

July 16, 2021

Alumni Association Remembers Professor Emeritus Frank Askin (RLaw-Newark Class of '66)

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The Rutgers School of Law-Newark Alumni Association joins the greater legal community in remembering Professor Emeritus Frank Askin who passed away on July 1 at the age of 89. Professor Askin was a nationally known constitutional law expert, social justice advocate, and pioneer in clinical education. He was appointed to the Rutgers Law Faculty upon his graduation from Rutgers School of Law - Newark in 1966 and founded the Constitutional Litigation Clinic (later known as the Constitutional Rights Clinic) four years later, in 1970. Under his supervision, Rutgers-Newark law students litigated the first government surveillance cases in the country; defended affirmative action programs all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court; fought for the rights of the homeless to vote and have access to public libraries; challenged the New Jersey State Police for stopping and searching “long-haired travelers” on state highways; and fought for the free speech rights of grassroots advocacy groups taking their messages door-to-door in privately-owned shopping malls and homeowners in privately-run residential communities. In total, Professor Askin dedicated over fifty years of service to Rutgers Law, where he taught constitutional law, labor law, and election law, in addition to running the Constitutional Litigation Clinic. He was also the longest serving general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, where he served alongside former Rutgers School of Law-Newark Professor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, before her appointment to the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. In 2001, the Alumni Association presented Professor Askin with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the law school and to the legal community.

The passing of Professor Askin is an especially sad event for the Alumni Association as he was, and will always remain, one of Rutgers-Newark's greatest alumni. The Alumni Association extends its condolences to Marilyn Askin (RLaw-Newark Class of '70), a former adjunct professor at Rutgers Law-Newark and 2005 recipient of the Fannie Bear Besser Award for Public Service. In 2010, the pair established an endowment for the Law School's clinical program to help fund conferences, the publication of materials covering the work of the clinics, the establishment of clinical fellowships, and related events and programs intended to advance the clinical program. Professor Askin's legacy has endured, and will continue to endure, through the school's commitment to clinical education and public service. He will be remembered by students past, present, and future.



Naomi Barrowclough '10, Alumni Association President