

THIS ISSUE OF THE LEWIS & CLARK LAW REVIEW IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF

JEFFREY DOUGLAS JONES

DECEMBER 21, 1968 – DECEMBER 25, 2020

STUDENT TRIBUTE TO JEFF JONES

On the morning of December 25, Professor Jeffrey D. Jones passed away. Professor Jones was a pillar of the Lewis & Clark Law School community. Those of us lucky enough to have had a class with Professor Jones will tell you he was much more than a professor—he was a leader, a deep thinker, a mentor, a friend, and an ally. He taught us, he supported us, he inspired us, and we are deeply saddened by his passing. Professor Jones was a beacon of light extinguished far too soon, and his absence will be felt for many, many years to come.

Professor Jones often reminded his students that he viewed us as colleagues, friends, and allies. He reminded us not just by telling us, but by inviting us to meet with him outside of class, by showing an interest in our lives and aspirations, and by so keenly listening and thoughtfully responding to our comments and questions in class. In ways large and small, Professor Jones proved that he saw us not just as law students, or even future attorneys, but as diverse, complex, and whole human beings.

Current and former students have shared stories that demonstrate the enormous impact of Professor Jones’s kindness and empathy towards his students. One student shared that during a particularly difficult time in their life, Professor Jones arranged and faithfully followed through with weekly check-in phone calls. Another student recalled a day in class when another student made a hurtful comment about people experiencing homelessness, something with which that student had personal experience, and noted that Professor Jones immediately rebutted the comment in a manner both professional and “bursting with compassion and empathy.” A former student reflected on the mentorship they received from Professor Jones during law school and beyond, lauding the professor’s “incredible ability to keep track of all of his students after they left his classroom.” Still another recalled his humble and self-effacing nature, and how a collegial conversation led to their shared bond over the Green Bay Packers and even watching a few games together. “He showed me that the suit doesn’t make the lawyer, that it’s possible to be a kind human and a great teacher, and much more.” It would be impossible to catalogue the countless interactions where he made students feel supported, encouraged, and inspired. Students formally acknowledged Professor Jones’s impact on them when they awarded him with the 2018 Leo Levenson Teacher of the Year Award.

Professor Jones was a skilled teacher who sought not only to teach students to understand and apply the law, but to also see its shortcomings. He never glossed over systemic injustices perpetrated by our legal system, choosing instead to address

these injustices head on. He welcomed and encouraged honest discussions in his classroom on issues of equality and justice, and he always left us enlightened and inspired. One of his Employment Law students reflected on how Professor Jones “held space for students when we were frustrated with case outcomes or the inadequate remedies provided by law for those affected by discrimination and harassment” while another remembered that in lending assistance to Professor Jones’s scholarly work, he had “witnessed firsthand his dedication and passion surrounding issues of equal treatment in housing and employment.” That dedication and passion was clear to all of his students.

Many students in Professor Jones’s 2019 Property Law class recalled how he began the semester reading the Lewis & Clark College Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, which recognizes the indigenous people on whose traditional and ancestral homelands the university is built. Professor Jones explained how the stories of indigenous peoples worldwide are intimately tied to property and the law. In speaking of our nation’s history of conquest and oppression, Professor Jones said of property: “It is an immense tool of power. It is an immense tool to actually create and recreate inequality. And it’s something that we should always be mindful of when we’re dealing with real estate transactions or anything involving property.”

One student expressed the significance of this introduction: “In the exactly five minutes that Professor Jones took to lay this foundation for us, my own history grounded me into the classroom: my father explaining why the Black Hills still belong to the Lakota, my grandmother holding my hand in civil rights marches, and the evictions of family members and friends. He was saying to us, ‘I know. I know all about it.’ It’s hard to explain the difference in a law school class between knowing that on the first day, and not knowing. It’s hard to explain how motivating it is, how much harder you can work for someone who knows something about what you know something about, and who does the job in front of him anyway. It inspired us to do the job, too.”

