to its present site on BC's Newton Campus.

Fr. Kenealy, who had retired from teaching in 1969, died in 1975.

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