



Michael Distelhorst

February 11, 1949 - February 17, 2016

Michael Distelhorst, age 67, of Powell, OH, passed on Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Born to the late Robert and Phyllis Distelhorst, Mike was a graduate of Columbus West High School, Class of 1967. A graduate of Capital University, he received his BA degree in 1971 and attained his JD degree from Capital University Law School, Summa Cum Laude, in 1976. Mike was a Life-Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. A distinguished law professor at Capital University since 1980, he served on various state and local commissions. He was a beloved professor. Formerly the Chair of the Business Department of Ohio Dominican College, Mike was former general counsel for O.P.R.S. Mike was an expert on the UCC and was a “Lawyer’s Lawyer” giving much needed counsel to many attorneys. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law Richard Block. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 45 years, Barbara Distelhorst; his sister and brother-in-law Denise and Scott Fortenbacher of Bexley, OH; his nephew Ryan (Mark Fisher) Fortenbacher of Columbus; mother-in-law Anna Mae Block of Hamilton, OH; brother-in-law David Block of Gahanna, OH; very dear friend Jay (Sharon) Michael of Dublin, OH; and many other relatives, colleagues and neighbors. Mike and Barbara were faithful parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Church in Powell. Family will receive friends from 2:00-5:00p.m. SUNDAY at the RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 West Olentangy Street, Powell, OH 43065 (614)-792-1471. (The funeral home is located on W. Olentangy St./Powell Rd./SR 750 ¼ mile east of Sawmill Parkway.) Mass of

Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:00a.m. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 at ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell, OH 43065 with The Reverend James Black, Celebrant. Private family burial will be observed Tuesday at Greenwood Cemetery, Hamilton, OH. If they choose, friends may make memorial contributions to: Capital University Law School Scholarship Fund, Ohio Dominican University Scholarship Fund or the Humane Society of Delaware County in Mike's memory. Please visit www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com to send condolences to the family.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

Hamilton, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Mass

FEB 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
10700 Liberty Road
Powell, OH 43065
<http://www.stjoanofarcpowell.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Distelhorst*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Barbara,*
I just learned of Michael's passing. I am so sorry. He was one of the best 'teachers' I ever had, although I was never in a class of his. One of my favorite memories was when we all attended the Medieval Times dinner show in 1976. How much fun we had and how we all laughed.
Much love to you,
'Maria Starlett'

Mary Eisbrenner Kallio - May 28, 2019 at 12:19 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of mike's passing. Mike was my favorite professor. He made constitutional law come alive...He was an inspiration to all of us. I am happy to have known him. God bless you.*



maureen brennen - December 16, 2018 at 12:40 PM



“ *Barbara I'm so sorry to hear about Mike's passing. Please know that my prayers are with you as you cope with your loss. Love, Berta Guckenberger*

Alberta E. Guckenberger - February 26, 2018 at 04:38 PM

AW

“ You were by far the best and most caring professor that I had during my time at Capital Law School. I will always be grateful for your help when I was going through difficult times in law school. I ran into you about four years after law school school and was happy to share with you that I found recovery and I remember how supportive you were. I was happy to tell you just a few years ago that I became social worker and dedicated my life to helping people recover from addiction and other mental health issues.

You helped a lot of people Mike and your kindness, caring and thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. God Bless you and your family.

*Alan Warner,
Law Class of 1986*

Alan Warner - March 30, 2016 at 02:05 PM

ME

“ My deepest sympathies to Barbara and family. I had the absolute honor and pleasure of knowing "Disty" during my four years as an evening student at Capital. He often spoke of Barbara lovingly during classes and was warm and inviting to any student who needed help. In fact, he was helpful and inviting in many situations outside of law school. On one occasion in particular I recall he made himself available to a friend of mine in need simply because they had me in common. This man was a rare and unique human who genuinely cared about others. He also had a knack for making the (seemingly) dull suddenly interesting (think secured transactions) and the complex enjoyable (i.e. UCC). I know his legacy will live on at Capital as one of unique professionalism coupled with integrity and humor. I pray for the family that they find the comfort and peace they need during this time.

