

**TRIBUTE
TO A
COLLEAGUE**

*Angela Carmella & Liv Baker**

We have had the great honor and privilege of working with Professor Gressman during his seven years here at Seton Hall. He is without doubt, a brilliant teacher, scholar, and lawyer, and has made an outstanding contribution to constitutional law. But what is so special about Gene Gressman — and we speak for the entire faculty at Seton Hall Law School — is that he has been a marvelous colleague.

Professor Gressman has never missed an opportunity to engage faculty in discussions of important legal and moral issues. We have all heard him utter his favorite opening line, “Did you see the article in the *Times* this morning?” And we have all delighted in the discussions that follow, whether they be about politics, law, religion, speech, the Court. The lovely thing about Gene Gressman is that the discussions were not about him, or how much he knew about a topic — though they could have been. Instead, he engaged us in true dialogue; he did not subject us to a monologue. He cared what we thought, how we felt, how we approached the question. And yet, after reluctantly leaving such a dialogue, how often have we discovered how much we have learned in these exchanges.

Professor Gressman’s passion for intellectual discourse with other faculty members was not limited to hallways and offices. He asked us to come into his classes, so that students could be exposed to the debates surrounding particularly intriguing issues. And he came into our classes to do the same. His dedication to the life of the mind taught us that our project as law professors was the constant evaluation and adaptation of the ideas that bind us together as a nation. Struggling together with the profound questions of our time: this is what being a colleague is all about; this is what the great privilege of being on a law faculty is all about. And Gene Gressman has been at the center, enabling us to struggle with the hard issues, all along.

We would be remiss not to mention Gene’s wife and lifelong companion, Nan, whom several of us have gotten to know quite well. Not only is Nan a special person in our personal relationships, she is a well-known painter and sculptor in her own profession. Nan leaves behind beautiful works

*Angela Carmella and Liv Baker are on the faculty at Seton Hall University School of Law, in Newark, New Jersey.

which grace two floors of the law school, several homes and offices in the area, as well as memories of impressive showings.

So we will miss very much the presence of our special friend, Gene Gressman, his generosity of spirit, unceasing kindness, and marvelous sense of humor. We wish him and Nan all the best as they return to North Carolina, and send with them our deepest thanks for the rich legacy of their spirit which they have left here at Seton Hall.