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Introduction to the Indiana Supreme Court Lecture

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INTRODUCTION TO THE INDIANA SUPREME COURT LECTURE

The Honorable Robert D. Rucker*

The Indiana Supreme Court is dedicated to promoting the interaction of Indiana's courts, the practicing bar, and the academy in the education of lawyers. To that end, the Court has cooperated with Indiana's law schools in presenting a series of lectures featuring distinguished jurists, scholars, and practitioners. The mandate for the series is modest, but important: the selected speakers should address a practical topic of interest to Indiana lawyers. Since inception of the series in 1998, lecturers have shared their thoughts and experiences on topics not often explored in a traditional law school curriculum or in mandatory continuing legal education courses with law students and members of the legal community. For example, the series has included such topics as the influence of money on access to justice; civil rights and the role of the Solicitor General; affirmative action; judicial independence; and professionalism in the law.

The Indiana Supreme Court is proud to join the Valparaiso University School of Law in presenting this year's guest lecturer. In listening to Professor Branson's lively presentation on the Business Judgment Rule, the audience was challenged to consider the impact of judicial review and public policy on corporate decision-making.

Since Professor Branson's lecture, the corporate landscape of this country has changed dramatically: particularly, with the collapse of a major multinational corporation.¹ And, in part, because thousands of employees presently claim to be owed nearly one billion dollars in lost retirement savings and unpaid wages, several congressional committees have convened to investigate the activities of the company.

The timeliness of Professor Branson's presentation could not be more self-evident. Whether articulated in terms of the Business Judgment Rule or some other designation, corporate decision-making inevitably will remain a major part of the public discourse and debate for the

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¹ See generally *In re Enron Corp.*, No. 01-16034, 2002 Bankr. LEXIS 77 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 11, 2002).

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foreseeable future. For those who decide to join in the debate, this written work provides an excellent reference.