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## At Law Day in Brooklyn, Talk of Budget Cuts, Lack of Pay Raise

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Judges, attorneys, court employees, elected officials and others gathered in front of Brooklyn Supreme Court yesterday to celebrate Law Day. Justice John M. Leventhal (above, at podium) of the Appellate Division, Second Department, delivered the keynote address on this year's theme: the Legacy of John Adams. But a major undercurrent throughout the event was talk of the \$170 million cut in the Judiciary's budget and the 12-year drought for a judicial pay raise.

During his remarks, Acting Justice Barry Kamins, administrative judge in charge of criminal court, called the lack of a raise "unconscionable." Appellate Term Justice Marsha L. Steinhardt reminded the gathering that the program needed to wrap up by 1 p.m. to avoid paying overtime to the non-judicial staff in attendance, a reference to the court system's new cost-cutting policy in which court proceedings end a half-hour early each day. And Andrea E. Bonina, president of the Brooklyn Bar Association, used her time at the podium to warn the audience of the potential consequences of fewer court resources, noting, for

example, that the issuance of protective orders cannot afford adjournments.

*Photos by Rick Kopstein*

