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## Dedication: Michael P. McNulty

Roger Williams University Law Review Staff

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## Dedication: Michael P. McNulty

On behalf of the class of 2016, the Roger Williams University Law Review would like to dedicate this year's Rhode Island Edition to our classmate and dear friend, Michael P. McNulty. He was referred to by one of our professors as "one of my favorite people, and [] the most cheerful and good natured person I've met in a very long time, if not ever." In Michael's wake remains a legacy of positivity and smiles—and many, many fond memories.

Michael returned to academia at the age of forty-two after quitting his job and leaving his wife and dog in Baltimore to pursue his dream of becoming a lawyer. After his wife dropped him off in a dorm, Michael's last adventure began. The color explosions with which he donned himself on a daily basis served as an early indicator of what this man was all about. His positive energy and child-like spirit quickly swept through the class of 2016 during our first year of law school—when we needed it most. McNulty had something in common with everyone, but that didn't prevent him from working hard to bridge any remaining gaps to foster meaningful relationships. He was genuine when he exchanged stories and smiles; shook hands; waved from across campus; or asked how you were doing. He always put smiles on our faces while we were stuck in the trenches and when we finally clawed our way out, he was the first to buy a round in celebration.

McNulty indisputably cared about our class, and he eventually became our fulcrum. Like a big brother to us all, he would either watch out for us, or chastise us. When we were panicked and stressed, McNulty would put things in perspective to make us feel better. Those who knew him best would strive to arrive to class early; not for the professor, but because for McNulty, to be fifteen minutes early was to be on-time, to be on-time was to be late, and to be late was simply unacceptable.

McNulty's conversational talent and massive repertoire of

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stories covered every occasion and every audience. His delivery was always apt and entertaining and his uncanny ability to make everyone feel included in a conversation will be dearly missed. To draw us in he might whisper a bit, making us feel like we were about to hear some fantastic secret. As he continued, his animated facial expressions and outrageous descriptions would paint vivid pictures, leaving lasting impressions—every time.

He approached law school with the unparalleled devotion and commitment that he applied to everything in life. While we must assume that Michael, like all of us, found law school to be challenging, frustrating, and infuriating, to us he was unfazed. He established a study schedule which he maintained with pleasure. He was predictable and reliable. He could always be found set up in his spot in the library and when interrupted, he was never bothered. He would look up with a smile.

Michael's studies were focused mainly on criminal, labor and maritime law. After his second year he enjoyed an incredible summer while he interned at the law offices of Charles Garganese Jr., where he gained valuable experience working in Rhode Island's Worker's Compensation Court. Michael was thrilled to start his third year of law school so that he could take advantage of the opportunities that his hard work and reputation had provided him. As the President-Elect of the Maritime Law Society, Michael had worked all summer on his plans to invigorate the organization and increase its membership. Michael was also selected to participate in our Prosecution Clinical Externship Program where he eagerly awaited the opportunity to work in the Providence City Solicitor's Office.

While older than most of our class, Michael's ability to connect with us was remarkable. He was truly one-of-a-kind. He was well-liked and respected not only by our class, but also by our faculty, administrators, staff, the Bristol community and most of all – his loving family. His positive energy was infectious, and his love for life was unfettered. His influence permeated our campus and our town and touched us all. We are greatly appreciative of our opportunity to spend time with such an incredible human being. Together, the Class of 2016 would like to congratulate Michael P. McNulty on receiving his J.D., which, Tara, the love of his life accepted on his behalf on May 13, 2016.

You are sorely missed Dear Friend.