Melissa Jordan - CULS 2013

Melissa - March 08, 2016 at 04:17 PM

EK

“ I was so very sorry to hear about Professor Distelhorst's passing. I shall always think of him as I knew him: he was not only a great professor, but also a great adviser. He was a rare person and I am very glad that I had the great fortune to know him. I sincerely enjoyed his classes and his great sense of humor. I send you my warm sympathy.

*Erin Komarow
Capital Law 2015*

Erin Komarow - February 25, 2016 at 09:29 PM

BH

“ To the family and friends of Professor Distelhorst,

I am sorry to learn of Professor Distelhorst's passing. As you probably know, he was extremely popular with the students at Capital University Law School (CULS). His sense of humor made our classes more enjoyable and less stressful. Professor Distelhorst certainly created fond memories of CULS for me. I am deeply sorry for your loss..

*Sincerely,
Belinda Harris, CULS class of May 2012*

Belinda Harris - February 25, 2016 at 06:19 PM

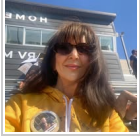
MS

“ Dear Barbara,

Mike and I were in a number of undergrad classes together. While it has been 45 years, I still have good memories of him as a friend and classmate during our time together at Cap. May God be with you and your family in this time of grief, and surround you with His love and grace.

Mike Scheiding - CU '71

Michael Scheiding - February 24, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Professor Distelhorst's passing. I have many fond memories of him as he is the professor I learned Contracts, Payment Systems and Secured Transactions law from. I remember most of all his wonderful sense of humor and his kindness, but he also had an amazing gift for teaching difficult concepts of law. I always enjoyed his classes, and he was my favorite law professor. Even though I do not practice business law, its amazing how often I used law that he taught me (He said that would happen! Business is a part of life!) The law community has lost a truly outstanding law professor and all around good person. Rest in peace, dear professor.

*Bernadette Laughlin
Capital Law '06*

Bernadette Laughlin - February 23, 2016 at 09:50 AM

EM

“ I was so saddened to hear of Professor Distelhorst's passing. I had the pleasure of learning contract law and payment systems from him. I will never forget the day my bar study partner and I approached him with what was surely a silly contracts question after being holed up in the basement of CULS studying for 8 hours. He was as kind and generous in his response as the remembrances here imply and we were so appreciative of the time he gave us that day.

He was a fantastic professor, undoubtedly a great attorney (and role model for his fellow CULS graduates) and most importantly, a good man.

Condolences to his family (of whom he spoke often) and the entire CULS community. This loss will surely be felt by many. Peace be with you.

-Erica (Gartner) McCain, '07

Erica (Gartner) McCain - February 23, 2016 at 04:04 AM

JB

“ My deepest sympathy.

*Joe Budde
Capital Law '83*

JOSEPH BUDDE - February 22, 2016 at 07:32 AM

JC

“ Dear Barbara and Family: My sincere condolences. I was truly dismayed to read of Mike's passing. I have fond memories of the friendship we enjoyed while teaching together and working on various projects together. I am grateful for those good times; we had fun and, I believe, truly did some good. God bless, Jim Childs

James Childs - February 21, 2016 at 10:14 AM

AB

“ Mike was an inspirational law professor, and an amusing person: A few years after graduating from Capital Law School where I had studied Commercial Law under Professor Distelhorst I called him with a specific legal question about the U.C.C. His response was "Who do I bill ?" We had a good laugh and then he gave me the guidance and answer I needed. He was a great guy !

*Al Bell
Capital Law '85*

Al Bell - February 21, 2016 at 09:48 AM

AF

“ I was so fortunate to have Professor Distelhorst as my instructor for 2 years of my law school experience. He was such a wonderful person and an amazing professor. I thoroughly enjoyed his classes and am very appreciative of how well he taught each of the courses I took. He always had a kind and upbeat disposition towards his students and the time spent learning from him was always entertaining and valuable. I am grateful to have known him and to have had him help prepare me for my professional career.

Fondly - Alison Forche

Alison Blank Forche - February 21, 2016 at 09:13 AM

LM

“ Mike and I were very close friends at Capital University where we studied business administration. I was honored to have him as my best man at our wedding. Wilma and I were married shortly before Mike and Barb. After that, our lives and careers took different paths. Years later, I taught for Mike as an adjunct professor at Ohio Dominican. Mike had a great smile and laugh and was always well grounded about life's challenges. His knowledge about the law and other elements of life will live on forever in the hearts and minds of his many students. What a great contribution he gave to his fellow man and to the Almighty. May God bless him and Barb.

