

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

Professor Isabel S. Marcus

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
The Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall
University at Buffalo





Professor Isabel S. Marcus

☞ 1938-2021 ☛



Joining the School of Law faculty in 1982, Isabel Marcus taught at the University at Buffalo for more than 35 years. She was a beloved professor, fiercely devoted to the idea of law as a tool for social progress.

A New York City native, Professor Marcus studied at Barnard College and the London School of Economics. She then went on to the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a J.D., a Master's degree in African Studies, and a Doctorate in Political Science. She initially focused her teaching and scholarship at the School of Law on labor and family law. But she soon expanded her interests to women's rights and gender equality issues, both in the United States and worldwide.

She also translated her ideals into practice, for example, working with the Erie County courts to strengthen the help provided to targets of domestic violence. She was one of the first women to co-facilitate batterer's intervention groups for men who were court-mandated to attend.

In 1997, Professor Marcus co-founded UB's Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender (now the Gender Institute), and she served as chair of the Women's Studies program at UB from 1997 to 2002. During her academic career, she received two Fulbright Scholar Awards that supported her work in Romania and Macedonia. She also was named an International Scholar for the Open Society Foundation's Institute for Higher Education Support Program in Eastern Europe.

Her seminal work "Preliminary Comments on Dark Numbers: Research on Domestic Violence in Central and Eastern Europe," 21 U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev. 119 (1998), explored the lack of official accountability for domestic violence in those regions, and she published widely in law reviews and books on human rights and gender studies issues.

In addition to her position at UB School of Law, Professor Marcus taught extensively at universities throughout the world, particularly in Eastern Europe (including Poland, Russia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia, and Georgia) and Asia (including China, India, Pakistan, and Thailand). She built and maintained a vast network of feminist lawyers throughout the United States and in Central and Eastern Europe. Recognizing family ties to the country, she had a particular interest in the people and culture of Poland.

UB honored her work in 2012 with its Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education. That year the UB Gender Institute established the Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellowship, which supports outstanding UB graduate students researching women's issues outside the United States.

Professor Marcus is survived by her daughter, Erica Pritchard; her son, Justin Pritchard; her sister, Lois Traub; and four grandchildren.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Aviva Abramovsky
Dean and Professor
University at Buffalo School of Law

Carrie Tirado Bramen
Director, UB Gender Institute
Professor of English
University at Buffalo

TRIBUTES

Michael Boucai
Professor
University at Buffalo School of Law

Barbara Bono
Associate Professor Emerita
Department of English
Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies
University at Buffalo

Victoria Nachreiner
Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellow
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of History
University at Buffalo

Susan V. Mangold (via video)
Chief Executive Officer
Juvenile Law Center
Philadelphia, PA
Professor Emerita
University at Buffalo School of Law

Lucinda M. Finley
Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy
University at Buffalo School of Law

Patrick F. Callahan '22 (J.D.)
Editor-in-Chief
Buffalo Law Review

Jenny Rizzo-Choi '10 (J.D.)
Executive Director
International Institute
Buffalo, New York

FAMILY REMEMBRANCE Justin Pritchard, son

CLOSING Aviva Abramovsky

*Following the celebration, please join family,
friends and colleagues for a brief reception.*



Contributions in memory of Professor Marcus may be directed to:

Dr. Isabel S. Marcus Fund for the Domestic Violence Clinic

c/o University at Buffalo Foundation

P.O. Box 730

Buffalo, NY 14226-0900

or online at law.buffalo.edu/giving/marcus-fund

