

dedicated person to lead ACDA than John Holum, whom I have known for 20 years and who has close working relationships with many senior officials at the State and Defense Departments, the NSC, and throughout my administration. John will be a strong voice for arms control and nonproliferation policies within the councils of Government.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for a Special Counsel at the Justice Department

October 6, 1993

The President announced today that he has nominated Gerald Stern, an experienced corporate attorney and former Justice Department civil rights attorney, to be the Special Counsel for Financial Institutions Fraud at the Department of Justice.

“To preserve our people’s trust in their financial institutions, it is imperative that we aggressively enforce the laws governing them,” said the President. “Gerald Stern has the business experience and prosecutorial skill to make sure that we do just that.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks on Presenting Arts and Humanities Awards

October 7, 1993

Thank you very much. To our distinguished honorees and all of you in the audience. I want to say a special word of thanks to Jane Alexander and to Dr. Sheldon Hackney for their leadership of our administration’s efforts in the arts and humanities.

As a person who at various times in his life has been a frustrated writer and a frustrated musician, this is an extremely humbling event for me today. *[Laughter]* But I’ve been getting a lot of training in humility lately. I have a Vice President who humbles me all the time by all the things he teaches me about things great and insignificant and who unlike me actually got to go on David Letterman to prove how funny he was.

[Laughter] And I have a wife who swept the television ratings last week talking about the arcana of health care with a passion and an eloquence. As if that weren’t bad enough, USA Today had the bad grace to go out and poll the American people, and 40 percent of them said she was smarter than I am. *[Laughter]* To which I reply, “Of course, what kind of dummy do you think I am. How else would I have gotten elected President.”

And just to drive this humility home—this is the actual true part of this wonderful story—I went to southern California last week, or the first of this week, and I was looking forward to staying in the Beverly Hilton. It seemed like an exotic sort of place. And I showed up, and Merv Griffin, who owns it, shook hands with me and took me up to the floor where I was staying. There is only one person who is a permanent resident of the floor where I stayed in the Beverly Hilton, Rodney Dangerfield, who said they had put me there because we seem to belong together—*[laughter]*—and gave me 12 roses with “a little respect” on a gift card.

I am delighted to be here to honor this year’s winners of the National Medal of the Arts and the Charles Frankel Prize, men and women whose achievements represent the enduring power of the arts and humanities and, in a larger sense, of the creative spirit in all of our lives.

Throughout history, the arts and humanities have been the cultural signature of this great Nation. They have enabled Americans of all backgrounds and walks of life to gain a deeper appreciation of who they are as individuals and who we all are as a society, stirring our minds and our senses, stimulating learning and collective discourse, the arts and humanities teach us in ways that nothing else can about the vastness and the depth of human experience. They are our great equalizers. We inherit them, and we can all participate in them.

Whether or not one plays an instrument, reads poetry, learns to pirouette, or spends hours alone in a local art gallery, we all have the capacity to be moved by a song, a poem, a story, a dance, a painting. We can feel our