

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 81

APRIL 2006

NUMBER 1

DEDICATION

FOR KIM, AND HER WORLD

BARRY FRIEDMAN*

On November 20, 2004, New York University lost a cherished member of its extended family, the legal academy lost a promising young scholar, and the world lost an exemplary citizen. This Symposium represents the effort of many who struggled with this mutual loss. It is to Kim, to her beloved family and many friends, to her shortchanged colleagues, and to the fellow citizens of Kim's world, that this collection of essays is dedicated.

By the time of her passing, Kim Barry had seen more of the world and done more to help its inhabitants than most of us even dream. She was the most cosmopolitan person imaginable. Having grown up in the Bahamas and Australia, Kim brought a unique internationalist perspective to the world she inhabited. Her undergraduate and graduate education included training in law and foreign affairs, and she excelled at all things academic. At the same time, her heart turned that training to the common good. She traveled to Eritrea to help with economic development, and to Alabama to serve those on death row. She labored for civil liberties in the United States (including as a Hays Civil Liberties Fellow at the Law School), and worked to improve the closer academic community of which she was a part. Kim had terrific energy, and used it for the betterment of others.

Following her positions as a law clerk, a law firm lawyer, a public interest lawyer, and in academic administration, Kim settled in to

* Copyright © 2006 by Barry Friedman, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law, New York University School of Law. I would like to thank Jill Anton, Norman Dorsen, Lisa Koederitz, Jeremy Marwell, and Sylvia Law for their reactions to this piece.

pursue what had been a longtime ambition, to teach and write in the legal academy. She spent her last year at the Law School as a Furman Fellow, a program that allows some of our most talented graduates the time to prepare for the academic market. On the cusp of great success in that market, Kim was tragically taken from us.

When the news spread of Kim's death, we here at New York University began to receive correspondence from many quarters of the academy. That correspondence revealed two things, neither of which came as a surprise to her closest colleagues. The first was that she had touched many people, deeply, and often upon the shortest of meetings. Kim was like that. She had a smile that would light up any room; her caring simply flowed out of her and embraced everyone around her. If you did not know Kim, this will sound maudlin and difficult to believe; if you did know her, then you experience the loss all too frequently. Within days of her death, people from all over the globe had assembled at NYU to pay her life tribute and to salve our shared hurt. Our physical space could hardly hold her many family, friends, and colleagues, just as our own hearts could barely contain the loss.

The second thing we heard was that Kim's academic project was too important to lose, even if she were not here to move it along herself. Kim had something with which too few of us are ever blessed: a truly exciting and important idea. Influenced by her unique background, Kim was fascinated with the status of emigrants in their emigration states. As others in the Symposium observe, most of the writing in this area focuses on immigration. Kim wanted—and had only but begun—to explore the relationships that émigrés retain with their homes. Her year was spent writing a magnificent first article, a positive account of the mutual demands emigrants and their nation-homes make upon one another economically, politically, and culturally. Before she could turn to the normative aspects of this problem that interested her so greatly, her time was up.

This Symposium makes clear that what Kim had begun is a project worth seeing through. Unlike in most academic exchanges of this sort, Kim will not have the opportunity to respond. While all of those who knew her, loved her, and miss her dearly struggle with that, we can take some solace in knowing that even in her too short time in the academy, Kim has left behind a legacy, something from which we all—within and without the academy—can profit. The condolence card that Kim's family sent, emblazoned with a picture of Kim running along a beach, said, "We do not remain in one form forever—we remain forever in many forms." This body of work Kim sparked is but one of the many ways in which Kim remains with us.