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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Upon arriving in Central Islip, NY in July 2012 and beginning to assess the strengths and opportunities at Touro Law Center, it was evident that Touro had the opportunity to emerge a leader in legal education in the field of aging and longevity law. From the strength of an elder law clinic headed by Clinic Director and Professor Marianne Artusio, well known for its work in guardianship issues, and a senior citizens program supported by Suffolk County to serve as the legal services provider for older adults in the County, directed by Denise Doty, Touro had the beginning of a necessary foundation. Added to the mix were a wealth of courses in the more traditional “elder law” arena – trusts and estates, estate planning, elder law, biomedical ethics and health law – and an active student organization interested in learning about and serving the aging population, their families and their caregivers.

The effort to bring together an interdisciplinary team of individuals interested in advancing our knowledge and the interests of an aging population was further solidified with philanthropic support from the Gitenstein Foundation to enable the Law Center to create a chair in Health Law and Policy, and support from Lake Success attorney Robert Abrams to launch our Institute in Aging and Longevity Law. The Institute kick-off event featured presentations from leading lawmakers, policymakers, judges, lawyers and physicians and launched Touro Law Center into the spotlight of leadership in the field.

On the academic front, the Law Center faculty worked to create a concentration in aging and longevity law for students interested in focusing their careers in this arena. New courses were added to the curriculum and enriched co-curricular offerings were created for students. A blog on Aging and Longevity Law was also launched to help share information in this field of law. This Journal of Aging, Longevity, Law, and Policy fills a void in the interdisciplinary literature.

I am proud and grateful for the work of our founding co-editors, Professor Joan Foley and Professor Marianne Artusio. I am delighted and impressed by the critical contributions of our student editors and alumni. And on behalf of Touro Law Center, we are appreciative of the dedication and commitment of the volunteer members of our editorial advisory board – Jean Accius, Alison Barnes, Karen Boxx, Lisa Brodoff, and Edward Dauer.

I echo the sentiments of our guest editor Howard Krooks, a national leader in the field of elder law, in thanking the contributors to this inaugural issue of the *Journal of Aging, Longevity, Law, and Policy*. Special thanks also to Robert Cannon, Esq. a coordinator in our Institute on Aging and Longevity Law for his early efforts to assist with the formation of the Institute.

There are many people at Touro Law Center in addition to those previously named who have helped to shape our Institute and guide our commitment to becoming the premier program on aging and longevity law in the country. My personal gratitude to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Rodger Citron and his predecessor Professor Deborah Post. Professor Eileen Kaufman led the faculty through necessary curricular changes and Professor Deseriee Kennedy not only chaired our strategic planning committee but she was the first internal holder of the Gitenstein Chair in Health Law & Policy. Two assistant deans, Linda Howard Weissman and Linda Baurle, were instrumental in helping to secure funding and budgeting for the programs.

On a personal note, this inaugural *Journal of Aging, Longevity, Law, and Policy* is dedicated to the inspiration and support of my friend Linda Abrams who has generously shared her extraordinary husband, Robert Abrams, with us and has equaled his commitment to Touro Law Center.

Patricia E. Salkin
Dean and Professor of Law
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