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Model Colleague and Dear Friend

Joel A. Mintz*

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A TRIBUTE TO LARRY KALEVITCH

MODEL COLLEAGUE AND DEAR FRIEND

JOEL A. MINTZ*

As I remember Larry Kalevitch—and attempt to honor the memory of that very special man—I am reminded of everything he accomplished in his all too brief life and career. I think of Larry’s lively and challenging style of classroom teaching, his availability and kindness to his students, his thoughtful contributions to legal scholarship, and his engaging and energetic friendliness. I think, too, of Larry’s extraordinary devotion to his family and friends, his quick wit, and his unfailing willingness to take on new challenges and demands. In this brief tribute, however, I will focus primarily on yet another facet of Larry’s life: what a remarkable colleague Larry was.

Larry Kalevitch was the first friend I made as a law professor. As a rookie on this Law Center’s faculty, in the Fall term of 1982, I had the good fortune to be assigned to the office next to his, on the fourth floor of what is now referred to by Nova professors and alumni as “the old building”—a converted union hall north of Fort Lauderdale Airport, in southern Fort Lauderdale. The old building was this law school’s home until we moved to our present quarters in the summer of 1992. Larry started teaching at Nova at the same time that I did. Unlike me, however, he had come to the Law Center as an experienced law professor, who had already taught for eight years at Loyola of Chicago Law School.

In those early years (and afterwards as well) Larry was someone I knew I could always go to for sound advice regarding teaching techniques and the many issues of law school policy that come before the faculty and its committees. I have fond memories of our times together as personal friends playing tennis, exploring Everglades National Park, attending Miami Heat basketball games, taking our (then) small children to the Dade County Youth Fair, and attending numerous other events and attractions. It was only much

*. Professor of Law, Nova Southeastern University Law Center; B.A., Columbia University; J.D., N.Y.U. School of Law; L.L.M. and J.S.D., Columbia Law School.

later, however, that I realized that Larry's helpful mentoring—and warm friendship—extended well beyond myself. Larry advised and befriended many of our faculty colleagues and the door to his office was always open to his peers, as well as to his students, as an invitation to stimulating conversation, patient encouragement, and support.

Beyond his friendship for all, Larry Kalevitch was a full, conscientious, and active participant in the Law Center's governance activities. His contributions at faculty meetings and on faculty committees were uniformly thoughtful and articulate. Larry was often willing to take and defend positions that he knew would not be popular with his peers. At the same time, he displayed an abiding respect for other professors' opinions, a keen ability to mediate among differing views, and a talent for promoting faculty consensus when it was needed.

Larry was a superb law professor. He demanded much of his students—yet even more of himself. He struck the correct balance between challenging his students and overwhelming them. At the same time, Larry was extraordinarily open in discussing with colleagues what he saw as the shortcomings of his own teaching methods. His frankness in that respect encouraged candor in others, and he was a catalyst for many productive discussions of pedagogical questions and techniques.

Beyond this, Larry Kalevitch was a wonderful ambassador from the Law Center to the larger world of legal education. As professors at other law schools will attest, Larry had great enthusiasm for the work done at Nova. He spoke of its faculty and students frequently—and in the most glowing terms.

In sum, through his friendship and support for those he worked with, his judicious and conscientious participation in faculty governance, his genuine willingness to share his expertise regarding teaching methods, his infectious enthusiasm for the work of others, and his pride in the Law Center as a whole, Larry Kalevitch was a “professor's professor” and a “colleague's colleague.” In his twenty-one years at Nova Southeastern—and his fifty-six years of life—he touched and enriched many lives. He is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.