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Chronicling the high cost of our legal system

Joining Cato, and a farewell to the Manhattan Institute

by [Walter Olson](#) on May 4, 2010

I'm delighted to announce that I've joined the [Cato Institute](#) as a senior fellow, effective this week. As most readers of this site know well, Cato is the premier voice for individual liberty in our nation's capital, and a think tank of tremendous accomplishments across the board. Its [program on law](#), led by Roger Pilon, includes such outstanding thinkers as Tim Lynch, Ilya Shapiro and Robert Levy. Cato is particularly known as a place where [free speech, civil liberties, and the Bill of Rights](#) are given the centrality they deserve in legal thinking, and it's also a powerhouse in studying the [ill effects of government regulation](#). In fact, the publication where I got my real start in the policy world, the magazine [Regulation](#) (originally published by the American Enterprise Institute), has made its home at Cato for many years now. In short, it's hard to imagine a better fit with my writing and research interests.

I'll be saying goodbye to my colleagues and kind friends at the [Manhattan Institute for Policy Research](#), which has long supported my work in the most patient, good-humored and uninterfering way I could have hoped for. I'm immensely fortunate to have been part of MI for more than 25 years and I know I'll learn much more from its formidable thinkers in years to come. While I'll continue to contribute occasionally to MI's blog/web magazine [Point of Law](#), I've left its editorship, and I'm happy to say the Institute had the good idea of hiring as my replacement none other than Ted Frank, of Overlawyered and CCAF fame.

Jim Copland of the Manhattan Institute has some [extremely kind things to say](#) at Point of Law about our long association. The blog [Think Tanked reprints](#) the MI's generous announcement.

I'll still be posting as usual here at Overlawyered, and I'll also be joining as a contributor at the excellent group blog [Cato at Liberty](#), which you should promptly [place in your RSS feed](#) if you haven't already. In months ahead I'll have more to say about some new projects I'll be pursuing at Cato, as well as existing projects many readers already know about, like my [forthcoming book](#) on bad ideas from legal academia, [Schools for Misrule](#).

P.S. Cato's bio page for me is [already up](#). And thanks for the very generous words to [Dan Pero at American Courthouse](#) and [Carter Wood at NAM ShopFloor](#).

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05.04.10 at 3:34 pm

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Awesome! Congratulations. Looking forward to the results.

[2](#) Doug 05.04.10 at 3:00 pm

So, your “leaving” but still going to be “here”. Congrats on your new “home”. I look forward to more of your blogging.

[3](#) ras 05.04.10 at 3:48 pm

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And I'm not talking metaphorically, either: I'm talking about the bare-breasted statue, created by C. Paul Jennewein in 1933 for the Department of Justice building, that figured so prominently in the first term of the Bush Administration. Photographers sprawled on... [...]

Ted Frank

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After today's reversal in Renico v. Lett, the Sixth Circuit is 0-for-4 this year in habeas cases, with one more appeal on the docket. (Thanks to A.G. for pointing this out.) Update: Jonathan Adler has more.... [...]

Ted Frank

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Washington Post has the scoop, "Linda Lipsen to become head of American Association for Justice": Linda Lipsen, who has headed the group's advocacy and lobbying team for 17 years, was approved on Saturday by the AAJ board, officials said. Lipsen will... [...]

Carter Wood

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Ted Frank

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