

Eric M. Javits

Columbia '52

Oxford Cup Roll No. 077

April 27, 2013 | New York, N.Y.

Ambassador Eric M. Javits, *Columbia '52*, was initiated into the Alpha Alpha Chapter on May 1, 1950, as Roll No. 691. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, with a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1952, he attended the School of Law at Columbia University. In 1955, Javits graduated from law school and was admitted into the New York Bar.

He moved to New York City and began his legal career at Javits & Javits, a firm that was founded by his father and uncle. Ambassador Javits conducted an international practice as senior partner of the firm from 1964 until 1989, when he left the practice of law to serve as a consultant in the U.S. Department of State. He then returned to law as Senior Counsel to the New York law firm of Robinson Brog Leinwand Greene Genovese & Gluck, P.C., engaging mainly in pro bono activities until 2001.

In 2001, he was nominated by President George W. Bush as Ambassador and Permanent U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Having been confirmed unanimously by the Senate, he served in that post from 2001-2003. He was then nominated and again unanimously confirmed as Ambassador and U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the capital city of the Netherlands. He served in that position from 2003 until he retired in January 2009.

He has been actively involved in many civic organizations. He has served as the president and chairman of the Spanish Institute, as well as board memberships of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, the Spain - U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the French Institute/Alliance Francaise and the Cardozo School of Law. He was appointed by Mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani, to serve as a member of the New York City Commission for the United Nations and Protocol. New York Governor George Pataki appointed him to the board of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Operating Corporation.

During his illustrious career, Ambassador Javits has garnered an impressive list of awards. In 1994, he was honored at the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute's Gold Medal Gala, recognizing him for his contributions to the cultural relations and international appreciation of Spain and Ibero-America. Ambassador Javits has been honored twice by King Juan Carlos I of Spain, in 1981 and 1990, with Isabela La Catolica decorations. This award recognizes an individual's services that benefitted the country.

Ambassador Javits has served as an outside director of numerous corporations listed on the New York and American Stock Exchanges. He is also a published author, writing a book titled *SOS New York - A City in Distress*, published by Dial Press in 1961. He also served multiple years on his own Alpha Alpha Chapter's house corporation board.

Ambassador Javits and his wife, Dr. Margaretha Espersson, now reside in Palm Beach, Fla., and spend summers in their country home in Sweden. He is the father of Eric Javits, Jr., a noted designer, and Jocelyn Javits, an investment banker.