

TRIBUTE TO DEAN REINSTEIN: LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING PROGRAM

*Ellie Margolis**

One of Bob Reinstein's lasting contributions as Dean of Temple Law School is the creation of Temple's preeminent Legal Research and Writing ("LRW") Program. For Bob Reinstein, "Real World, Real Law" is more than just a motto, it is a vision of the right way to do legal education. He recognizes that practical skills like writing are at the core of a lawyer's art. Communication skills are highly valued in the practice of law, regardless of practice area. Good writers are successful lawyers. Skills such as those taught in the first-year LRW Program are part of what makes Temple graduates ready to successfully enter the real world of law practice directly out of law school. Bob Reinstein's vision has been instrumental in making Temple's LRW Program one of the most well-respected, consistently top-rated programs in the country.

Bob Reinstein realized that a true commitment to excellence in teaching writing skills required a program staffed by dedicated, full-time professionals. So, eleven years ago, at a time when most LRW programs were staffed by adjuncts or recent graduates using LRW teaching as a stop on the path to something else, he and the faculty took the revolutionary step of creating a program staffed by leading teachers and scholars in the field and gave them the support they needed, both financial and otherwise, to make Temple the superior program that it is. He made Temple a place where LRW teaching and scholarship are nurtured, and, as a result, Temple has developed a reputation as being consistently ahead of the national curve in the field of LRW. His commitment to excellence has pushed us all toward it.

During Bob Reinstein's tenure as Dean, Temple has developed a national reputation as the home to some of the most innovative and productive scholars of legal writing pedagogy and theory. Bob recognized that to be a center of excellence in the practical skills that are the essence of lawyering, LRW faculty must be engaged scholars as well as teachers. His financial support and encouragement for research and scholarship in the field of legal writing is unparalleled among law schools. By fostering an environment in which our work is encouraged and valued, Bob has helped to make us national leaders in the field.

Most recently, Bob Reinstein has once again helped to place Temple at the cutting edge of the LRW community by recognizing that top-notch scholars and teachers need academic freedom to continually push the program toward innovation and excellence. Ten years into a program with full-time faculty, and with our long-time director stepping down, the LRW faculty suggested to Bob that we were no longer in need of a director. Many deans would have balked at

* Associate Professor, Temple University Beasley School of Law. Professor Margolis has been teaching Legal Research and Writing for sixteen years, twelve of them at Temple.

fundamentally changing the structure of an already excellent program, but Bob Reinstein had the vision to understand that true excellence means always moving forward and experimenting. Thus, he agreed to our request, placing the Temple LRW Program at the forefront of a growing trend of LRW programs staffed by full-time professional faculty members. The move to an autonomous program leaves the LRW faculty poised for even greater curricular innovation and ensures that we will continue to be leaders in the field.

In sum, Bob Reinstein leaves a great legacy in the LRW Program. On behalf of the LRW faculty, I thank him for his support and encouragement over the years and can proudly say that we will continue sustaining the excellent program he fostered.