

## A TRIBUTE TO HOPE LEWIS

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Thanks to Diane Marie Amann and Jaya Ramji-Nogales, and other members of the organizing committee of this gathering,<sup>1</sup> for the invitation to recognize the loss of our IntLawGrrls colleagues, and for giving me the opportunity to honor Hope Lewis.<sup>2</sup>

In the last ten years, IntLawGrrls has welcomed nearly 500 women, and several men, as contributors. Some of the members of our community are no longer with us. They include Sheri Rosenberg, a Holocaust scholar who taught human rights and related courses at New York's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and Hans-Peter Kaul, a judge on the International Criminal Court.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Diane Marie Amann is the holder of the Emily & Ernest Woodruff Chair in International Law and Faculty Co-Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center at the University of Georgia School of Law. Remarks by this Founder and Editor-in-Chief Emerita appear in this volume; see Diane Marie Amann, *Writing Truth to Power: Remarks in Celebration of IntLawGrrls' Tenth Birthday*, 46 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 131 (2017). Amann organized the conference along with three other editors emeritae: Kathleen A. Doty, Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center; Jaya Ramji-Nogales, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and I. Herman Stern Research Professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law; Beth Van Schaack, Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Security & Cooperation at Stanford University. The latter two took part in the plenary panel that followed the remarks by Bravo and Amann; the contribution of one member of that panel appears in this volume. See Patricia Wald, *Strategies to Promote Women's Participation in Shaping International Law and Policy in an Era of Anti-Globalism*, 46 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 141 (2017).

<sup>2</sup> For full remarks from the conference, see Amann, *supra* note 1; Wald, *supra* note 1; Karen Hoffmann, *Redress for 'Some Folks': Pursuing Justice for Victims of Torture Through Traditional Grounds of Jurisdiction*, 46 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 97 (2017).

<sup>3</sup> See Matthew Diller & Melanie Leslie, *Cardozo Community Mourns the Loss of Sheri Rosenberg, Beloved Friend and Colleague*, CARDOZO LAW, May 2015, <https://cardozo.yu.edu/news/cardozo-community-mourns-loss-sheri-rosenberg-beloved-friend-and-colleague>; *Passing of Former ICC Judge Hans-Peter Kaul*, INT'L CRIM. CT., July 22, 2014, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/legalAidConsultations?name=pr1032>. IntLawGrrls posts by and about Professor Rosenberg may be found at <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/search/label/Sheri%20Rosenberg>; by and about Judge Kaul, at <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/search/label/Hans-Peter%20Kaul>.

Most recently, in December 2016, our community suffered the untimely loss of one of its first members, Professor Hope Lewis.

HOPE LEWIS (1962–2015): A “JAMERICAN”<sup>4</sup> LIONHEART GAL

In Jamaican dialect “gal” is pronounced “gyal.” A “lionheart gyal” is a woman of courage. Hope drew inspiration for the title of the Oregon piece from a publication of the same name in which Jamaican lionheart gyal share (in Jamaican dialect!) the stories of their lives and struggles.<sup>5</sup>

Hope Lewis opened her 1996 *Maine Law Review* article, “Global Intersections: Critical Race Feminist Human Rights and Inter/National Black Women,”<sup>6</sup> by declaring:

*As an African-American feminist law professor who is visually impaired and the daughter of immigrants, I am often torn as to which social justice organizing conference to attend first on any given day.*

She continued:

*I learn more each day about survival in the intersection of racism, sexism, able-ism, and nativism. Perhaps that is the basis for my attraction to the international human rights movement. Despite its limitations, that movement is at its best when it undermines the isolation that oppressed peoples and individuals can experience. Human rights can serve as a basis of coalition across geographic, political, gender, race, and physical boundaries.*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Hope Lewis, *Global Intersections: Critical Race Feminist Human Rights and Inter/national Black Women*, 50 ME. L. REV. 309, 313 (1998) [hereinafter Lewis, *Global Intersections*] (“In recognition of my dual [Jamaican and American] status, my mother often referred to me as her ‘Jamerican’ child.”).

<sup>5</sup> See SISTREN & HONOR FORD-SMITH, *LIONHEART GAL: LIFE STORIES OF JAMAICAN WOMEN* (1986).

<sup>6</sup> Lewis, *Global Intersections*, *supra* note 4, at 309–10.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 310. My thanks to Felicia Gans, whose *Boston Globe* obituary of Hope began with this passage. See Felicia Gans, *Hope Lewis, 54; Professor Focused on Race, Gender, Justice*, B. GLOBE (Dec. 27, 2016), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/obituaries/2016/12/26/hope-lewis-professor-focused-race-gender-justice/2J4AUqcMxoTDkIVHcFMgmJ/story.html> (emphasis added).

