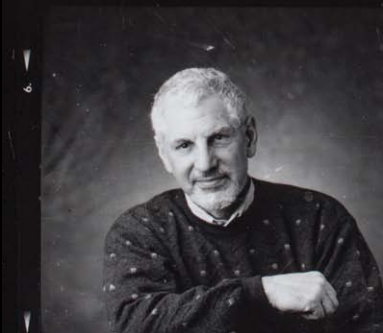




Robert A. Burt

1939-2015



www.lawyale.edu/burt-memorial

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Alexander M. Bickel Professor Emeritus Robert (“Bo”) A. Burt ’64 died August 3, 2015, in Massachusetts at the age of 76, and was remembered fondly by his colleagues and family at a memorial service on November 1 at the Law School.

Bo Burt was a beloved member of the Law School and of the larger University community. He was an expert on constitutional law, as well as on issues found at the intersection of law and medicine. He thought long and deeply about questions of religious culture and law, and was one of the great contemporary scholars on the relationship between psychoanalysis and social order.

“It is a great loss to this community, to the world of legal scholarship, and to the many friends throughout the globe who loved Bo,” said Dean Robert C. Post ’77.

Sterling Professor of Law Anthony Kronman recalled his close friend and colleague as “brilliant, kind, and profoundly attuned to the hopes and fears of human beings.”

“The range of Bo’s interests and accomplishments is startling enough,” added Kronman. “But what is more amazing still is that all of his writings express Bo’s unfaltering belief in the value of conversation, dialogue, and the continuing struggle to find common ground, and an abiding suspicion of authoritarianism in all its forms.”

In remarks at the service, Sterling Professor Owen Fiss eloquently described a deep friendship during almost fifty years working with his colleague, concluding that “whenever I felt I

had discovered what justice requires, I thought of Bo and wondered whether I had grasped all of the complexities and subtleties of the situation at hand.”

Professor Burt joined the Yale Law School faculty in 1976 after having served on the law and medical school faculties at the University of Michigan and the law faculty at the University of Chicago. He began his career in 1965 clerking for Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. From 1966–1968, he served as a legislative assistant to Senator Joseph D. Tydings of the United States Senate.

Among his most notable publications are his most recent books, *In the Whirlwind: God and Humanity in Conflict* (2012); *Death is That Man Taking Names: Intersections of American Medicine, Law and Culture* (2002); *The Constitution in Conflict* (1992); *Two Jewish Justices: Outcasts in the Promised Land* (1988); and *Taking Care of Strangers: The Rule of Law in Doctor-Patient Relations* (1979).

Professor Burt was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. From 2003 to 2012, he was a member of the Advisory Board of the Greenwall Foundation Bioethics Faculty Scholar Program; and from 1993 to 2003, he was a member of the Advisory Board of the Project on Death in America of the Open Society Institute. He was also a member of the Institute of Medicine and served on the IOM committees on Care at the End of Life (1995–97) and on Ethical and Public Policy Issues in Xenograft Transplantation (1994–96).

Professor Burt received a JD degree from Yale University in 1964, an MA in Jurisprudence from Oxford University in 1962 and a BA from Princeton University in 1960.

Professor Burt is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda G. Rose, and two daughters, Anne and Jessica. *Y*

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A booklet containing remarks made at the memorial service for Bo Burt is available from the Yale Law School Office of Public Affairs at publicaffairs.law@yale.edu, or 203 432-8464.