

June 2007

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Richard A. Posner was born on January 11, 1939, in New York City. He graduated from Yale College in 1959, *summa cum laude*, and graduated first in his class from Harvard Law School in 1962, *magna cum laude*, and was President of the Harvard Law Review. He worked for several years in Washington during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, and entered law teaching in 1968 at Stanford as an associate professor, becoming professor of law at the University of Chicago Law School in 1969, where he remained (later as Lee and Brena Freeman Professor of Law) until his appointment to the Seventh Circuit in 1981. During this period Posner wrote a number of books (including *Antitrust Law: An Economic Perspective*, *Economic Analysis of Law*—now in its seventh edition—and *The Economics of Justice*) and many articles, mainly exploring the application of economics to a variety of legal subjects, including antitrust, public utility and common carrier regulation, torts, contracts, and procedure. He also engaged in private consulting and was from 1977 to 1981 the first president of Lexecon Inc., a firm made up of lawyers and economists that provides economic and legal research and support in antitrust, securities, and other litigation.

Posner became a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in December 1981 and served as Chief Judge from 1993 to 2000. He continues to teach part time at the University of Chicago Law School. His academic work since his becoming a judge has included studies in the economics of criminal law, labor law, and intellectual property; in jurisprudence, law and literature, and the interpretation of constitutional and statutory texts; and in the economics of sexuality and of old age. His most recent books are *Not a Suicide Pact: The Constitution in a Time of National Emergency* (2006), *The Little Book of Plagiarism* (2007), the seventh edition of *Economic Analysis of Law* (2007), and *Countering Terrorism: Blurred Focus, Halting Steps* (forthcoming, 2007). His current academic research concerns national security and intelligence reform, judicial behavior, law and science, intellectual property, social control of technology, antitrust, constitutional law, democratic theory, and jurisprudence and moral theory. Academic writings by Posner have been translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Greek, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Slovenian. He and the economist Gary Becker write weekly

commentaries on policy issues, published in “The Becker-Posner Blog,” at <http://becker-posner-blog.com/>.

Posner has received a number of honorary degrees. In addition, he received the John Sherman Award from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2003, for contributions to antitrust policy. In 2005 he received both the Learned Hand Medal for Excellence in Federal Jurisprudence from the Federal Bar Council and the Thomas C. Schelling Award for scholarly contributions that have had an impact on public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.