In her 1997 *Oregon Law Review* article, “Lionheart Gals Facing the Dragon: The Human Rights of Inter/national Black Women in the United States,”<sup>8</sup> Hope used the personal narrative techniques and inquiries of critical race theory to explore the identity, status, and struggles of migrant women workers from the Caribbean, specifically Jamaica, her second home—the country from which her parents and grandmothers had migrated to the United States.<sup>9</sup> Her personal narratives included such vignettes as the immigrant’s re-creation of “home” in the private and public spaces of the new country, the familial obligations owed by the migrants to those back home, the inspiration of national myths, and the gap between the mythos and the reality of her family’s origin story of transnational migration.<sup>10</sup>

Louise Hope Lewis was born in New York City, in 1962, the child of Blossom Stephenson and Stuart Lewis.<sup>11</sup> She attended school in New York, graduating from the Bronx High School of Science before going on to Harvard College.<sup>12</sup> Following her 1983 graduation from Harvard College, she continued on to Harvard Law School to earn her J.D. degree. Hope began her legal career in Washington, D.C., where she completed a fellowship with the TransAfrica Forum, a nonprofit foreign policy organization, before becoming an attorney-adviser at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.<sup>13</sup> She joined the faculty of Northeastern University School of Law in 1991.<sup>14</sup>

Hope was a productive scholar, including in the last decade of her life when she struggled with a visual disability and other effects of her diabetes.<sup>15</sup> Her scholarship and advocacy were wide ranging, addressing

<sup>8</sup> See Hope Lewis, *Lionheart Gals Facing the Dragon: The Human Rights of Inter/national Black Women in the United States*, 76 OR. L. REV. 567 (1997) [hereinafter Lewis, *Lionheart Gals*].

<sup>9</sup> See Hope Lewis, *Transnational Dimensions of Race in America*, 72 ALB. L. REV. 999, 999 (2009) (describing Jamaica as “the nation from which my parents and grandmothers migrated to the United States”).

<sup>10</sup> See Lewis, *Lionheart Gals*, *supra* note 8, at 568–70, 578–81.

<sup>11</sup> L. Hope Lewis, *May 14, 1962 – December 6, 2016*, DAVIS OF BOSTON FUNERAL HOME, Dec. 2016, <http://www.davisofboston.com/obituaries/L-Lewis-2/#!/Obituary>.

<sup>12</sup> Gans, *supra* note 7.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Hope Lewis, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW [hereinafter Lewis Profile], <https://www.northeastern.edu/law/faculty/directory/lewis.html>.

<sup>15</sup> In addition to the works cited above, a sampling of her publications includes: Hope Lewis, *Between Irua and “Female Genital Mutilation”: Feminist Human Rights Discourse and the Cultural Divide*, 8 HARV. HUM. RTS. J. 1 (1995); Hope Lewis, *Women (Under) Development: The Relevance of “The Rights to Development” to Poor Women of Color in the United States*, 18 LAW & POL’Y 281 (1996); Hope Lewis, *Transnational Dimensions of Racial Identity: Reflecting on Race, the Global Economy, and the Human Rights Movement at 60*, 24

human rights, justice, gender, disability, globalization and economic rights, and the right to development.<sup>16</sup> She used the narrative techniques of critical race theory, so that her scholarly focus and passion were infused by her own experience and the experiences of her community—an expansive series of concentric circles spanning family, neighborhood, nation of her birth, the birth nation of her immigrant parents and grandmothers, and vulnerable peoples around the globe. Hope's work extrapolated from, and truly "saw" and engaged with, the plight of other similarly circumstanced and less fortunate transnational migrant women and their families.<sup>17</sup>

Beginning with her earliest writings, Hope advocated combining analytical lenses—feminist human rights scholarship and critical race scholarship, for example—to gain more insights into the lives of the disadvantaged and disregarded.<sup>18</sup> These included women, women migrants, African-American women, women of color in America, and African and developing country women. Her work centered on the multiple identities of and challenges faced by those women, as well as the limited and vulnerable roles they are allowed in the transnational global economy.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to her many law review articles—she published many more than are mentioned here—she was the co-author, with Professor Jeanne Woods of Loyola New Orleans, of *Human Rights and the Global Marketplace: Economic, Social, and Cultural Dimensions*,<sup>20</sup> the first legal academic casebook on the subject.

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MD. J. INT'L L. 296 (2009); Hope Lewis, *Globalization's People: Black Identities in U.S.-Caribbean Encounters*, 32 LAW & INEQ. 349 (2014).

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., *supra* notes 2, 6, 14.

<sup>17</sup> See Lewis, *Global Intersections*, *supra* note 4, at 318, in which she explores the ways in which Jamaican-American women "have fallen through the cracks of both Critical Race Theory and feminist international human rights theory."

<sup>18</sup> See Lewis, *Lionheart Gals*, *supra* note 8, at 575–76:

[I] call[ ] for a more explicit engagement of critical race scholarship with feminist international human rights strategies. I argue that the expansion of the nascent interaction of critical race feminist approaches with international human rights is essential under current conditions of multiculturalism and globalization.

