

JAMES O. FREEDMAN

BERNARD WOLFMAN †

Jim Freedman joined the Penn law faculty in 1964, less than two years after I did. Despite an age gap somewhat greater, his warmth, his interest in others and curiosity about everything, and his never-failing civility, drew me to him almost immediately. A friendship developed that has deepened over the years and has persisted even though my move to Cambridge in 1976 has meant we no longer see each other on the almost daily basis that had given me satisfaction for twelve years.

The School was so right to appoint Jim to its faculty. He took to teaching as though born to the calling. Students respected and appreciated his complete dedication. He mastered Torts, Family Law, and Administrative Law, and he chose the latter as the area for his scholarly endeavors. His work in administrative law has brought him recognition as one of the country's leading thinkers and writers in that perplexing field.

Jim Freedman was about to undertake the intimidating task of revising one of the leading books on administrative law¹ when the Law School and the University called on him to become Dean. Although it was not easy for Jim to turn from scholarship to administration, he was eager to undertake the new challenge. Again the School was so right!

Administration was not wholly new to Dean Freedman in 1979. He had earlier served the University as Ombudsman and as Associate Provost, and he had been Associate Dean of the Law School under Dean Louis Pollak. But the new responsibilities and opportunities were broader, the constituencies more numerous and conflicting. The Dean serves and is held responsible to his faculty, the students, the alumni, and the central university administration. It takes a person of Jim Freedman's intelligence and sensitivity to serve all, to provide leadership to all, and to move the school forward without allowing one group to feel slighted for the unjustified benefit of another.

As a faculty member, Jim showed both his openmindedness and his firmness when issues of principle and academic standards

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¹ L. JAFFE & N. NATHANSON, *ADMINISTRATIVE LAW* (3d ed. 1968).

were presented. On difficult questions involving faculty appointments and tenure he helped the school maintain excellence as the ultimate criterion. As Dean, he maintained the standards and advanced the opportunities for the faculty to pursue their scholarly interests. Bridges to centers of legal scholarship abroad are now firmly in place because of his commitment, his planning, and his energy. And his time spent building those bridges did not detract from his ability to forge deeper ties between the school and its alumni, ties which I believe have never been stronger.

Iowa is fortunate. It will have a superb President. Penn Law School will miss its Dean, but it, too, is fortunate for what Jim Freedman has brought to it. May Jim and Sheba Freedman gain as much from the Iowa community as they have given to the one they now leave.