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## Tribute to Professor Robert Liberman

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His mind was always open to the truth, and his heart held love for his wife, his children, his friends, and his fellow-man.

I am proud that this edition of the *Law Review* is dedicated to my father, because these pages immortalize the wisdom and compassion not only of a great professor, but of a caring father and friend.

To those who studied with my father, let me say this: your own commitment to high standards and excellence will be an eternal dedication to his ideals.

DAVID LIBERMAN, M.D.

Bob Liberman and I each spent 30 years as a member of the faculty of Boston University's School of Law. Happily, we shared twenty-four of those years. I remember well his arrival in 1956. After a time during which almost all of our faculty members came from eastern schools, Bob Liberman was the first of a number educated at major institutions in the midwest, Chicago and Michigan in his case. Bob came shortly after publication of William Winslow Crosskey's provocative *Politics and the Constitution in the History of the United States*. Bob had studied enthusiastically with Crosskey; my next door neighbor was Henry Hart, who had become my mentor. The clashing ideas of these two great scholars were the subject of many of the early conversations through which my friendship with Bob began. His daughter Laura has reminded us that her father did not like to argue. He certainly liked to discuss, and to do so animatedly. There is a remark of his about *Swift v. Tyson* that I still share with my classes in Federal Courts, to the effect that, whatever else you may say, Justice Story was right about Swift's status as a holder in due course.

The range of Bob Liberman's talents strains credulity. He was the most gifted of us all by far, I believe. As a classical pianist he could have devoted his life to filling concert halls. As a financial analyst he could have been a Wall Street leader. He could have achieved reknown as a legal practitioner. He was writer to his profession and a writer of fiction. He composed beautiful music. He was a perfectionist, and with that went an innate sense of modesty, and even diffidence. But he had goals; he had structure, priorities. His values led him to be, foremost, a teacher.

When I went off to Zambia in 1970 after having just introduced at Boston University a course on Legal Process based on the Hart & Sacks materials, Bob, to my delight, took it on, and he made it his own for the rest of his career. A voracious reader, he started by consuming Hart & Wechsler's "The Federal Courts and the Federal System," cover to cover. To the course he brought his years of experience as a commercial lawyer, his mastery of securities law, and through his work with the legal process he emerged as a teacher of Constitutional Law. Across this broad range of subject matter he was a masterful teacher.

Bob's devotion to his family was total. It was a joy to observe the quiet

pride he manifested in Judy and David and Laura, and how steadfast was his faith in them during times of trouble as well as triumph.

The last time I saw him, a few short weeks before his death, after ten years of failing and precarious health, he lifted me by his spirit and his good humor and by the zeal he exhibited for dealing with the problems that had been brought his way. I have thought often since how wonderful it is that the students of this place were never denied the vigor and fullness of that active mind, even as he with such dignity and courage lived those difficult years. In that he was teacher to us all.

**PROFESSOR ROBERT B. KENT**  
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