

John Dean & James Robenalt

Watergate at 50

Richard Nixon, John Dean and the Importance of Lawyers as Whistleblowers

You are a lawyer working for the president of the United States. You have been a government lawyer (with Congress and the Justice Department) but have no criminal law experience. The Democratic National Committee has been hacked and because you tried to prevent it from occurring, you know who did it.

The perpetrators volunteer to remain silent so long as they receive cash for legal expenses, bail and family care. Eventually the perpetrators are arrested, plead guilty or are tried and found guilty. They are threatened with long jail sentences. Privately, one of the perpetrators threatens to expose the cover-up by talking to prosecutors unless he receives an assurance that he will be pardoned by the president, or at the least given clemency after a short time in prison.

You realize the cover-up will not work, and warn the president. When it is clear you have not convinced him, you openly begin cooperating with investigators. The president then turns on you, blaming you for the cover-up. And after you start assisting the Watergate Special Prosecutor, the president abruptly fires him, calling the investigation a "witch hunt."

John Dean's direct knowledge of the application (and misapplication) of presidential powers and Jim Robenalt's encyclopedic knowledge of the presidency combine to offer you thoughtful and practical insight into what happens in the halls of power, what might lie ahead and, more importantly, how the practicing bar can respond.

The future is uncertain, but your enjoyment of this fascinating discussion is guaranteed to stimulate your civic consciousness and invigorate your passion as a champion of the rule of law.

Raves for John and Jim's spellbinding programs

"As one of the members of the audience said yesterday, that was just about the best CLE program I have ever attended. The combination of the serious explanation of the new ethical standards with the exciting recollection of a dark but momentous period in our history was wonderful... All in all, it was a tour de force."

— Richard W. Pogue, former Managing Partner, Jones Day

"Gripping."— Chicago Sun-Times

"Best CLE course I have attended. Entertaining, Informative, and legally, historically and ethically relevant and poignant"

"As general counsel of a corporation this has been invaluable"

"Excellent link of history to ethics for attorneys"



John W. Dean



Before becoming Counsel to the President of the United States in July 1970 at age thirty-one, John Dean was Chief Minority Counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives, the Associate Director of a law reform commission, and Associate Deputy Attorney General of the United States. He served as Richard Nixon's White House lawyer for a thousand days.

He did his undergraduate studies at Colgate University and the College of Wooster, with majors in English Literature and Political Science. He received a graduate fellowship from American University to study government and the presidency, before entering Georgetown University Law Center, where he received his JD in 1965.

John recounted his days in the Nixon White House and Watergate in two books, **Blind Ambition** (1976) and **Lost Honor** (1982). He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Maureen, and now devotes full time to writing and lecturing, having retired from his career as a private investment banker. His 12th book (10th since retiring), **The Nixon Defense**, returned to Watergate and is based on material only recently made available.



James D. Robenalt

Jim is a partner and former Chair of the Business Litigation group at Thompson Hine LLP's Cleveland office. Jim has won big verdicts for clients, including Avery Dennison (\$81 million jury verdict on international espionage case) and Solvay Pharmaceuticals (\$68 million arbitration award on drug co-promotion agreement).

Jim is the author of four non-fiction books dealing with the American presidency and political culture: **Linking Rings**, *William W. Durbin and the Magic and Mystery of America* (Kent State University Press 2004); **The Harding Affair**, *Love and Espionage During the Great War* (Palgrave 2009); **January 1973: Watergate, Roe v. Wade, Vietnam, and the Month that Changed America Forever (Chicago Review Press, 2015); and **Ballots and Bullets: Black Power Politics and Urban Guerrilla Warfare in 1968 Cleveland (Chicago Review Press, 2018).****

He is a recognized leader in judicial reform in Ohio. Jim teaches and instructs on the legal ethics and the representation of an organization under Model Rules 1.13 and 1.6. Using John Dean as fact witness and Watergate as a case study, Jim and Mr. Dean have developed interactive, fast-paced programs that explore the duties of an attorney representing an organization when wrongdoing is uncovered.