Constitution Day Lecture

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023 @ 12:15pm
The University of Akron School of Law (Law 180)
followed by Book Signing

Book Talk, Judgment & Mercy:
The Turbulent Life & Times of the Judge Who Condemned the Rosenbergs

Martin J. Siegel

“[A] meticulous and unsentimental inquiry aimed at solving the mystery at the heart of Kaufman’s career,” Linda Greenhouse, NY Review of Books

"scrupulously fair and continually fascinating,” Floyd Abrams, First Amendment lawyer, author of The Soul of the First Amendment

“intellectually honest and relentless…captures Kaufman to a tee,” Burt Neuborne, former Nat’l Legal Director ACLU, founder Brennan Center for Justice, NYU Law

Judgment and Mercy brings to life a complex man by turns tyrannical and warm, paranoid and altruistic, while revealing intramural Jewish battles over assimilation, class, and patriotism. Siegel, who served as Kaufman’s last law clerk on the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, traces the evolution of American law and politics in the twentieth century and shows how a judge unable to summon mercy for the Rosenbergs nonetheless helped expand freedom for all.