

2019

Tribute to Professor Lewis R. Katz: Beloved Mentor, Global Visionary, Entrepreneur

Gerald Korngold

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/caselrev>

 Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Gerald Korngold, *Tribute to Professor Lewis R. Katz: Beloved Mentor, Global Visionary, Entrepreneur*, 70 Case W. Res. L. Rev. 13 (2019)

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/caselrev/vol70/iss1/6>

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Journals at Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Case Western Reserve Law Review by an authorized administrator of Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

Gerald Korngold[†]

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR LEWIS R. KATZ: BELOVED
MENTOR, GLOBAL VISIONARY, ENTREPRENEUR

Lewis R. Katz, the John C. Hutchins Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, will retire at the end of the Spring 2019 semester after fifty-three years on the faculty. He will continue to influence the thinking of his former students and colleagues and shape the public debate on criminal justice and civil liberties in years to come. Perhaps even more profoundly, Lew envisioned and built a global law program, advancing the school's international relationships now and in the future. I had the privilege of serving with him on the law school faculty for twenty-one years.

Lew has had a full academic life. He was the consummate classroom teacher. He challenged his students to dive deeply into the legal reasoning and policies underlying criminal law and criminal procedure, helping them grow as both lawyers and citizens. Lew's classes were noteworthy for their give-and-take, the students' engagement, and Lew's quick, incisive, and insightful wit. Lew's books on criminal law and criminal procedure rules, often written with colleagues from academia and professional practice, have been regarded as essential guides for generations of Ohio criminal defense lawyers and prosecutors. The community has benefited from Lew's service on legal and public committees, his public speaking and media appearances, and his spirited run for the U.S. Congress.

Lew was a global visionary. For over three decades, CWRU Law School graduates have been exposed to a rich and expansive view of the world thanks to a program that Lew pioneered and built. Beginning in 1991, Lew established the law school's Foreign Graduate Studies Program, serving as its Director. Originally, the program granted LL.M. degrees (Master of Laws) to students whose initial law degrees were earned outside the United States. As I recall, there were three students in the first class. In recent years, however, the LL.M.-class size has exploded to over 130 students.¹ In 2012, Lew added the S.J.D. program (Doctor of Juridical Science), also for non-U.S. lawyers. That program

[†] Professor of Law, New York Law School (gkorngold@nyls.edu). I was a Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law from 1987–2006 and had the privilege of serving as Dean from 1997–2006. CWRU School of Law remains a special place for me.

1. *LLM Class Profiles*, CASE WESTERN RES. UNIV., <https://case.edu/law/admissions/llm-admissions/llm-class-profiles> [<https://perma.cc/3ZYX-FG2J>] (last visited Oct. 8, 2019).

is also immensely popular, with more than fifty students in the 2019–20 class.² In the past several years, Lew has focused his attention on the S.J.D. students, leaving the LL.M. students in the capable hands of his colleagues.

Lew’s admirable and compelling personality and professional demeanor help explain the amazing growth of the Foreign Graduate Studies Programs under his leadership.³ He saw the potential power of the program to advance the knowledge and understanding of people from different countries, beliefs, and cultures. Lew is never shy with his own perspectives and he has his point of view. But he gave the law school a profound gift in the Foreign Graduate Studies Program by demonstrating the dynamism of learning through discourse among people with varied backgrounds and world views. Refreshingly, especially today, Lew still maintains that active discussion and even debate among people with a variety of viewpoints can advance understanding and bring people together.

Lew’s weekly seminars for the LL.M. students were an essential part of the program. In those sessions, he stimulated discussions about different legal systems, which often ranged into the hardest international legal, political, and social issues of the day. His students gained new insights through the respectful exchange of tough positions and challenging ideas.

The extraordinary warmth that Lew and his accomplished wife, Jan, extended to the visiting students was vital to the unique success of the Foreign Graduate Studies Program. Lew and Jan often graciously hosted student get-togethers at their home, providing support and good cheer while those students were far from their own homes. Lew was an active mentor for his students. His office and corridor were constantly filled with LL.M. and S.J.D. students queued up for Lew’s direction and his honest yet paternal advice regarding career, professional, and sometimes personal issues. The students much appreciated his time and counsel. In reciprocation, when Lew visited the students’ home countries as part of alumni get-togethers and or on a recruiting trip, he was feted like a dignitary. Lew was escorted and honored from the moment he touched down until the time he departed. From Thailand to the Middle East to Europe, former students reciprocated the hospitality Lew had shown them in Cleveland.

As Dean, I had the privilege of attending a couple of alumni reunions with Lew and marveled at the loyalty and devotion that the

2. *SJD Class Profiles*, CASE WESTERN RES. UNIV., <https://case.edu/law/admissions/sjd-admissions/sjd-class-profiles> [<https://perma.cc/4NC7-V9B2>] (last visited Oct. 8, 2019).

3. Professor Katz would humbly defer to and thank the efforts of both those who worked with him and other exogenous factors. Although these no doubt played a role, I know that Lew was the driving force that made this happen.

foreign graduates had for him. The fondness for Lew was not limited to LL.M. graduates, though. During my travels as Dean, J.D. (and even, dare I say, LL.B.) graduates always spoke warmly and happily of Lew, his classroom, and his enthusiasm for teaching. It did not matter what the alumnus was doing now, some twenty years removed from law school. Whether the graduate was a criminal defense lawyer, Wall Street securities attorney, or a business executive, Lew's name brought a smile and wistful look to their faces.

Lew was also the consummate entrepreneur in building the Foreign Graduate Studies Program. The same creativity that informed him as a master teacher and legal scholar animated his design and execution of the LL.M. and S.J.D. programs. His concept, business plan, and financing method made the program a success for both the students and the institution. Lew's entrepreneurial implementation of this educational mission extended Case Western Reserve School of Law's brand to the global level.

Importantly, Lew undertook responsibility for the Foreign Graduate Studies Program because he was a loyal and dedicated member of the faculty of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. This was something that needed to be done, and so Lew served. Through his service, Lew bestowed a great gift on the law school and its students.

Lew's legacy is a lifetime of growth, opportunities, and value for graduates of the law school. The Foreign Graduate Studies Program has reaped benefits for its LL.M. and S.J.D. graduates. The vast number of them returned to their home countries to work in law firms, companies, government ministries, and international agencies. These graduates' lives have been enhanced by the knowledge and credentials attained at the CWRU School of Law. Their world view has been expanded through their exposure to the legal systems, economies, and cultures of the U.S. and the countries of their visiting classmates.

The law school's J.D. students and graduates have benefited, as well. Having experienced law school together with classmates from around the world, the J.D. students have engaged and exchanged ideas with people from different legal, business, and social systems. These diverse views enhance the classroom discussion. Moreover, J.D. students have the opportunity to experience the ever-increasing globalization found in many American lawyers' practices. Diversity of thought, culture, and experience is an ongoing gift to CWRU from the program that Lew grew.

On a personal level, Lew has been a highly influential mentor to me. With affection and kindness, Lew has stimulated my own thinking and creativity. He has deeply affected my belief in service, and he has broadened my world view. With great affection and appreciation, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Professor Lewis R. Katz: beloved mentor, global visionary, entrepreneur.