

Donald B. Verrilli's Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua Institution

*John Q. Barrett**

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On July 1, 2019, Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., former Solicitor General of the United States, delivered Chautauqua Institution's 15th annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture on the Supreme Court of the United States.



For video of Mr. Verrilli's lecture, which addressed the concept of Supreme Court decisions being "on the level," click www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTUqWGwpbNs&feature=youtu.be. The video begins with introductions by Chautauqua vice president Matt Ewalt and by me. Audience questions and Verrilli answers follow the lecture.

* Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York (www.roberthjackson.org). I emailed an earlier version of this essay to The Jackson List on July 29, 2019.

For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which include document images or photographs, visit <http://thejacksonlist.com>. This essay is posted there as a PDF file with "live" hyperlinks.

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And for video excerpts from a Robert H. Jackson Center interview with Mr. Verrilli, click www.youtube.com/watch?v=itFkYkUhMuE.

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Donald Verrilli, a graduate of Yale College and Columbia Law School and a former law clerk to U.S. Circuit Judge J. Skelly Wright (D.C. Cir.) and U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., is an acclaimed American lawyer and courtroom advocate, including for arguing fifty cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Following two decades in private law practice, Mr. Verrilli served in the Obama Administration, first as Associate Deputy Attorney General, then as Deputy White House Counsel, and then as Solicitor General.

As Solicitor General, Mr. Verrilli, among other highlights, successfully defended the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, the legality of its implementation, and the constitutional protection of marriage equality.

Since 2016, Mr. Verrilli has been a partner in Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, handling matters before the Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals and representing and counseling clients on litigation, regulatory, and public policy problems. His law firm webpage is www.mto.com/lawyers/donald-b-verrilli-jr.



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The Robert H. Jackson Lecture at Chautauqua Institution is a leading annual consideration of the Supreme Court and related topics in the weeks following the completion of its annual term. Chautauqua's Jackson Lecturers have been:

- 2005: Geoffrey R. Stone, University of Chicago professor;
- 2006: Linda Greenhouse, *New York Times* journalist and Yale University lecturer and research scholar;
- 2007: Seth P. Waxman, WilmerHale partner and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2008: Jeffrey Toobin, staff writer at *The New Yorker* and CNN senior legal analyst;
- 2009: Paul D. Clement, Kirkland & Ellis LLP partner and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2010: Jeff Shesol, historian, communications strategist, and former White House speechwriter;
- 2011: Dahlia Lithwick, contributing editor at *Newsweek* and senior editor at *Slate*;
- 2012: Pamela Karlan, Stanford University professor;
- 2013: Charles Fried, Harvard University professor and former Solicitor General of the United States;
- 2014: Akhil Reed Amar, Yale University professor;
- 2015: Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard University professor;
- 2016: Tracey L. Meares, Yale University professor;
- 2017: Judge Jon O. Newman, U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit;

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- 2018: Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, Supreme Court of Canada; and
- 2019: Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP partner and former Solicitor General of the United States.