

## John Jay College Recognizes Distinguished Alumnus and Board Trustee Richard J. Koehler with Lecture Hall Named in His Honor

In honor of his extraordinary generosity, loyalty and vision, a lecture hall in the New Building was named after Board member, alumnus and former John Jay tenured professor Richard J. Koehler, on September 24, 2013.

A senior partner in the law firm of Koehler & Isaacs LLP, Koehler is a long-time John Jay supporter who has devoted many years to strengthening the College's development. He continues to spearhead capital campaigns to enhance the College's abilities to assist deserving students reach their educational goals. This intellectual space named in his honor will be used to cultivate the minds and spirits of future John Jay students.

"John Jay has changed my life tremendously," said Koehler. "It is an honor to be recognized and appreciated by an institution that holds such a special place in my heart. The education I received at John Jay has made an invaluable difference in my life and it set the stage for the many achievements I've attained throughout the course of my career. Moving forward, I am excited about the educational opportunities this hall will provide future generations of John Jay students."

Koehler left high school when he was 17 to join the U.S. Navy. After his military service, he was recruited into the Police Academy and then enrolled at John Jay while serving as a police officer. By the time he graduated summa cum laude from John Jay in 1973, he had already become a police sergeant the New York City Police Department. He was promoted to many ranks including captain and then Chief of Personnel at the NYPD. While also serving in the NYPD, Koehler attended evening courses at Fordham Law School, from which he graduated in 1978.

Following law school, Koehler began an extensive career in public service. Among the many positions held by Koehler in the public sector were Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction, Chief of Personnel of the New York City Police Department, Chief of Planning in the New York City Police Department, Director of the New York City Police Department Communications Division, and full professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.

Since leaving the public sector, Koehler has been involved in labor and employment law for over 30 years, and he has built a very successful law practice based in downtown Manhattan.



Richard J. Koehler

As the senior partner of Koehler & Isaacs LLP, Koehler has represented large labor unions in the public and private sector since 1992, and has managed legal service programs for unions since 1993. He serves as general counsel, labor counsel and/or fund counsel for numerous unions, including the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association. He has been married to his wife, Judy, for over 30 years and is the proud father of a daughter, Christine, and a son, Richard. **JJ**