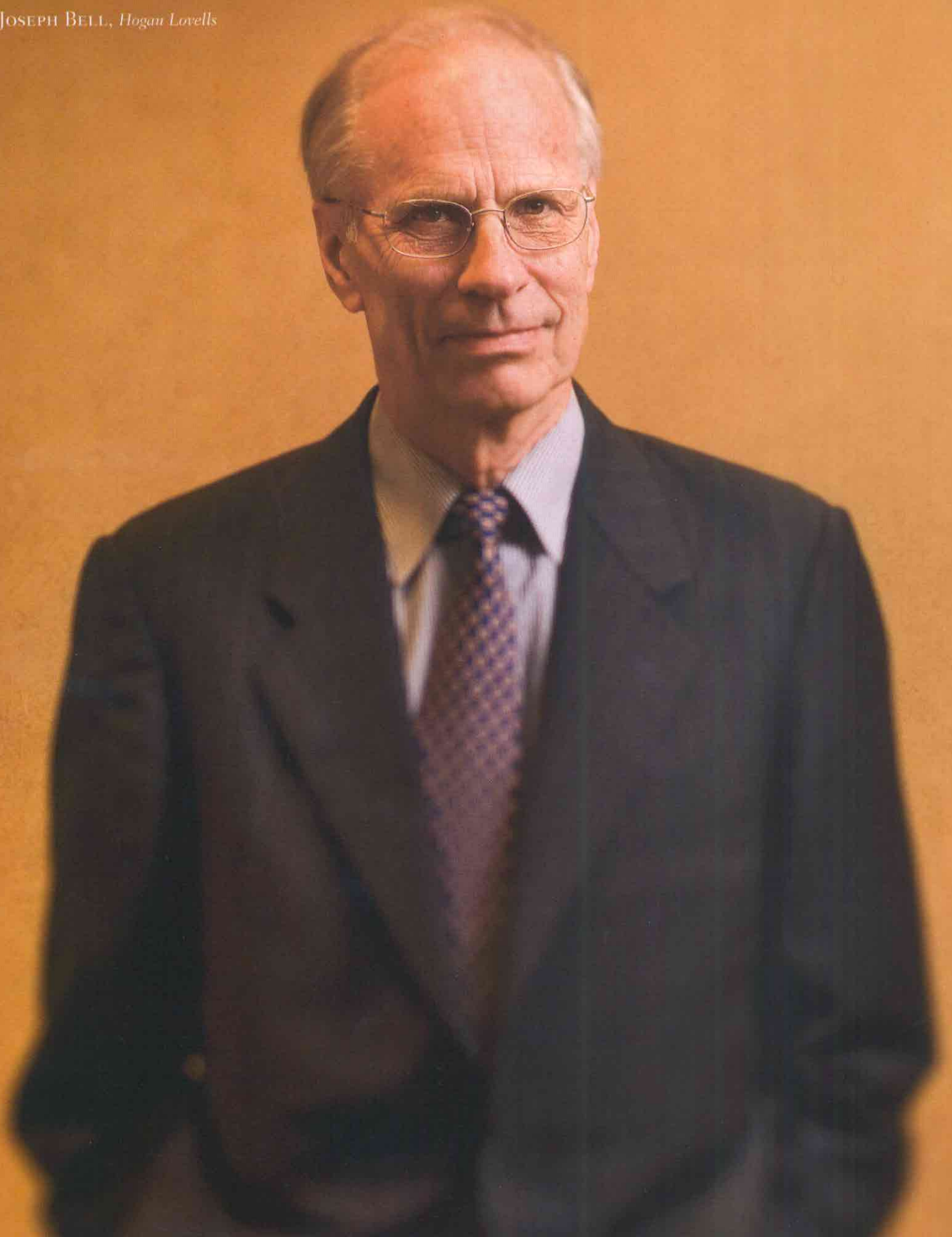
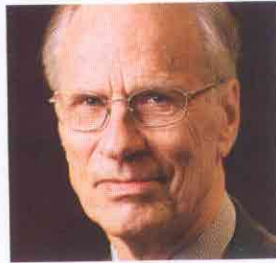


JOSEPH BELL, *Hogan Lovells*



Joseph Bell
Hogan Lovells



JOSEPH BELL TOOK THE ACADEMIC ROUTE—at first. “I was originally enrolled in grad school for economics, but it wasn’t quite fulfilling on its own,” says Bell. He switched to law. After Yale Law School, his background in economics and interest in public policy led him to work first for the Cabinet Task Force on Oil Import Control, then for the Federal Energy Agency. But only after joining the energy practice at what was then Hogan & Hartson did Bell find his true passion: a uniquely globe-spanning brand of pro bono.

