

Speaker Biographies

Taylor Law at 50

May 10, 2018 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Plenary Three:

The Taylor Law over the Years:
A Discussion with Former PERB Chairs

JOHN F. WIRENIUS

John Wirenius was nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate as the Chairperson of the Public Employment Relations Board (“PERB”) in June 2016, after having served as PERB’s Deputy Chair and General Counsel for two years. Prior to joining PERB, he was for eight years the Deputy General Counsel for the New York City Office of Collective Bargaining, and earlier in his career represented both management and labor. He has published numerous scholarly articles on topics ranging from the First Amendment to labor law, and two books. He is a 1990 graduate of the Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Fordham College in 1987.

SETH H. AGATA

Seth H. Agata was appointed Executive Director of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics in March 2016. He previously served as Chairperson of the New York State Public Employment Relations Board and Acting Counsel to the Governor and as well as First Assistant Counsel and Ethics Officer to the Executive Chamber. Before joining the Governor’s staff, he was Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy (with oversight of the Assembly Codes, Correction, Election Law, and Judiciary Committees) and Senior Associate Counsel in the Office of Counsel to the Majority for the New York State Assembly. He served as Counsel for Investigations in the Office of State Comptroller, Assistant District Attorney for Columbia County, and a trial examiner in the New York City Office of Collective Bargaining and was in private law practice in New York City and Columbia County. He co-authored *The History of the New York Court of Appeals, 1932-2003* (Columbia U. Press, 2006) and has written on other topics. Mr. Agata is a graduate of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and the Cornell Law School. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

WILLIAM A. HERBERT

William A. Herbert is a Distinguished Lecturer and Executive Director of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions at Hunter College, City University of New York.

Bill’s scholarship and teaching focus on labor law, history, and policy. He is a co-editor of the book *Lefkowitz on Public Sector Labor and Employment Law* and he has published and lectured on public sector labor history, collective bargaining, and other subjects.

Prior to joining the Hunter College faculty, Bill was PERB’s Deputy Chair from 2007 to 2013. Before his tenure at PERB, Bill practiced labor and employment law before PERB, NLRB, and state and federal courts. For close to two decades, he worked directly with Jerry Lefkowitz.

MICHAEL CUEVAS

Michael R. Cuevas is Of Counsel at Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux. Michael was born in Brooklyn, New York on December 29, 1953. He has an extensive background and experience in the public sector, having served for four years as Corporation Counsel for the City of Schenectady, three years as Chairman of the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and eight and one-half years as Chairman of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) of the State of New York.

PAULINE R. KINSELLA

Ms. Kinsella served as a staff attorney for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination from 1973 until 1975, when she entered private practice as an associate and later shareholder at Roemer and Featherstonhaugh, PC. In Albany, New York, specializing in labor and employment law from 1976 until 1987. In 1987, Ms. Kinsella was appointed Deputy Chair and Counsel to the NYS Public Employment Relations Board, and served as the Board's Chairwoman from 1991 until 1998. She became Director of Field Services for New York State United Teachers, a large labor organization, in 1998, and in 2003 was appointed as its Executive Director, where she served until 2013.

Ms. Kinsella was admitted to practice in Massachusetts in 1973, and in New York in 1976. She has appeared before numerous administrative agencies and state courts; in the Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts of New York; and in the 2d Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a graduate of Brown University and Boston University School of Law.