

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ronald Riccio

Let me just get my two cents in here. What I hope as a Professor and former Dean here is that students will walk away from this session with a realization about the importance of judicial review. I'm not going to weigh in on the side of one theory or another. I don't know enough about it but I've been listening and learning. What I do know is that these issues are going to get presented to somebody for final and binding adjudication and it is not the President of the United States, Congress, a governor, or any state legislature. It could very well be one of the federal or state judges sitting at this table who could be called upon someday to decide the constitutionality of a law that gets passed by some governmental body banning the possession of all firearms under all circumstances. That is an awesome responsibility and an awesome power. When you talk about *Marbury vs. Madison* and its obscure fact pattern, think about this panel discussion. Think about the day, *Emerson* being an example, when laws get enacted that abridge some persons fundamental rights and the ultimate decision-maker is going to be in the first instance a single judge, perhaps on the state court or the federal court. That is the essence of judicial review. Your job as lawyers—and this is why its an exciting profession—is to take all this information, all of this scholarship, all of these cases, and to shape it, use it, present it and advocate it as passionately as you can, regardless of what side you are taking for your client. Try and convince the court, within in the bounds of the law and the bounds of professionalism, which way to come out on one of the monumental issues of our time. Thank you very much.