

SEATTLEU

SCHOOL OF LAW



Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the very sad news of the passing of a dear and longtime faculty member, Professor Emerita Julie Shapiro.

Professor Shapiro passed away unexpectedly late on Monday, March 11th, leaving behind her devoted wife, Shelly Cohen, a son, Eli McClintock-Shapiro (a 1L at Berkeley Law), and a daughter, Leah McClintock-Shapiro (a development officer at Brandeis University).

Professor Shapiro was an active member of our faculty for 31 years who was beloved by her students and colleagues alike. She was a nationally celebrated scholar and advocate in LGBTQ law and policy, and was a gifted and sought-after teacher. She taught Civil Procedure, Family Law, and was one of the first law professors in the nation to offer a Law and Sexuality course.

Professor Shapiro possessed the rare combination of brilliance, rigor, and accessibility. She pushed her students while supporting and encouraging them. She was a treasured mentor and guide, both to countless students and many junior faculty colleagues who followed in her footsteps.

Professor Shapiro's scholarship was some of the earliest and most widely cited on issues pertaining to LGBTQ family law. Her work was exceptionally impactful and was relied upon by both litigators and courts in breaking new legal ground and recognizing significant new rights. In the *In re LB* case, for example, Professor Shapiro's work was cited in the establishment of de facto parenting rights in Washington. In *Andersen v. King County*, Professor Shapiro's work was highly influential in the challenge against Washington's so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

Professor Shapiro's scholarship and advocacy was so influential and far-reaching that it is no wonder that she received major awards and other recognition from some of the most significant national and regional organizations, such as Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, AIDS Law Foundation, the Northwest Women's Law Center, Public Justice, and the Greater Seattle Business Association.

Before entering the academy, Professor Shapiro was a civil rights lawyer in Philadelphia. She litigated cases on police misconduct, violence against abortion clinics, anti-HIV/AIDS discrimination, and other cutting-edge issues of the time. She received her BA from Wesleyan University and her JD magna cum laude from University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held **this Friday, March 15, at 1 pm at Temple Beth Am, located at 2632 N.E. 80th St. in Seattle**. The entire Seattle University and Seattle University School of Law extended community (i.e., students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the law school) is invited. We hope to have a large in-person delegation at the memorial service, but [this Zoom link](#) will allow those not able to attend in person to participate virtually.

In Memoriam Webpage

We are working to establish an *In Memoriam* page on the Seattle U Law website to pay tribute to Professor Shapiro's innumerable contributions to our community. We are collecting individual remembrances of Julie from her beloved former students, faculty and staff colleagues, and other friends and loved ones to post on this page.

To contribute your remembrance, please email one to three paragraphs to ProfShapiroMemories@seattleu.edu at your earliest convenience. Please also include your name and title/affiliation. I know that Julie's wife, children, dearest friends, and loved ones will appreciate reading your heartfelt messages.

Charitable Contributions in Honor of Prof. Shapiro

Professor Shapiro's family suggests that anyone wishing to make a charitable donation in her memory should consider three charities that meant a great deal to her: [Temple Beth Am](#), the [Pride Foundation](#), and the [National Center for Lesbian Rights](#).

We extend our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Professor Shapiro's family during this difficult time. Though it is always heartbreaking to lose a colleague, a friend, and a loved one, this difficult moment also is an opportunity to celebrate the many ways that Julie has changed the world for the better for so many. We will mourn this great loss, while also honoring and celebrating Professor Shapiro's extraordinary legacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Varona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T" and "V".

Tony Varona
Dean and Professor of Law