At Hogan, Bell handled oil, gas, and electric regulatory work for clients such as Peabody Energy Corporation and Citizens Energy Corporation, a nonprofit that provides free or discounted heating to low-income families. His Citizens work took him around the world, negotiating contracts and implementing small-scale assistance projects in countries that supplied oil. In 1989, then-Harvard University professor Jeffrey Sachs recruited Bell for a pro bono project: advising the Polish Ministry of Finance on privatization and debt relief in the early days of the Solidarity-controlled government.

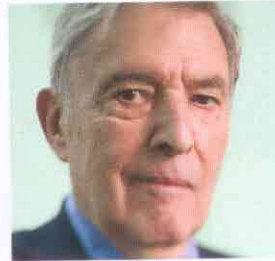
The engagement was the first of a series of such pro bono assignments for governments in emerging nations. In 1990 the Ukrainian government asked Bell for advice on its economic reform project. Between 2004 and 2007, at Sachs’s behest, Bell advised the government of São Tomé and Príncipe, an oil-rich island nation off the coast of Africa, on how to avoid squandering an anticipated financial windfall. Working pro bono, Bell helped create oversight boards, promoted transparency with regards to oil deals and contracts, and placed safeguards on bank accounts to avoid embezzlement. “He’s a wonderful example of someone who has rare abilities and uses them to promote good causes, not just to make money,” says Jan Hartman, country coordinator at The Earth Institute, who oversaw the project. Bell also found time to provide pro bono counsel to the government of Mongolia on mineral rights involving copper deposits.

Bell’s most recent international pro bono assignment started in 2006, when Robert Kapp, a former Hogan partner and copresident of the International Senior Lawyers Project, recruited him to advise the government of Liberia, just three years after a bloody civil war. “Joe successfully renegotiated contracts that had been signed by the prior government and were quite exploitative in favor of companies such as Firestone and ArcelorMittal,” says Kapp. War-ravaged Liberia requires a complete overhaul of its legal system, he adds: “Joe is the central player in our overall Liberia program. We’re trying to develop an entire legal framework for their health program and their justice system.”

“I’m always interested in interesting problems,” says Bell, now 69. “When something interesting comes my way, then I get involved. It may sound pompous, but I really do feel strongly about economic inequality and economic development. A just world requires us to be concerned about these problems, and if you have an opportunity to do something about it, then you should.”

—VICTOR LI

Jack Greenberg
Columbia Law School



JACK GREENBERG WAS ONLY 27 YEARS OLD when he stood before the U.S. Supreme Court and helped argue one of the most important cases in U.S. history, *Brown v. Board of Education*. “We prepared and prepared and prepared, so I wasn’t nervous,” says Greenberg. “I didn’t doubt that we would win.”

Still, when the Court handed down its landmark decision in 1954, ruling that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, Greenberg says that he, lead lawyer Thurgood Marshall, and the other attorneys who worked on the case “walked around stunned.”

Greenberg’s passion for civil rights was fired a few years earlier when, as a student at Columbia Law School, he took a course that let students work with civil liberties organizations, including the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF). After he graduated in 1949, Greenberg’s professor recommended him to Marshall, who was then leading the push to desegregate public schools as the director of the LDF. Greenberg, a Jew who grew up in Brooklyn and the Bronx, became one of the few white attorneys involved in the LDF’s struggle against racial discrimination. “I was raised to oppose injustice,” says Greenberg. “The greatest injustice in America was the way black people were treated.” Marshall became Greenberg’s mentor, and in 1961, he chose Greenberg to succeed him as director.

Through the 1960s, the LDF was the legal arm of the civil rights movement, with Greenberg at its helm. “He always had a great deal of vision and determination,” says friend and LDF colleague James Nabrit III, whose father, James Nabrit, Jr., also helped argue *Brown*. “Jack is one of the most significant figures for civil rights.”

Greenberg counseled key leaders in the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1965 he argued and won a court order allowing King and thousands of protesters to make the seminal voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He soldiered on through death threats and ethnic slurs—which Greenberg says scared his family, but not him. Serving as a Navy officer at Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II had toughened his skin, he says. After *Brown*, Greenberg argued 40 other civil rights cases before the Supreme Court, and won 35 of them.

In 1984 he left the LDF and returned to Columbia Law School as a professor. He expanded his focus to global human rights, and traveled the world on various human rights missions. “He’s simply an extraordinary man,” says Columbia Law professor and former dean Barbara Black. Greenberg established the school’s first human rights internship program. He also helped found the advocacy nonprofit Human Rights Watch; South Africa’s Legal Resources Center, an organization akin to the LDF that fought apartheid in the courts; and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund.

At 85, Greenberg continues to teach at Columbia. He has no plans to retire, but he has had time to reflect on the past. “*Brown* was a catalyst for great change,” he says. “But the work is never done.”

—IRENE PLAGIANOS