Lyle & Wilma Moore

Lyle Moore - February 20, 2016 at 04:06 PM

DT

“ Dear Barbara,
I have lost a great friend who always wanted the best for the Law School.
Leonie and I offer our condolences on your personal tragedy.
Sincerely
Dan Turack

Dr Daniel Turack - February 20, 2016 at 01:51 PM

MH

“ Dear Mrs. Distelhorst and Family:

I was so saddened to read the news of Mike's passing. I'll always think of him with much respect and gratitude not only because of our long association through the Council for Ethics in Economics but also because Mike unexpectedly offered me that first engagement I was looking for to start my independent consulting practice 13 years ago. I'll never forget Mike and will be eternally grateful for the blessing of his offer that turned my life in a completely different direction.

I'll be keeping all of you in my prayers for God's peace and comfort at this sad time.

With my deepest sympathy, Mary Held - Mary Held & Associates

Mary Held - February 20, 2016 at 12:58 PM

LC

“ *My husband and I both had Professor Distelhorst for Constitutional Law at Ohio Dominican and I also had him as a professor at Capital Law School. He truly was beloved and always seemed to find such joy in his profession. We have such good memories of him and were very saddened to hear of his death. With deep sympathy, Kevin and Linda Crawford (ODC, 1981 and CU, 1984)*

Linda Crawford - February 20, 2016 at 09:18 AM

PM

“ One Cap Law School memory that stands out is Professor Distelhorst’s UCC class, whose students were edified by the flowcharts displayed on his classroom whiteboard. Plain language lectures accompanying the flowcharts imparted a clear and concise picture. But Mike paused frequently, stopping to behold the dynamic on the whiteboard, admiring the wonder of UCC dynamics. This is a man who genuinely loved the law. We should all have such passion, and learn from his.

Peter Miller - Class of 1994

Peter Miller - February 20, 2016 at 08:46 AM

TH

“ Fond memories of Mike as mentor, teacher, parishioner, and friend. God's peace to you, Barb.
(Rev.) Tom Hudson

Tom Hudson - February 20, 2016 at 07:22 AM

AV

“ I am so saddened to hear of his passing. I worked for Professor Distelhorst when I was in Law School. I went to his multiple offices and helped him as needed. He called me "Kokomo", probably easier to remember than my last name. :) He also was instrumental in encouraging me to publish my children's book, "Gus the Happy Tree" that I wrote while working with him. He stumbled across a draft one day and said, "I like this. Make it happen." Always encouraging, always positive. He will be missed by many people for a very long time. My love to his adoring wife, Barbara. She was his world, and how we loved hearing stories about the bees, and all the drama that went along with the storytelling. Rest in Peace.

Anna Villarreal - February 19, 2016 at 02:37 PM

C1

“ I so appreciated at the time and I remain grateful for Professor Distelhorst's kindness and good humor in class, especially Contracts. His delightful demeanor was such a help during that stressful first year. We were so fortunate to have him. Condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Catherine Rinehart Hogan, class of 1993 - February 19, 2016 at 12:33 PM

EB

“ He was a great professor who went above and beyond simply teaching me class material. He took the time to make a personal connection and counsel me as an attorney and individual. I will always cherish the time I spent with him.

Erik Brunckhorst - February 19, 2016 at 11:59 AM

BA

“ He was one of the best professors I had the pleasure of studying under. My condolences to his family. Brenda Alleman, Class of 1981. Pinellas Park, Florida.

Brenda Alleman - February 19, 2016 at 10:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Distelhorst.



February 19, 2016 at 09:39 AM

RB

“ *I held Mike in high regard and considered him one of my close friends on the faculty. My condolences to his family, friends and community. Prof. Burch, AALS, Washington, D.C.*

Regina Burch - February 19, 2016 at 09:25 AM

MB

“ *Mike was a wonderful colleague and a true friend. He will be missed.*

Mark Brown - February 19, 2016 at 08:35 AM