

IN MEMORIAM
FRANK B. CROSS

Professor Frank B. Cross was born in Lawrence, Kansas, on September 4, 1955, and died in Austin, Texas, on April 27, 2019. He grew up in Lawrence where his parents were both Professors at the University of Kansas (KU). His father, Frank Cross, was a Professor of systematics and ecology from 1951 to 1991 and also served as curator for KU's Natural History Museum. Professor Cross's mother, Marie Z. Cross, was a Professor of nutrition at KU from 1949 to 1990. He had two younger sisters, Betty and Julie.

A star debater at both Lawrence High School and the University of Kansas, Professor Cross won the 1976 National Debate Tournament (NDT) with his colleague Robin Rowland and was the best second negative of his era. He and Robin added a third-place NDT finish to their record in 1977, the year in which Professor Cross graduated magna cum laude from KU.

Professor Cross attended Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude in 1980. He then practiced law with Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, DC, for four years before joining The University of Texas at Austin in 1984 as a Professor of business law in what would become the McCombs School of Business.

A productive scholar, Professor Cross later attained joint appointments in the UT Austin School of Law and the government department. Named the Herbert D. Kelleher Centennial Professor of Business Law, he developed a playful relationship with Herb Kelleher, co-founder of Southwest Airlines. Widely admired in his discipline, Professor Cross was elected President of his national professional association, the Academy of Legal Studies in Business. He served in that role in 2000-01.

Professor Cross published eight academic books, numerous editions of various textbooks, eight book chapters, and 103 major law review articles. His research was both ground-breaking and widely cited. Professor Cross was without question the most prolific scholar in the history of business law.

Professor Cross was also a gifted classroom teacher who won a number of teaching awards and inspired thousands of students. His many courses at the business school and the law school included basic business law, corporation law, commercial law, torts, environmental law, real estate law, law for entrepreneurs, business and public policy, administrative law, legislation, legal aspects of marketing, and law for accountants. He served as visiting professor at both Duke Law School and Northwestern University School of Law. Professor Cross retired from UT Austin in 2015, and was named Emeritus Professor.

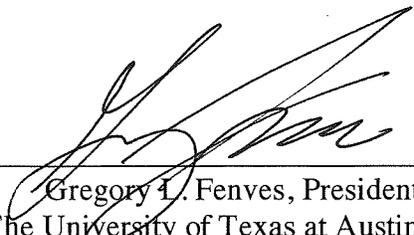
Professor Cross was articulate, lucid, and funny. As Robin Rowland put it: “He was always the brightest person in any room he occupied, but wore that gift with grace and wit.”

Professor Cross loved good food, expensive drink, and the occasional cigar. He was a natty dresser. Like all graduates of the University of Kansas, he lived for Jayhawk basketball. He liked UT sports as well, and always had an opinion regarding the prospects of the Longhorn football team.

Professor Cross bravely battled adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) his entire adult life. This cruel genetic disorder slowly robbed Professor Cross of his ability to move, to talk, and to eat, but it never took away his love of life or sense of humor. As his ability to control his body abandoned him, Professor Cross never complained. He never asked “Why me?” ALD ultimately defeated Frank, but it did not define him.

Frank was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Marie Cross. He is survived by and beloved by his sisters, Betty Cross of St. Louis, Missouri, and Julie Cross Hoko of Madison, Connecticut, their spouses (Kit Klein and Jim Hoko), his nieces and nephew (Kendra, Jemma, and Jeremy), and by his extended family. Frank also leaves behind his dear friend Linda Fay, his dog Papi, and a care team whose members were dedicated to him. He was adored by all.

Frank Cross was one of a kind. He will be missed by all who knew him well.



Gregory J. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor Robert Prentice (Chair), Professor Emeritus John Allison, and Professor Paula Murray.