

FOREWORD

On November 13, 2007, the world lost one of its great legal scholars, and we lost our dear teacher, mentor, and friend—Harold J. Berman. For 60 years, Professor Berman led the American legal academy and graced lecterns throughout the world. His twenty-five books and 400 articles set an enviable scholarly benchmark. Their translation into twenty foreign languages ensures his global influence. Berman’s 8,000-plus students will never forget him.

Born in 1918 in Hartford, Connecticut, Professor Berman received his B.A. from Dartmouth College in 1938. He received a Certificate of Graduate Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1939 and an M.A. in History in 1942 from Yale Graduate School. He served in the United States Army in the European Theatre of Operations from 1942 to 1945 and received the Bronze Star Medal. He then took his J.D. degree in 1947 from Yale Law School.

Professor Berman began his teaching career at Stanford Law School in 1947. From 1948 to 1985, he taught at Harvard Law School—for eight years as the Story Professor of Law, for sixteen more as the James Barr Ames Professor of Law. He also served as Director of Harvard Law School’s Liberal Arts Fellowship in Law, Fellow of the Russian Research Center of Harvard University, and Member of the Legal Committee of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council. He came to Emory University School of Law in 1985 as the first Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law. He also served as a Fellow at The Carter Center at Emory University, Founding Director of the American Law Center in Moscow, and Founding Director and then Co-Director (with Johan van der Vyver) of the World Law Institute at Emory Law School. He joined the two of us in leading the Center for the Study of Law and Religion for twenty-two years.

Professor Berman’s initial scholarly energies were focused on the Soviet legal system and the law of international trade. He developed several new courses, testified frequently before courts, commissions, and Congressional committees, and traveled regularly to Europe and the Soviet Union—fifty-five times to Russia alone. He spent the 1961–62 academic year studying at the Moscow Institute of State and Law, where he met a rising young star named

Mikhail Gorbachev. In 1982, he served as Fulbright Professor at Moscow State University. He produced a massive body of new writing in this early period. Of these writings, his *Justice in the U.S.S.R.* will long endure as a classic, as will several of his lengthy law review articles on the *lex mercatoria*. In these first decades of teaching, Professor Berman also developed a keen interest in bringing legal education into the college. These interests he distilled in two other signature titles, *On the Teaching of Law in the Liberal Arts Curriculum* and *The Nature and Functions of Law*.

In the last three decades of his career, Professor Berman expanded his legal scholarship to include legal philosophy, legal history, and law and religion. He produced a series of pathbreaking volumes, most notably *The Interaction of Law and Religion, Faith and Order: The Reconciliation of Law and Religion*, and his monumental series *Law and Revolution*: the prize-winning first volume, *Law and Revolution: The Formation of the Western Legal Tradition* and *Law and Revolution II: The Impact of the Protestant Reformations on the Western Legal Tradition*. The final volume on the American, French, and Russian revolutions was on his writing desk when he died.

Gathered on the pages that follow are tributes from a few of Professor Berman's students, colleagues, and friends. Included as well are a couple of longer articles and a student comment on themes that were at the center of Berman's scholarly interest. Berman was widely admired and loved, and we could easily have collected hundreds of other tributes and titles for this special issue dedicated to his memory. We hope that the selections herein will stimulate many other writings that attest to Professor Berman's influence.

We wish to thank the contributors to this issue for their touching reflections and sterling prose. We wish to thank John Mittelbach and his colleagues at the *Emory Law Journal* for their generosity in preparing this special issue on very short notice and with such consummate professionalism. And we wish to thank our colleagues April L. Bogle, Susan F. Carter, Linda B. King, Patricia D. Thomas, and Amy Wheeler for all of their superb work in celebrating the memory of our fallen Chief.

—JOHN WITTE, JR. AND FRANK S. ALEXANDER