Paul M. Bator
1929–89

Paul M. Bator, John P. Wilson Professor of Law, died February 24, 1989, following a long illness. He was fifty-nine years old. Professor Bator joined the faculty in 1986, after leaving Harvard Law School where he had been a professor for twenty-five years. He had taught previously at the University of Chicago Law School in 1978–79 as a visiting professor. From 1983 to 1984, Professor Bator served as Deputy Solicitor General and Counselor to the Solicitor General of the United States in the Department of Justice. During this time, Mr. Bator argued several important cases in the United States Supreme Court. These included Hishon v. King & Spalding, holding that the Civil Rights Statutes protect woman associates at law firms; Grove City College v. Bell, construing the provisions of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act; Watt v. Community for Creative Nonviolence, establishing that the First Amendment does not guarantee political advocates the right to camp in the Memorial Parks of Washington, D.C.; and Regan v. Wald, upholding the validity of currency restrictions imposed on travelers to Cuba.

At the end of 1984, Mr. Bator was nominated to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., but withdrew from consideration for reasons of health.

Professor Bator, a leading constitutional and federal jurisdiction scholar, published numerous scholarly articles and, while at the Law School, was co-author of the third (1988) edition of Hart & Wechsler, *The Federal Courts and the Federal System*, a leading text on federal jurisdiction. At the Law School, Professor Bator taught federal jurisdiction, civil procedure, administrative procedure, and the Supreme Court seminar. He served on numerous faculty committees and was adviser to the Law School’s Moot Court program.

Paul Bator wrote in the last months of his life, in a letter read at his memorial service, of his “blissful happiness at being allowed to join the Chicago faculty.” Of his colleagues and students he went on to say, “I fell into [a] tremendous institution in the Law School (what a wonderful institution it is!).”

A dedicated teacher and scholar, Mr. Bator also served as counsel to the firm of Mayer Brown and Platt and maintained an active appellate practice. His most recent Supreme Court appearance was on October 4, 1988, in which he represented the United States Sentencing Commission in a case challenging the constitutional validity of the Commission and of the sentencing system it created. On January 18, 1989, the Supreme Court upheld the Commission’s position.

Paul M. Bator was born in 1929 in Budapest. His parents emigrated to the United States in 1939. Educated at Groton School, he received his A.B. *summa cum laude* from Princeton in 1951. At Harvard Law School, he was President of the *Law Review* and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1956. He served as law clerk to Justice John M. Harlan. Following a brief period of private practice in New York City, he started his teaching career at Harvard in 1959. Paul Bator is survived by his wife, the former Alice G. Hoag, three children, Thomas (J.D. ’86), Michael, and Julia, and a granddaughter, born December 19, 1988. Professor Bator was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Law Institute.

Dean Stone said of Paul Bator, “He was one of the most committed teachers I have ever known. He brought rare qualities of elegance and grace to the classroom. It was our great privilege to have had Paul as a colleague and as a member of our Law School community. It was our great misfortune to have had him for so short a time.”