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## Tribute to John Pickering

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*United States District Court for the District of Columbia*

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# TRIBUTE TO JOHN PICKERING

*Louis F. Oberdorfer\**

John left word that he did not want a lot of eulogies, so there is much I could say about him that I do not because I honor his request.

Some of you may remember the superstar backs who played football at West Point in the 1940s. Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis were their names. Blanchard was a powerful, heavyset fullback. He was “Mr. Inside.” Davis was a dazzlingly fast and versatile running back, “Mr. Outside.” In their three years at the core of the team, West Point won twenty-seven games, tied one, and lost none.

So today we pause to remember the almost simultaneous passing of two contemporary superstars of the legal profession: John Pickering, “Mr. Inside,” and Lloyd Cutler,<sup>1</sup> “Mr. Outside.” They started with a firm of nineteen lawyers. When they left us this spring, their firm consisted of a thousand lawyers, recognized worldwide as the fearless example of what a great law firm should be. They, and particularly John, have taught us all, by example, that it is possible for lawyers to do good and also do well.

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\* Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

1. Mr. Pickering’s law partner and friend, Lloyd Cutler, passed away on May 8, 2005.

