

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

*Honorable John J. Gibbons*

The four Justices whose work in the Supreme Court we have discussed span the entire history of the Court and the Constitution. Each was important in his own way: Paterson, for laying the foundations for judicial review on which the Marshall Court built; Bradley, in finding a *modus vivendi* for the Court following the constitutional crisis and settlement in the late 1870's; Pitney, in serving as a spokesman for and expounding the positions of the dominant political majority in the 1920's with respect to individual rights and the economy; and Brennan, as the principal architect of the new Constitution that emerged following the reassessment of the settlement of 1877, beginning in the late 1950's.

Of the four, I think it fair to say that Justice Brennan has been the most important, if for no other reason than that his twenty-nine years of service is longer than that of any of the other three. Beyond recognizing that they were important, how one views each of them depends to a large extent on one's own political perspective. It is no secret that from my political perspective, Brennan will go down in history as the greatest of the four.\* Nevertheless, each one must be measured as among the most important Justices who served the Court.

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\* See Gibbons, *Tribute to Justice Brennan*, 36 RUTGERS L. REV. 729 (1984).