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Dean's Remarks

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Additional Remembrances

Tribute to Barbara Salken

Barbara Salken was an extraordinary person and professor. Her love of teaching and her students was unparalleled, exemplified by her determination to come to the Law School and teach in the midst of her illness and treatment, right up to the end of her wonderful life. Uniquely, she was three times voted by the graduating students as Outstanding Professor of the Year, most recently at last year’s commencement. She was a cornerstone of the school, her first love after her family.

Barbara also was central to the harmony of the faculty, often bringing us to our senses when disputes arose to point out the truths which required us to pull together. She was one of the select few always to be elected to the Nominating Committee which makes faculty committee assignments, and she did so with a knowledge and insight that no one else could bring. Indeed, she completely revised my recommendations this year, and much for the better. For many years she chaired the Academic Standing Committee, a difficult assignment which she discharged with uncanny insight and caring. She was an important part of the life of the faculty, and we mourn her loss as we equally celebrate the way in which she enriched our lives.

The faculty voted to establish a Barbara Salken Clinic Fund to raise a $500,000 endowment for the Barbara Salken Criminal Justice Clinic in her memory, and that if the endowment is raised within twelve months, to continue the clinic in perpetuity. The faculty so far has contributed more than $50,000 of their own funds to support this endowment. A number of students have expressed the laudatory desire to name other law school events or facilities in her honor, but we prefer that those interested contribute to this clinic fund to per-
petuate the clinic in which she taught and devoted so much of herself.

Barbara’s heritage will always be an important part of our school and of our lives.

—Dean Richard L. Ottinger