Professor Jones will be missed by all who knew him, and he will not be forgotten. His impact on us and his former students was profound, and his legacy will be borne in our actions, so markedly influenced by his. Our community’s loss is great, but we can all carry our memories of Professor Jones forward to remind us of how to develop the next generation of lawyers: speak of what is truly important, acknowledge the law’s failures, and welcome the whole person into this profession.

Professor Jones was a remarkable guide for our community, and as his current and former students we looked forward to his continued mentorship and friendship, and we mourn the relationships that were cut short just as they were beginning. The sadness we feel is not simply that which flows from the loss of a brilliant academic—which, to be sure, Professor Jones was—it is the sadness that flows from the loss of a close mentor, friend, colleague, and ally. It is a loss with depths that cannot be comprehended at once.

FACULTY TRIBUTES TO JEFF JONES

Dean Jennifer J. Johnson

Professor Jeff Jones was a great teacher, mentor, colleague and friend. He was taken from us far too early. After a stellar academic background including a JD from the University of Michigan and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Jeff practiced employment law with two distinguished Portland firms. He joined our faculty in 2007 teaching courses in employment law, property law and jurisprudence. He also taught a course on law and social justice in Lewis and Clark College's Department of Philosophy. Jeff loved his students and loved the special times he had meeting with them individually and helping them plan their studies and future careers. Jeff, while quiet at times, was warm and funny. He cared deeply about issues of justice and willingly shared his wisdom with our community. We greatly will miss his smile, his friendship and passion for his students.

Judge Darleen Ortega

I have been fond of bragging (accurately and with Jeff's permission) that the Oregon legal community has me to thank for bringing him here. I first met Jeff when I interviewed him on campus at the University of Michigan School of Law in his second year as a student. By my calculations, that would have been nearly 19 years ago, in the fall of 2002, and Jeff was by far the most impressive student I met that day--awake in ways that others weren't, engaged with bigger questions. I brought him back to interview at my then law firm, Davis Wright Tremaine, and, as expected, he impressed everyone and ultimately came to work there after graduation.

Jeff did well in practice, but longed to be in academia. I journeyed with him through that process and was delighted when he landed at Lewis & Clark because it gave us so many opportunities to collaborate. We spoke frequently of his struggles and joys, I officiated his wedding to Tamara, and I watched with joy as he built connections with students that felt deep and distinct. He would often send me students to support, and I would send others back to him, and we would strategize about how to make a way for the brightest students who, because they came from marginalized backgrounds, often faced barriers that others didn't perceive. Together we built the first iteration of an "Access to Justice" course that I now teach at all three Oregon law schools.

So many students have reached out to me about how much Jeff meant to them.

He was the only professor I could talk to without censoring myself, said one student. Another told of a classroom experience that was the antithesis of the experience of “cold-calling” that filled him with dread in his other classes. Another spoke of the ways that Jeff made space for his voice in a way that he did not experience anywhere else. Another remembered how Jeff questioned things no one else did about the legal culture, opening the way for him to do the same. Several spoke of the ways that Jeff communicated belief in their talent in a way that helped them believe in themselves when so much of what they encountered elsewhere made that hard to do.

My sense is that we never got the full impact of what Jeff had to offer. The legal world wasn't built to include the range of his interests, the breadth of what he saw. He was a quirky combination of disciplined, rigorous, and expansive in his thinking. He was the rare person who responded to my best thinking with delight—he wanted more space to ask the big questions. I felt it, and wish I could have done more to open those spaces for him. I can't help feeling a sense of the strain (which I often feel in my own body) of struggling to survive in a culture that wasn't built for you. Jeff fought well, cared a lot, and left good ripples with so many people. I'm heartbroken that we lost him when he still had so much to give, and grateful for what he managed to offer in the time that I knew him.

Professor Robert Klonoff

Professor Jones was an extraordinary teacher, scholar, and mentor. Students loved him, and he was an inspiration for many. He was also an exceptionally kind human being. When I was dean, he was always there to offer support and friendship. This is a devastating loss to the Lewis & Clark Law School community.

