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REMEMBERING ILENE BARSHAY—CLASSMATE, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

Joseph B. Rosenberg

I met Ilene Barshay in August 1984, during orientation prior to the start of our first-year classes at Touro Law School. Ilene was married and had spent years raising three exceptional children and I was married and had been working as a CPA, so we shared certain life experiences which were different from those of many of our new classmates, who entered law school armed with an undergraduate degree but not much real life experience.

I remember many energetic lunches, where a large group of 1Ls would debate the nuances of a case we would soon be covering in class. Ilene was not the loudest voice at the table, but when she spoke she was clear, convincing and, typically, right on point.

During our third year, I was the Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and Ilene was a staff member. That title, or lack of title, did not stop me from seeking her advice in countless situations. We had a small, hard-working Board, but Ilene served as a de facto editor, reading, revising and improving both student and faculty-submitted articles. Her writing skills were superior, and her willingness to put in extra time and effort to put out the best product possible was impressive and invaluable. She never sought accolades or recognition; she was simply doing her job, which she did really, really well. Ilene was my secret weapon and we were the first Board to publish two issues, rather than just one, during an academic year. I do not think we could have accomplished that task without Ilene's contributions.

Our relationship grew over the next thirty years. No longer were we debating hypothetical situations in an academic setting, or publishing scholarly articles. Instead, we were back in the real world, dealing with complicated legal situations and problems. As frequently as Ilene would recommend a client who needed my trusts and estates expertise, she would also reach out to me as a sounding board to discuss a serious problem someone she knew was experiencing. What

struck me in these conversations was how many people trusted Ilene and looked to her for solutions and for some peace of mind. There was something special about how she listened and spoke to others, which was a gift that cannot be taught.

Ilene was blessed to have the perfect partner in life, her husband, Stan, who supported her efforts to make the world a better place. And whether it was the students she mentored as a Professor at Touro, or the victims of abuse who found a safe haven through the efforts of the Barshays' support of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the legacy of Ilene Barshay will last for many years to come.

I miss my friend, and I am grateful that she was such a special part of my life.