

Tribute to Karen Rothenberg

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TRIBUTE TO KAREN ROTHENBERG

RUTH FADEN, PH.D., M.P.H.*

Other contributors to this special issue are far more qualified than I am to speak to Karen Rothenberg's extraordinary contributions as a scholar and leader in health law and policy. What follows are just a few personal reflections about what it has meant to me and to the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics to have Karen as a colleague and a friend.

My first substantive experience working with Karen was in the early 1990s. We were both members of an IOM Committee (the "Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues Relating to the Inclusion of Women in Clinical Studies) that turned out to be really important to both of us. Two of Karen's abiding passions, advancing the rights and interests of women and advancing more ethical public policies, were front and center in the work of this committee. As one of the committee co-chairs, I remain indebted to Karen for all that she did to advance our efforts. We benefited enormously from Karen's passion and expertise.

One of our meetings was held at the National Academies facility at Woods Hole, and one evening we all took a ferry ride to Martha's Vineyard. We visited the whole way over and found ourselves making that journey from colleagues to friends.

In the intervening years, I have continued to benefit enormously, not only from Karen's passion and expertise, but also from her creativity and friendship. In one capacity or another, Karen has been a member of the Berman Institute of Bioethics faculty community since 2009. Every faculty meeting or presentation that Karen graces is made better and more interesting by her presence. She asks fantastic questions, makes incredibly insightful points, and is endlessly supportive and constructive in her comments.

Her contributions to the Berman Institute community do not end there. Karen is a natural mentor and brings her intention to help younger people advance their work into every conversation. I have watched Karen time and time again give extraordinarily wise advice to faculty who are in the early or middle

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*Founder, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Inaugural Andreas C Dracopoulos Director (2014-2016), Philip Franklin Wagley Professor.

stages of their careers, advice that comes from a place of genuine caring and empathy.

Her commitment to advancing the careers of the next generation has helped shape training opportunities at the Berman Institute. Karen was instrumental in establishing our joint Masters of Bioethics/JD Program with the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, and she continues to work hard to forge closer relationships between the two faculties. Karen has also been a personal inspiration to me and to many others. Life brings all of us challenges, and Karen has had more than her share. Karen's passion for the issues that matter to her and the people that matter to her has never wavered. She is the best kind of colleague to have, and the best kind of friend.