

John (“Jack”) W. Olivo, Jr. ‘84

1999 CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

In 1984, Jack Olivo began his technical career as an electrical engineer with RCA Astro-Electronics in Princeton, New Jersey, assisting in the design of communication satellites.

In 1986, he entered New York Law School and there, became involved in FCC proceedings to prevent children from accessing adult-oriented electronic media. Mr. Olivo proposed novel technology that would satisfy the goals of the FCC proceedings, whereby media providers would electronically rate their program content, so parents could in-turn block selected programs based on those ratings. His technology was well received by Bell Atlantic, NYNEX, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and grew into the present day “V-chip,” which is being implemented on virtually all televisions this year. During law school, Mr. Olivo worked for a patent law firm in New York City. With the assistance of his colleagues, he applied for patents covering his “V-chip” ideas, and was subsequently awarded U.S. Patent nos. 4,888,796 and 5,172,111.



John Olivo

In 1992, he co-founded the firm of Ward & Olivo, which has become a nationally well known intellectual property law firm, successfully serving a wide range of clients, from Fortune 100® companies to independent inventors. The firm has been involved in three proceedings before the nation’s highest “technology court” – the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Each time, the firm has prevailed, even gaining two reversals in the process.

While at Lafayette, Mr. Olivo participated in a variety of activities on campus. He served as the treasurer of the Kirby House Organization. In addition, he worked on a number of the college’s theatrical productions and organized the student theater troupe, Another College Theater (ACT). During his senior year, Mr. Olivo helped to open the newly constructed Williams Center for the Arts and prepare it for student productions.

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