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Dean Nils Olsen Eulogizes Professor Louis Del Cotto

UB Law Forum

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I first met Lou and Bea in Spring of ’77 when I was interviewing for a position on the faculty of the University at Buffalo Law School. Lou went out of his way to show me the Buffalo community and worked with David Kochery, another longtime faculty member, to make arrangements for me to meet with a number of young, successful attorneys in the area.

After I joined the faculty, Lou was there again, inviting my wife and me to dinner at their home on several occasions where, it goes without saying, we were treated to good fellowship and conversation, the very best home-cooked Italian food imaginable and freely poured libations during the evening. I will also long remember the gourmet performance that he was capable of providing.

As I came to be more familiar with the Law School, its curriculum, faculty and students, I quickly learned the importance of our tax program. Tax was one of the largest enrollments in the Law School and were aware of the reputation of Lou’s curriculum, UB’s program was created with the intent and commitment to excellence and consistency in teaching. Lou Del Cotto always had an equal commitment to careful, detailed and thoughtful scholarship.

Tax 1 and 2 routinely drew one of the largest enrollments in the Law School and were taken, not only by those whose future career plans included tax, but by a large number of students who were aware of the reputation of Lou’s courses as the best in the school. Ten years ago, I became involved with Law School administration and began to meet individually with large numbers of successful graduates throughout the country. I was immediately struck by the disproportionately large number who played formative and supervisory roles in the tax and related departments in large, prestigious law firms.

Lou Del Cotto taught at the University at Buffalo for most of his professional life and the quality of his contributions, to the scholarly and teaching reputation of the Law School and to the vocational interests and success of the literally thousands of students who passed through his classroom, is unlikely ever to be equaled or even approached. He is missed greatly by all of his friends and colleagues at the Law School and we send our affection, support, and deepest condolences to Bea and the other members of his immediate family.

Dean Nils Olsen Eulogizes

Professor Louis Del Cotto

In addition to his single-minded attention and commitment to excellence and consistency in teaching, Lou Del Cotto always had an equal commitment to careful, detailed and thoughtful scholarship. This perception, which is widely held, illustrates the very high quality of a field of study far more than mere human resources.

Another reflection on the quality, rigor, and sensible course content of Lou’s beloved tax sequence at UB is reflected in the question that I have heard from many non-alumni of the Law School: Are you still continuing your extraordinary tax program? This question was all the more remarkable since, unlike NYU, Georgetown and other schools rightly known from their tax curriculum, UB’s program was created and delivered by Lou, Ken Joyce, who also taught in other areas, and, while he was on the Law School faculty, by a portion of Bill Greiner’s teaching load. This perception, which is widely held, illustrates the very high quality of a field of study far more than mere human resources.
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In addition, Lou had fashioned a tax sequence of courses that were extremely popular with the students – Tax 1 and 2 routinely drew one of the largest enrollments in the Law School and were taken, not only by those whose future career plans included tax, but by a large number of students who were aware of the reputation of Lou’s courses as the best in the school.

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Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered. Lou Del Cotto was indeed an extraordinary colleague and friend. He contributed greatly to the structure of the tax curriculum that he developed and offered.