ELIZABETH THERESA McNAMEE

The editors of the New York University Law Review respectfully dedicate this issue to the memory of Elizabeth Theresa McNamee. Elizabeth was a third-year student and an Associate Editor on the Law Review. The following is an Essay written by four of her closest friends in law school, Joy L. DeVito, John W. McGuinness, Shabnam Noghrey, and Sevan Ogulliuk. Their Essay commemorates Elizabeth's life and describes what made her special.

On September 25, 1998, the New York University Law School community lost Elizabeth Theresa McNamee, a fine student, a dear friend, and a beautiful person. Elizabeth is survived by her loving parents, Frank and Maria, her brother William, and many relatives and friends. It is impossible to put into words how special Elizabeth was, but perhaps her achievements and contributions will display both how exceptional she was and how much she has meant to each of us.

Elizabeth was born on January 11, 1973 in Rockville Centre, New York, and was raised in West Islip, New York. At a very young age, Elizabeth decided that she wanted to be a lawyer. At West Islip High School Elizabeth received numerous athletic and academic awards. She was an integral member of the New York State Champion Varsity Soccer and Volleyball teams, and was awarded All-County honors in both sports. Elizabeth graduated fifth in her class in 1991 and was named a Gold Key Award recipient and EAB Scholar athlete.

Elizabeth attended college at Harvard University, where she was on the Dean's List every semester and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. At Harvard, she played Varsity soccer. Elizabeth was a three-time recipient of both the Harvard College Scholarship Award and the Elizabeth C. Agassiz Merit Award. Upon graduation, she was also awarded the Oliver Dabney Prize in History. Despite being dedicated to athletics and academics, Elizabeth consistently found time for those less fortunate than her by volunteering at a number of charities, including City Step where she taught inner-city children how to dance.
After graduation from Harvard, Elizabeth was a legal intern in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York. Additionally, she worked as a legal assistant in the corporate finance department of the New York office of Latham & Watkins.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Hofstra University School of Law awarded Elizabeth the Dean’s Academic Achievement Scholarship. Upon accepting this award, she attended Hofstra in the fall of 1996. By the end of her first year of law school, she ranked first in her class and received West Publishing’s Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Book Award. During the summer of 1997, Elizabeth interned for the Honorable Leonard D. Wexler in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, who published two opinions based on research projects conducted by her.

In the fall of 1997, Elizabeth transferred to New York University School of Law to continue her legal education as a second year law student. After participating in a rigorous writing competition, Elizabeth was one of four transfer students invited to join the New York University Law Review. During the summer of 1998, Elizabeth worked as a Summer Associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

In addition to being an accomplished scholar and athlete, Elizabeth deeply touched the hearts of all those who met her. She was a selfless and loyal friend, always giving unconditional support and love. Despite all of her achievements, what Elizabeth loved to do most was spend time with her family and friends. Elizabeth never let life’s demands interfere with what she felt was important. Elizabeth is an example for all to follow, not just law students. We feel blessed to have known Elizabeth and to have shared so many special memories with her. We will remember her eyes and her smile, brightening many of our days. We will forever love her and cherish her in our hearts.