

Nova Law Review

Volume 28, Issue 2

2004

Article 11

In Memory of Professor Larry Kalevitch

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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR LARRY KALEVITCH

JOSEPH D. HARBAUGH*

At our first meeting, Larry Kalevitch positively influenced my life and the lives of my family. I was in the process of interviewing for the deanship at Shepard Broad Law, and Larry spent time with my wife Barbara and myself. He spoke about the Law Center with genuine enthusiasm and deep affection. Later, Barbara, a former law professor, observed, "If Larry Kalevitch is even remotely representative of the rest of the NSU faculty, you must take this job." In our relatively brief initial encounter, Larry's wisdom, warmth, and wit were evident, infectious, and influential.

During the next seven and one-half years I was privileged to call Larry my colleague and my friend. Larry helped shape the direction of the Law Center. As an acknowledged leader of the faculty for more than twenty years, Larry Kalevitch has placed his indelible imprint on the Law Center. His wise counsel and sound advice guided us for two decades, helping our young and vibrant law school grow and mature.

Although widely recognized as an academic leader and a productive scholar, influencing the law through both his writings and speaking engagements, Larry Kalevitch was best known, and will be long remembered, as an inspirational teacher. To fully appreciate Larry's role as teacher, and more significantly, a mentor of several generations of lawyers, one only need read the words of his former students:

Professor Kalevitch will forever live in our hearts and minds for all that he gave us. Knowing him was a gift for which I can never thank NSU enough. I am so grateful for the time we had with him, and for inspiring us to be well-prepared, ethical, and above all, kind lawyers.

NSU Graduate—Broward County

Larry Kalevitch was the first impression of law school for many of us. In all honesty, it was the most frightening experience of my life. I wanted to quit that first day of summer conditional because I never wanted to sit in his classroom again. He warned us don't be late, don't talk when another is speaking, don't get a bad haircut, and, above all, don't come to class unprepared! If you did, God help you. I continued to drag myself to class day after day, sleepless night after sleepless night, trying to answer questions I didn't understand, afraid of asking a stupid question, terrified he would call on me. I couldn't understand why the University would assign

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this professor to the conditional admission program. They must, I thought, want all of us to fail. After weeks of non-stop homework and non-stop nerves, we walked into class just days shy of the exam. Larry stood in the front of the class and looked at each of us individually. He told us not only would we pass his exam but we would make it through law school and become damn good attorneys. We were ready, he said. Our nemesis became our #1 cheerleader right in front of our eyes. The exam came and went and all but a few of us made it. Shortly thereafter, it occurred to me—Larry wasn't mean. He was teaching us how to be good lawyers. Be prepared, be on time, listen when people talk to you, consider before asking a question, and think for yourself. For those of you who never had Larry as a professor, you missed out on the experience of a lifetime. I am proud to say that I am part of his legacy. I will never forget Larry Kalevitch and will always feel I owe my success in school to him. Larry, may you rest in peace.

NSU Graduate

Dear Benjamin: I would like to tell you what a remarkable teacher and mentor your dad was for all of his students. Although we sometimes felt he was torturing us in class, he always made us think "outside the box" and challenged us to surpass the highest expectations we had for ourselves. Beneath his rough exterior he was a caring and devoted teacher. I will remember him for the rest of my life because he pushed me harder than I had ever been pushed before, and for that I am truly grateful. I know that I am a good lawyer today due in large part to Professor Kalevitch. Thank you, Benjamin, for sharing your father with us. And Professor Kalevitch, thank you for being you.

Former Research Assistant for
Professor Kalevitch—Texas

There you have the memories of a few of the many students touched by Larry Kalevitch's impressive intellect and powerful personality. In the end, all of us realize we have been softly touched by Larry. All who knew him are better for having been his colleague, friend, or student.

Rest well, my friend, rest well.