



Philip C. Kissam

October 25, 1941–December 23, 2004

After law school, Flip joined the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City. We were married that year and lived in a brownstone apartment on 92nd Street, later moving uptown to an apartment on Cabrini Blvd overlooking the Hudson River and the George Washington Bridge. It was a longer ride downtown to our jobs – me at Crowell Collier and Flip, first at the law firm in the Seagram Building, and later working for the Lindsey administration, but we loved being close to Fort Tryon Park and the Cloisters. Flip left the law firm in 1970 to become Assistant Counsel in the NYC Health Services Administration and later Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services.

Our first child, Jonathan, was born in 1973 just before we moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where Flip accepted a teaching position at the University of Kansas School of Law. We bought a lovely “American Square” house in which we steamed the wallpaper off all the ceilings and walls. We celebrated our 6th wedding anniversary with a glass of wine in our bare-walled living room, watching television coverage of Nixon resigning.

Our daughter, Ariane, was born in 1976. As the children grew, Flip participated at their cooperative nursery school, coached their soccer teams, sought out teachers for their music lessons, and was always home for dinner-table conversations that probably influenced both our children to be the thoughtful, community activists they are today. Flip also developed a passion for long bike rides. At work he would think about where he wanted to go for a long ride, and while on a ride, he would think about his work—his teaching and his research.

Flip taught at Duke in 1978–79, the University of Vienna in 1991, and the London Law Consortium in 1997. For most of his professional life he taught constitutional law and jurisprudence. His research and writing focused early in his career on health law and later included antitrust, education law, jurisprudence and constitutional law, and, at the end of his life, legal education. In 2003 his book *The Discipline of Law Schools*

was published. A former student described Flip as a teacher who “enjoyed opening new intellectual doors for his students.” He was an idealist with regard to legal education and, in the words of one colleague, “wanted his students to see and understand law in its social, political, and moral context...to be able to read and write at a deeper, more profound level than that valued and reinforced by the typical law school course.”

His was a life too short but it was well lived.

Our son Jonathan is married with two children and is currently Communications Director for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. Daughter Ariane, also married, has a daughter and is an affordable housing analyst with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Flip died December 23, 2004 at Fletcher Allen hospital in Burlington, VT, five years after being diagnosed with bile duct cancer.

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