A Tribute to Professor Fred Zacharias

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A Tribute to Professor Fred Zacharias

Many of you reading this issue knew Fred as a scholar, a professor, and a colleague. We who met him when we were all at the Yale Law School in the mid-1970s knew him first as a friend. Fred was many things. He was the hardest working student and the most thorough reader of any assignment. Fred would analyze the case, digest it, and chart it until there remained not a comma or a period he could not recall and place exactly. He would form his opinion and doggedly defend it—irrespective of the fact that he was the only one in the whole law school who held it. And pity the professor who held a contrary!

For our final year of law school, several of us moved out of New Haven and shared a house with Fred, on the beach with its own pier—the last, bittersweet year in Arcadia before work and life drove us out. We cooked and ate together, went to parties, and sat around and talked...and talked.

To Fred each of us was an original. He asked about our families, worried when we were not doing well, cheered us when we landed our first real jobs. He came to our weddings, and when we had scattered, Fred was the one who came visit each time he was in town. And he stayed true to the Fred we first got to know—independent, energetic, intellectually combative, and caring about his family and friends. He
was in the end that rare individual—a very good friend—and we miss him more than we can say.