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A Tribute to Nina R. Kestin

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

LAW REVIEW

A DEDICATION TO NINA R. KESTIN

The University of Richmond Law Review respectfully dedicates this issue to the memory of Professor Nina R. Kestin, 1947-1989. Professor Kestin earned her law degree and masters degree in taxation from New York University. She practiced law in New York for several years before joining the faculty of the T.C. Williams School of Law here in 1976. Many students learned their tax law and professional responsibility principles from her during her 13 years of teaching. But Professor Kestin taught her colleagues and students much more than the law.

On the pages that follow, a colleague and a former student recall the special lessons they learned from Professor Kestin.

A TRIBUTE TO NINA R. KESTIN

*Daniel T. Murphy**

The law school community suffered a tragic loss when Professor Nina R. Kestin passed away on December 27, 1989, after a brief hospitalization. Professor Kestin joined the law faculty in 1976 and taught several tax courses and professional responsibility each year since then. She was granted tenure in 1982, the first woman member of a law faculty in Virginia to receive tenure.

Enduring memorials of her are both appropriate and necessary. Through them we hope to capture some of the essence of her personality and contribution so that we can share them with others who may not have benefited from contact with her and to retain

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some contact with her. The dedication of this issue of the Law Review to her is one of these fitting memorials.

Two related qualities seem to me to dominate her personality — the intensity of her commitment to those issues of concern to her, and her drive and determination. She cared passionately about many things, her family for sure, also her Jewish heritage and religion and the law school.

The law school community benefited from her commitment to it in so many ways. Her classes and her students were among the most important things in her life. Fourteen years of students in her classes would concur with that. Their importance to her was quite clear from even a brief conversation with her. Her standards for her students, herself and the rest of us as well were very high. She demanded much and gave at least as much in return. Her drive and determination to continue to strive to meet these standards did not lessen even this past year.

She was especially interested in issues of particular concern to women attorneys and faculty members, and she felt a deep need to perform a mentoring role for female students and for women on the law faculty and elsewhere within the university. She was also acutely concerned about the faculty's role in law school governance. Three years ago she was elected by her colleagues on the faculty as the faculty chair of the law school's long range planning committee and dean search committee.

Ricki pushed all of us to be more and better than perhaps we otherwise would have. I for one hope I can continue to do so without her stimulus.