<sup>19</sup> See Hope Lewis, *Universal Mother: Transnational Migration and the Human Rights of Black Women in the Americas*, 5 J. GENDER, RACE & JUST. 197 (2001) (exploring the variety of stereotyping lenses applied to the case of a Jamaican female immigrant to Canada, who faced deportation back to Jamaica).

<sup>20</sup> JEANNE WOODS & HOPE LEWIS, *HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS* (2005).

Hope was an advocate and institution builder: At Northeastern, Hope served as the faculty director of Global Legal Studies,<sup>21</sup> founding the university's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy;<sup>22</sup> the law school's distinguished lecture series, the Valerie Gordon Human Rights Lecture Series;<sup>23</sup> and the faculty and student Working Group on Human Rights. An active member of the American Society of International Law, Hope served a term on the Executive Council and was a founding co-chair of the American Society of International Law International Disability Rights Interest Group.<sup>24</sup>

She was also one of the most prolific and dedicated of the IntLawGrrls team, addressing topics as varied as disability rights, global terrorism, and economic, social, and cultural rights.<sup>25</sup>

Hope received many awards over the past two decades, including the 2012 Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law, from the American Bar Association; the 2011 Thomas J. Carroll Award from the Carroll Center for the Blind and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind; and the 2001 Haywood Burns/Shanara Gilbert Teaching and Service Award from the Northeast Regional People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference.<sup>26</sup>

#### MENTOR: MY PERSONAL NARRATIVE OF HOPE

In tribute to Hope's use of personal narratives to universalize human experiences, let me share my own personal narratives of Hope:

I first "met" Hope Lewis in 2001, thanks to an introduction by David Hall, then-Provost of Northeastern University. I was an associate at an eminent Boston law firm, seeking guidance regarding whether my interest in joining the legal academy was realistic. Hope counseled me by telephone,

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<sup>21</sup> Martha F. Davis, *The Life of Hope Lewis: Activist, Scholar, Teacher*, HUM. RTS. AT HOME BLOG (Dec. 8, 2016), [http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/human\\_rights/2016/12/the-life-of-hope-lewis-activist-scholar-teacher.html](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/human_rights/2016/12/the-life-of-hope-lewis-activist-scholar-teacher.html).

<sup>22</sup> *Northeastern Mourns Loss of Hope Lewis, Law Professor and Human Rights Scholar*, NORTHEASTERN NEWS (Dec. 9, 2016) [hereinafter *Northeastern Mourns*], <http://news.northeastern.edu/2016/12/northeastern-mourns-loss-of-hope-lewis-law-professor-and-human-rights-scholar/>.

<sup>23</sup> Gans, *supra* note 7.

<sup>24</sup> *Northeastern Mourns*, *supra* note 22.

<sup>25</sup> See Diane Marie Amann, *In Passing: Our Sister, Hope Lewis*, INTLAWGRRLS, Dec. 9, 2016, <https://ilg2.org/2016/12/09/in-passing-our-sister-hope-lewis/> (describing the substance and impact of Hope Lewis's contributions to the IntLawGrrls blog).

<sup>26</sup> Lewis Profile, *supra* note 14. See also Amann, *supra* note 25; Davis, *supra* note 21.

inspiring me by her example and her kindness, as well as the realization that, here, was another Jamaican who had succeeded in joining the academy.

After I succeeded in joining the legal academy, I reached out, once again. My e-mail said, more or less, "Do you remember the random person to whom you spoke many years ago? And to whom you provided encouragement that there is a path to the legal academy for people like us?" Not only did Hope respond "yes!," but she continued to provide telephonic and e-mail guidance over a number of years, and to read my draft articles, all despite never having met me in person.

Finally, post-tenure, at an Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law, I was privileged to meet Hope Lewis in person, and to spend meaningful in-person time with her. By then, we were both IntLawGrrls, and enjoyed the annual Women in International Law Interest Group (WILIG) lunches and ritual photo-taking with a cardboard cutout of Eleanor Roosevelt, all in celebration of the advances of women in international law.

Hope's support and encouragement was especially meaningful to me, as she was a fellow Jamaican who had succeeded in the field to which I aspired.

Hope was well-named, as she brought hope: through her character, through her passion, and through her grace, determination, and gentle strength in the face of her health challenges. Her *Boston Globe* obituary quoted Professor Randall Kennedy, who had had her as a student in his class:

*She was a person who had a deep commitment to social justice and all of its various dimensions, but she was a gentle person. When people are trying to battle against the viciousness of the world, you've got to put your dukes up. You've got to raise your voice. You've got to push and shove. And she would be part of that campaign . . . but she did it in a quiet way.<sup>27</sup>*

#### CONCLUSION

Our fellow IntLawGrrl, Hope Lewis, was a passionate advocate of human rights. She never forgot who she was and where she came from. She personified intellectual rigor and commitment, as well as the kindness and mentorship of a superb human being. Join me in celebrating the life of and paying tribute to our departed sister, Professor Hope Lewis.

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<sup>27</sup> Gans, *supra* note 7.