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## In Memoriam: Doris Jonas Freed

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## **IN MEMORIAM: DORIS JONAS FREED**

When Doris Jonas Freed died on July 23, 1993, at the age of ninety, she had only recently given up writing about family law. She was quite literally a legend in her own time. In many ways, she was a pioneer: a woman lawyer with an earned Doctorate in Jurisprudential Sciences from New York University School of Law, an active practice, and a busy writing schedule.

I first met Doris about twenty-three years ago when Father Robert F. Drinan, then Dean of Boston College Law School and a former Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Family Law, encouraged me to become active in the Section and later prevailed upon me to assume the Editor-in-Chief position of this journal. From the very beginning of my editorship, Doris Jonas Freed was just a phone call away. She assisted me in soliciting and reviewing manuscripts. Many times she and her co-author, Professor Henry Foster, a former Chair of the Section, wrote an occasional piece to round out an issue. Doris and Henry, the famous family law duo, developed the annual survey of "Family Law in the Fifty States," which has become a popular classic.

Doris thought of the ABA Section of Family Law as an important, but not exclusive, part of her professional life. She did not use participation in Section committee work as a stepping-stone for greater opportunities in the profession or for economic gain. She accepted the office of Secretary of the Section reluctantly and refused to be considered for any higher office. She would rather work in the vineyards than manage them. And for her untiring work, she received countless ABA awards.

When I was honored to be elected Chair of the Section, I turned to Doris for guidance, especially in choosing my Financial Officer. She recommended Richard Wels, a successful New York lawyer and the author of an excellent article on New York divorce reform. On Doris' recommendation alone, I chose Dick Wels and he and I became a team. He was a wise man of extraordinary integrity and principle who shared with me the idea that the position of Chair of an ABA Section is one of utmost trust. I have always been grateful to Doris for introducing me to Dick who became a very good friend for the rest of his life.