A TOAST TO "TOM THE FRANK"

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Thank you, Mr. Dean, for that generous introduction.

And thank you, Benedict, and thank you, David, for inviting me to speak at this splendid event. I know there is nothing more deadly than an academic lecture delivered over cocktails and canapés, so I will try to keep it brief. But Tom, fair warning: I also plan to keep it light, so we don’t get too maudlin while the weekend is so young!

Let me start by saying that this cocktail hour is not the time to review Tom Franck’s astonishing achievements in international law. That is what this weekend’s symposium is for, and besides, you have his biography in this program. If you have read it, you know that Tom’s curriculum vitae would make most World Court judges drool and most young scholars give up.

Tom Franck’s professional career resembles that of a great baseball player—having just gotten off a train from Baltimore, I naturally think of Cal Ripken—the kind of player whose statistics alone could get him in the Hall of Fame: 48 years of teaching, 42 here at NYU. 200 articles. 29 books. Litigant before and ad hoc judge of the World Court. Winner of the Wolfgang Friedmann Award, the Christopher Medal, and the John Read Medal from the Canadian Council of International Law. One of the handful ever to win the American Society of International Law’s “Triple Crown”: President of the Society, Editor in Chief of the American Journal, and four-time winner of the ASIL’s Certificate of Merit. And this weekend he is launching yet another book that is odds-on to win the Certificate of Merit again. For God’s sake, Tom, would you give it a rest and let the rest of us get into the game?

But, as with Cal Ripken, the best measure of Tom’s greatness is that this recitation of statistics tells only the tiniest part

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