Professor Michael Blumm

Jeff was a valued colleague, a treasured teacher, and an influential mentor. A law professor's legacy lies in his students and their accomplishments. Although the pain of his loss is acute, Jeff's legacy will be a large and enduring one.

Professor Lydia Loren

Professor Jeff Jones cared deeply for his students. In 2018 when Lewis & Clark Law School's graduating class selected Professor Jeff Jones as the recipient of the Leo Levenson award (the school's award for the best teacher), he was both touched and honored. It was confirmation that his students cared about him. Jeff and I shared a toast of some very good scotch the night the award was announced. I was so happy for him, he was beaming. I remember his smiling face all throughout the dinner that evening. It is my favorite memory of him.

When I began teaching property law after 20-plus years of teaching civil

procedure, Jeff and I debated the pros and cons of different casebooks. He was interested in making sure the book he used reflected a balance of practice and theory, a balance of cases and exercises, and a balance of history and an eye toward the future. He wanted his students to not just learn the rules of property law but to think about the legal system through a body of law that, throughout history, has been a means of both freedom and oppression. Jeff was thoughtful and caring, always looking to create opportunities to challenge students but to not hide the ball. One year we committed to meet each week to draft multiple choice questions on that week's topics. We wanted to check ourselves and, to be honest, make a difficult task have a bit of fun to it. While I didn't always look forward to the drafting task, I always enjoyed meeting with Jeff and talking through our drafts together.

I was designated to complete the editing process for Professor's Jones' final article that appears in this issue. He and I had discussed the topic of workforce housing and debated the discriminatory effect that well-intentioned programs sometimes end up causing. As I read through the final page proofs, I couldn't help but think of how much Professor Jones had contributed to the struggle for equality and justice. They say that the long arc of the moral universe bends towards justice, but that is only so because there are people like Professor Jones pushing in the right direction. I know the world is a better place because Jeff was in it.

Professor Aliza Kaplan

Professor Jones was a wonderful teacher and friend. Jeff's ability to speak the truth and share his life stories with others, especially his students, was more important than he knew. Jeff's deep commitment to racial justice and equality could be seen in his teaching, mentoring, writing and in how he lived his life. Jeff went out of his way to learn about and support the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic: he asked questions about our clients and their lives, he was interested in the details of the work our students were doing on their Clinic cases and projects, and he regularly reached out to me to cheer us on. This is a heartbreaking loss for the law school and for me personally. I will miss him terribly.

Professor Erica Lyman

I always felt a special connection to Jeff—we grew up in the same area. We bonded about Milwaukee, but most often we chatted about teaching methodology. Jeff was always curious about clinical teaching methodology and incorporating techniques into his classroom because Jeff cared deeply about incorporating real-life experience and practical skills into his lessons. I always viewed this instinct of Jeff's as one driven by his care for his students. Jeff was a passionate teacher and a friendly colleague, and I will miss him, both professionally and personally.

Associate Dean Janice Weis

I always made a point to try to sit by Jeff at faculty retreats if I could. It was a time we could catch up and he was always interested in what the environmental program was up to. He was a great listener. He also cared very deeply about teaching methods and I enjoyed hearing techniques he was trying or wanted to try in his classes. This is such a loss for our community.

Professor Samir Parikh

Jeff was a wonderful friend and colleague. He believed in helping others and gave his time generously, improving the trajectory of those around him. I was consistently impressed with his work beyond campus. He will be missed.

Professor Susan Mandiberg

Jeff was a warm, caring colleague who was always ready to support and mentor students and to teach both the practicalities and philosophies of the law. His passing is a great loss to our community.

Professor Bill Funk

Always with a big smile. Always willing to help. Humble and self-effacing. A fond memory of bar-hopping with him in Palm Beach during an evening of SEALS. I can't believe he is gone.

Professor Bill Chin

Years ago, Jeff and I and our law students along with others did a local tour of historically significant sites in Portland to learn more about Portland's past. I enjoyed our informal talks during the bus ride between sites. He talked with students; he offered insights and perspectives; he listened and heard. He was a wonderful colleague and friend.

