

WELCOME

DOUGLAS E. RAY, DEAN
WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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DEAN RAY: Good morning. My name is Douglas Ray. It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the faculty and students of the Widener University School of Law. I would like to express our appreciation to the Delaware State Bar Association for co-sponsoring this program and to the Du Pont Company and CSC, the United States Corporation Company, for their financial support of this program. Our law school is very proud to be associated with what promises to be an outstanding program, and we're very grateful to all of the distinguished presenters and commentators who will be sharing their expertise and insights with us over the next two days. I am pleased to report that these proceedings will be printed in Widener's *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*. It promises to be an outstanding issue.

In my first four months as Dean of Widener's Law School, I've discovered how lucky we are to be the only law school in Delaware. There is a wealth of legal talent on the bench and in the bar, and I'm particularly grateful to the members of the Delaware Supreme Court, Chancery Court, and Superior Court, and to the many members of the Delaware Bar who regularly provide their time and talent to our School. I am proud to be associated with the members of the Widener full-time and adjunct faculty who will be part of this program.

I'd like to make special note of Widener Professor Larry Hamermesh, one of the people instrumental in putting this program together. Professors Hamermesh, Stilson, and Regan of our full-time faculty will be on the program, and I'm proud of the expertise in this field they bring to our School. Professor Hamermesh has asked me to thank all of you who worked on the program, and, in particular, to thank Chief Justice Veasey for his counseling and assistance at every step in the development of the symposium.

Our purpose today is to examine where the Delaware General Corporation Law is headed in the next century. Given its evolution over its first hundred years into one of our most important legal institutions, this is no easy task. Fortunately, we are honored to have with us some of the world's most expert scholars, corporate and government leaders, and judges to help us. It is a privilege for the Widener University School of Law to join the Delaware State Bar Association in presenting this timely program.

I'd like now to introduce one of the talented people who made this program a reality, Mr. Craig B. Smith, Chair of the Corporate Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association.