

BARBARA S. GREEN: COURAGE AND COMPASSION IN LAW AND LIFE

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For the many years that Barbara S. Green has served as a professor of law at Creighton University, she has been a model of passionate teaching—and learning—for her students, colleagues, and friends. In these last few years, leading up to her medical disability retirement, Barbara has come to accept the failing sight, episodes of blindness, and difficult medical treatments that ultimately required her to leave the classroom. But that acceptance was not easily achieved.

Barbara Green has fought the progress of her disease with the same energy she brought to her law students, whom she taught with vigor, accuracy, and an acute sense of the personal—whether applied to the individuals in her classroom or to the persons her students would come to serve in the law profession. Barbara worked hard to help her students achieve their own goals—giving women and men encouragement and direction as they planned their law careers; guiding students who were establishing and continuing the VITA law school project (which provides free assistance to persons who need help in completing and filing tax forms); and coordinating the ceremony the law school can claim as its own: the ritual of law faculty hooding at graduation. How well deserved were the applause and cheers she received each year from the organized lines she had formed of distracted, relieved, happy graduates who wanted their families to see them at their best. Caring for the student's whole person is a Creighton principle that Barbara embraces and epitomizes. Dedication to another's well-being comes as naturally to her as breathing.

Barbara's dedication to holding her disease at bay while she struggled to keep on teaching—without reliable sight—is evident in the hours she spent learning to use touch and voice control of the technologies that had become integral parts of her own continuing education and the education of her students. A natural student of languages (including the seemingly indecipherable language of the tax code), she approached ASL and Braille with enthusiasm, only to find

† Professor of Law, Creighton University School of Law. Professor Brooks has been an immediate neighbor of Professor Barbara S. Green on faculty row at the Law School since 1990. Professor Brooks is grateful to Professor Green for her generous and helpful advice on matters extending from geographical law teaching differences to tax developments to the many joys of parenthood; for her friendship; and for her unflinching sense of style.

herself facing the unyielding side effects of the medicines needed to treat her eye disease. What she could control as a teacher she did; what was beyond her control, as a patient, she worked hard to out-manuever and out-pace. Ultimately, Barbara accepted what she could not change, and acceptance provided the peace she needs to find new ways to grow strong again—for herself and her family. That dedication to retain her identity as a law teacher, witnessed by her colleagues and students, mirrors her dedication to her family.

Conscious of the impact of her illness on those who love her, Barbara keeps her focus on the well-being of her husband, Creighton law professor J. Patrick Green, her children now all in successful professional lives, and the children who came to her in her marriage to J. Pat, particularly their son, Christopher, who is also employed at Creighton Law School. Despite the suffering inflicted by her illness and its treatment, she remains as well a loyal, caring friend. She stays in touch with friends and colleagues, offering her concern and sympathy for their difficulties and her happiness for their successes.

In these last few years, without design or intention, Barbara has been a remarkable role model for her students, colleagues, and friends. Listening to what she says—and to what she does not say—about her health challenges provides a clear view of her courage pulling her through diagnoses and changing medical protocols, her determination to achieve peace in turmoil, and the compassion she has and inspires in others.

How fitting it is that this scholarly volume, offered to provide clarity and insight into diverse and challenging areas of the law, is dedicated to Professor Barbara S. Green, to honor her teaching, her courage, and her compassion for and friendship with students, family, VITA beneficiaries, and the law school faculty—those who have been and are her colleagues at the Creighton University School of Law. What an honor it is and will continue to be to have Professor Green number us among her colleagues and, even better, her friends.