

**Reflections of Fern Schair  
Fund for Modern Courts  
John D. Feerick  
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Fern Schair had an angel's quality in hearing the prayers and dreams of others and responding to them- for example, the lawyer's transition program, institutionalizing such a program to aid lawyers leaving or seeking employment; identifying someone, the late Bill Slate, who might be and was a transformative president of the American Arbitration Association; expanding the membership of the City Bar Association to include law students; bringing the law as a profession to the attention of students in the inner city through the creation of a Thurgood Marshall summer law internship program; helping the state courts of New York fulfill their justice mission through interpreters and language access, women in the courts, along with Justice Betty Ellerin, and leveraging non-lawyers to improve access to justice; and here at the fund for Modern Courts in helping establish not only this special function to sustain the important work of the Fund, but this very award to which her name will be attached in perpetuity, first presented to Chief Judge Judith

Kaye; and in enabling 8 Presidents of the City Bar Association to implement their ideas for moving the Association forward in positive and impactful ways through the development of an extraordinary staff of men and women. These were just some of her justice and court oriented involvements. Where she was involved she was frequently a driver of such efforts. Moreover, her leadership was marked by a rare opportunity to be both tireless and strategic and an exceptionally effective partner.

For the last 16 years of her life, she honored Fordham Law School and its Center for Social Justice by serving as chair of the Center's advisory Board in which she played a major role in the development of the Attorney Emeritus Program, now a major provider of service opportunities for senior lawyers. For me she was a special colleague to whom I could turn to for perspectives on any subject having to do with the law and justice and for helping others who were seeking opportunities to have a meaningful and purposeful career in the practice of law. She was a selfless and humble lawyer, a lawyer for all seasons, who sought no recognition for herself but was signaled out by the City

Bar for the Association's Medal, the first woman to receive this recognition in the long history of the Medal, and tonight she is signaled out again with a recognition, like the John McCloy award, that presents to others the best of the American legal profession. I was privileged and honored to have her as my friend for almost 40 years.