Professor Kathy Hessler

Jeff was a truly engaged and committed colleague, teacher, and lawyer. He always participated in all aspects of his work thoughtfully and with the goal of contributing positively to the work at hand. He cared deeply about students, colleagues, legal issues, and the practice of law. He was a tremendous mentor to students and helped many of us faculty members consider ways to do our work better, either through the questions he asked or models he established. He was an

asset to everyone who came in contact with him. He was also a genuinely nice human being who was just lovely to talk and work with. Though everyone who has known and worked with him has suffered a striking loss, we are all immeasurably better for our time with him.

Professor Sandy Patrick

Professor Jeff Jones was so many things to so many people--a valued colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend. Above all, he was warm and kind. He listened and connected. He comforted and encouraged. Even within just a few moments of conversation, he could elevate those around him. Jeff's capacity to give of himself was a blessing to everyone who crossed his path. We are saddened by this unfathomable loss, but we can rejoice in the richness of a person who touched so many.

Professor Tung Yin

Professor Jeff Jones had an office down the hall from mine, so sometimes after faculty meetings or workshops, we would head back together and sometimes talk about law school matters. I had been teaching a few years longer than he had, so ostensibly he was seeking advice from me; but in reality, I learned at least as much from him as he did from me. What I remember in particular is the incredible devotion he showed to students. For example, I was seriously impressed at how, in his role as a mentor to 1L students, he had essentially a schedule of items to go over with them, including asking each mentee to turn in a draft of a resume, which he would review with them. I saw less of Jeff in recent years, but his loss is no less of a gut-punch.

Professor Henry Drummonds

Too soon he left this place
for Depoe and Beyond,
His wit and smile warming
memories of talks
about people and places and workplace law,
His philosophical intellect towering above my own meagre pragmatism,
Seeing deeper into the past and toward the future physicists say already exists,
Aware of his times and places more than most.

Professor George Foster

My heart is heavy at the loss of a colleague so kind and so gifted, so young. Many have commented on Jeff's commitment to serving as a mentor to students, and his skill in doing so. All of that is true. Yet I too benefited from his guidance and advice on many occasions. Jeff was a few years ahead of me in the tenure pipeline when I arrived at Lewis & Clark, and in many ways he took me under his wing. I could always turn to him when I needed advice about anything from syllabi to navigating bureaucracy to best practices in the classroom. He was also supportive of my scholarship, always coming to colloquia or workshops if I was presenting to offer his insights and encouragement. Our institution was also greatly enriched by the breadth and depth of his expertise, in areas ranging from employment law to philosophy: a portfolio that can never be replicated. For reasons both professional and personal, Jeff will be sorely missed.

Professor Susan Felstiner

Warm, kind, his embrace
Lends a book, an ear; mentor
Sage, injustice foe

Professor John Parry

Jeff was not a crowd person. When he spoke in a faculty meeting, it was only when he had something important to say—probably something on behalf of our students that we all needed to hear. Jeff cared so much for his students, both as teacher and mentor. He also worked hard on social justice issues—as a teacher and mentor again, but also in the community in ways that many of us did not know about. He did not trumpet what he actually did; he just did it. His last article, in this issue, results from one of those efforts, which makes it a true memorial to his professional life.

I found a quotation on the web—unattributed—to the effect that, “when a person burns brightly before dying, their brightness continues to shine.” There's no doubt that Jeff shone brightly in our community. He was already accomplished, but there was also so much he looked forward to doing. We've lost those things. It is some consolation—not enough, but some—that Jeff will keep shining in the community of his colleagues and students.

Professor Allison LaPlante

I'll never forget the first time I actually got to talk to Jeff on a personal level. We had both received promotions around the same time, and we were invited to a

dinner at the President's house to celebrate that year's faculty promotions. The whole affair was rather formal and intimidating for me, as a relatively junior faculty member. But then Jeff sat down next to me at the dinner table. He immediately dropped the formal academic talk everyone else was engaged in, and instead tried to get to know me as a person. I was struck by how warm, candid, and genuinely engaged he was in our conversation. I learned that night just how much Jeff cares about his colleagues as people. And Jeff continued to demonstrate that for the years that followed. We will miss him tremendously.

Professor Melissa Powers

Jeff was an extraordinarily kind, thoughtful, smart, and wise person. About once a semester (we always meant to do it more often), he and I would head somewhere for coffee or lunch to chat about . . . well, everything. I always looked forward to those conversations, not only because I learned so much from Jeff's insights and observations, but because the outings were fun and restorative. Jeff always looked for ways to make things better. He was deeply committed to doing the right thing, and he worked hard professionally and personally to follow through on his commitments.

As a scholar, Jeff often unearthed and sought to rectify the hidden injustices that many of us never consider, much less examine in detail. I remember one project in particular, involving the egregious laws around storage facilities, that Jeff described to us during a faculty colloquium. He first thought of the project when he somehow found himself watching *Storage Wars* and became both intrigued and concerned about the personal and economic implications of having so much property subject to confiscation and auctions. Many people would not even think about the law underlying these facilities, or if they did, they might think about the economics of the auction processes. But Jeff thought about the people whose stuff - and, often, whose lives - were the objects of those proceedings. His scholarship sought to bring these humanitarian considerations into the law.

Jeff also had a profound impact on the lives of his students, as a teacher and mentor. On many occasions, students whom Jeff had mentored as 1Ls told me how much his mentoring had helped them. Jeff took his mentoring responsibilities seriously - he introduced students to practitioners in their areas of interest, he set expectations for students in the mentoring process, and he held them accountable for following through. Students greatly appreciated Jeff's approach, both because it helped them grow and because it demonstrated to them how committed Jeff was to their success.

I have a lot to learn from Jeff's examples. I really wish I still had the time to learn from him in person - and to spend more time hanging out with him over coffee. I will miss Jeff very, very much.

Professor Jim Oleske

Two themes run throughout my colleagues' remembrances of Jeff: his kindness and his generosity. I personally benefited from both of those qualities throughout the time I shared with Jeff at the law school. Jeff warmly invited my wife and me into his home for a welcoming dinner in my early days at Lewis & Clark, and in the years that followed, he would quietly and periodically send encouraging notes aimed at ensuring I felt valued and appreciated as a junior faculty member. His many acts of kindness also extended fully to our students, and he took to heart the importance of making sure our newest students felt supported as they began their law school journeys. Jeff's enduring spirit reflects the best of our community.

Professor Pamela Frasch

Jeff was an incredibly kind and supportive colleague. He had a keen and curious mind, and I always enjoyed and was inspired by his perspectives and insight on a wide variety of topics. His kindness extended to showing genuine interest in our lives and our work. I think all of us -- students, faculty, and staff alike -- felt a warm glow whenever we had the privilege of spending a few minutes with him. I will miss him dearly.

Professor Juliet Stumpf

As a school, as colleagues, we have lost a piece of our core. Jeff brought so much to the school: his commitment to his students, his thoughtfulness about his teaching, the creativity and originality that he showed in his scholarship, and his commitment to the welfare of the law school and of the employment law program. When I think about Jeff, though, I hear that deep, warm, easy laugh that came from his center. I loved talking with him about the future of employment law at Lewis & Clark, and about the challenges and rewards of writing.

Professor Janet Steverson

I met Professor Jeff Jones when he first moved to Portland, before he joined the law school. After just one dinner with Jeff I knew that he would be an absolutely wonderful addition to the law school. When Jeff decided to apply to become a law professor and we hired him, I was thrilled. He brought to the law school everything that everyone has mentioned and more.

I will miss Jeff's warm and infectious laugh, I will miss our collaborations, I will miss staying up until the wee hours of the morning with Jeff and his wife, Tamara, talking about everything and anything, and I will miss having Jeff and Tamara soundly beat me and my husband, Joe, in tri-ominos. At the same time, I

have all of those fond memories to help with the grief. In addition, the law school has an incredible example to follow and countless lives touched and made better by Jeff.

I miss you greatly my friend and colleague, but I will continue to hone my tri-ominos game so that I can, hopefully, hold my own when we meet again in the afterlife.