

## Introduction: Celebrating the Life of Richard N. Gardner

“Gratitude” was the sentiment most commonly felt among the many students, faculty members, friends, and family members who spoke with the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law* as it prepared the following tribute to Professor Richard N. Gardner. Having been a fixture at Columbia Law School since 1954 when he began his tenure teaching part-time, it is no surprise that he had touched the lives and shaped the careers of so many members of the Columbia community. Having served as the Ambassador to Italy and Spain, and having held several posts in multiple presidential administrations and campaigns, it is no surprise that he was remembered for his commitment to public service and his passion for issues pertaining to public affairs. Yet with so many exceptional accomplishments, articles, books, and more to discuss, those who shared their memories with the *Journal* were most enthusiastic to emphasize that no matter what heights his career reached, Professor Gardner always made time for them. Whether as a colleague offering advice on a particular issue in the law, a mentor guiding his pupils through every stage of their careers, an enormous supporter of this journal, or as a loving and committed father, Professor Gardner ensured that the people and institutions connected to him felt the incalculable benefits of his attention, intellect, and compassion.

In this tribute to Professor Gardner, we celebrate his accomplishments and we honor his incredible work both inside and beyond the classroom. We fondly remember him as a member of his own family, the Columbia community, and the world community for which he worked so arduously. We highlight the impact he has had on international law, environmental law, public affairs, and the many other disciplines across which his worked spanned. Finally, we share our *gratitude* for all of the aforementioned and more.

On behalf of the Board of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, thank you to Professor Gardner and to all of those who shared their memories of him.

*Frank Colleluori\**

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\* Editor-in-Chief of the 57th Volume of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*.