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Dedication: In Memory of Patricia Ward Gerdes, 38 J. Marshall L. Rev. xxi (2004)

Michael Bartolic

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IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA WARD GERDES

MICHAEL BARTOLIC

Pat was one of our editors on The John Marshall Law Review. Words cannot express the gravity of our loss. Pat always put her heart into everything she did. We all feel so lucky to have known and worked with Pat. She showed a passion rare in this day and age, always selflessly contributing all that she could.

In addition to the Law Review, Pat contributed to the school's newspaper (the Decisive Utterance) and the Fair Housing Clinic. Pat zealously advocated for fair housing before federal courts, and the Illinois Supreme Court. I never quite figured out how Pat was able to spread her time among all these undertakings, while contributing to each as if it were her sole devotion. Whenever I asked Pat for her help, she never declined. She viewed every obstacle as an intriguing opportunity to learn something new.

Pat was not only a colleague, but also a mentor, sharing her experiences and wisdom. Being over thirty years my elder, she had innumerable such experiences to share. My last memory of Pat is a fond one that I will never forget. She often wore a knit hat decorated with pins full circle around the hat, just above the brim. The pins represented places she and her family had been, things she had done, etc. Every pin had a story behind it, an experience she could enlighten me about. The last time I saw Pat, she bestowed upon me the knowledge and wisdom she accumulated via all those experiences which the pins represented. I find it ironic that the last moments I spent with Pat very accurately represent our relationship during the past year of working together.

Although God saw fit to cut Pat's life short, she lived every day to the fullest. We have truly been privileged to have had a friend like Pat. We will miss her very much.

