CELEBRATING RICHARD EPSTEIN
ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY AND
50TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE ACADEMY
Richard Epstein: professor, mentor, happy warrior, unique thinker, singer, dancer, father, husband, friend. This is the Richard many know and love, the man whose estimated 996 writings and 50 years of teaching have undeniably influenced modern American legal thought—and the man to whom we dedicate this liber amicorum.

This is the beginning of the “book of friends” created to honor the University of Chicago’s James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Law—a scholar known not only for his enormous academic contribution but for his kindness, humor, and ability to speak extemporaneously in whole paragraphs.

In April, colleagues from around the country gathered at the Law School for a two-day Festschrift conference that explored many in the long list of legal topics that Epstein has addressed in the past five decades—contracts, legal history, Roman law, intellectual property, takings, administrative law, and more. The two-day event was co-sponsored with the NYU School of Law, where Epstein is the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law. The book, Liber Amicorum for Richard A. Epstein, was distributed to all participants.

“Richard’s scholarship is remarkable for its range, erudition, and distinctive voice,” University of Chicago Law School Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics, wrote in an introduction to the book, which was a joint project between the Law School’s Coase-Sandor Institute for Law and Economics and NYU Law. “His influence on many areas of scholarship and the law itself is astonishing.”

But there’s another side to Epstein, Miles wrote: “his exceeding generosity as colleague and mentor. Richard has always taken an interest in the next generation and serves as a strong advocate and friend to younger scholars. I am one of a great many who have been fortunate enough to receive Richard’s advice and friendship.”

Epstein has written or contributed to at least 132 books and four dictionaries. He has written 480 law journal articles, 186 newspaper articles, 125 magazine articles, and 53 working papers. A study published in The Journal of Legal Studies identifies Epstein as the 12th most-cited legal scholar in the 20th century. One study of legal publications between 2009 and 2013 cites Epstein as the third most frequently cited American legal scholar after Erwin Chemerinsky and Cass Sunstein.

As his wife, Eileen Epstein, wrote, “Richard has a multitude of areas of expertise and is interested in almost everything. He never lacks for a topic to think about, to learn from others, or to explain and/or debate. He is known for his nonstop monologues on almost any subject that catches his attention, and the challenge for others is to know when they can interrupt with a question or even introduce a new topic. These characteristics have made him a fascinating spouse—but most of all his kindness and empathy are what have made Richard the best person I can imagine to spend my life with. He is a wonderful father, father-in-law, and grandfather and the best partner in the world.”

The 48-page Liber Amicorum for Richard A. Epstein contains 75 essays written by friends, family, and colleagues from across the country that capture both his expansive intellect and his bighearted grace. Here, we offer selected quotations, with full entries from members of the UChicago Law community and more photos available at www.law.uchicago.edu/news/celebrating-richard-epstein.
It has always been my sense that Richard welcomed me to the University of Chicago Law School because of and not in spite of the fact that when we first met I had done my best to tear his argument to shreds. For this, and for the many ways in which he inspired me to think harder and inform myself better, and for the wealth of information he has shared over the years, I am grateful.

MARY ANNE CASE
Arnold I. Shure Professor of Law

Every aspiring young academic wanted to go to Chicago in order, as one of my professors put it, “to let Richard Epstein battle for your soul.” Richard was the mentor most young academics can only dream of. Trying to take in everything he said was, as one person put it, “like putting a Dixie cup under Niagara Falls.” But even if you took only a fraction of what he said, you could learn how to teach, how to write, and how to think.

DOUGLAS G. BAIRD
Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor of Law

While much can be said about Richard’s scholarship, Richard was far more than a brilliant scholar, he could also be a brilliant friend. When I finally joined the faculty here I felt like I was joining the University of Epstein as much as I was the University of Chicago—perhaps because in so many respects they are one and the same.

LISA BERNSTEIN
Wilson-Dickinson Professor of Law
Richard’s generosity of spirit and infectious enthusiasm have been great influences on my development as a scholar. Before meeting Richard, I had not realized how much I could like and learn from someone with whom I often disagreed.

LEE FENNEl
Max Pam Professor of Law

It reminds me of Richard’s many incredible gifts. His passion for law. His love of his students. His accessibility and willingness to share ideas. His tirelessness. His intensity in everything, even the way he eats. And, most especially, the boyish enthusiasm that he brings to his, and my, chosen profession. We need more Richard Epsteins.

M. TODD HENDERSON
Michael J. Marks Professor of Law
There are a million Richard stories to tell, but what they have in common is his quirkiness alongside his generosity. That itself was something to learn from him; one could be a believer in markets and yet redistribute without any expectation of repayment in the small corner of the world one occupies. I was lucky to be in his corner.

**SAUL LEVMORE**  
William B. Graham Distinguished Service Professor of Law

When I first arrived at Chicago as a faculty member, Saul Levmore invited me to a break-the-fast. I came with my one-year-old son. Although he was a very senior colleague, Richard took my son off me and told me to mingle and get to know my colleagues. Richard did not have to do that. It is a tribute to his kindness that he knew just then what this junior faculty member needed and was happy to lend whatever helping hand was required. This story, perhaps more than any other, captures for me the essence of Richard as a person.

**ANUP MALANI**  
Lee and Brena Freeman Professor of Law

The greatness of Richard Epstein cannot be fully appreciated by those who have not been his colleague because he is so warm, generous, and supportive—a great man who happens also to be a great, innovative, and wide-ranging scholar.

**RICHARD H. MCADAMS**  
Bernard D. Meltzer Professor of Law

Whenever researching a new topic, I often think WWRT: What Would Richard Think?

**JENNIFER NOU**  
Professor of Law and Ronald H. Coase Teaching Scholar
Richard was instrumental in maintaining the egalitarian culture at the University of Chicago Law School. He never pulled rank; I can’t imagine Richard acting as if he was entitled to deference because of his extraordinary stature as a scholar. He jumps in and engages on an equal footing with anyone, especially if their arguments are bold and counter-intuitive, and even if he completely disagrees. He is impatient only with people who seem to be lazily resting on their reputations, or to have sacrificed intellectual rigor for political advantage, even, in fact especially, if they are politically on his side of the fence.

DAVID A. STRAUSS
Gerald Ratner Distinguished Service Professor of Law

Richard is that rare thing in the academic life, a true original, going his own way no matter what fashions and trends are doing. [When] Catharine MacKinnon [was] asked whether she was not uncomfortable as a radical feminist in the University of Chicago Law School, she answered, not at all. “Because Richard does his thing, and I do my thing.” In other words, having a true original ensconced in the institution gives a new maverick permission to be herself.

MARTHA C. NUSSBAUM
Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics