MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Michael B. Metzger
(October 4, 1945 –May 31, 2020)

Michael B. Metzger, professor emeritus of business law at the Kelley School of Business, died May 31, 2020 at the Stonecroft Health Campus after a long and stoic fight with multiple system atrophy. He was 74 years old.

He was born October 4, 1945 in Jeffersonville, Indiana to Jesse G. and Norma R. (Bengel) Metzger. He spent his earliest years in Bloomington while his father attended Indiana University on the GI Bill, living in an army surplus trailer in Woodlawn field on the IU campus, along with other returning GIs and their families. His family moved to Indianapolis and he graduated from Warren Central High School in 1962.

Mike received an A.B. from Indiana University in 1966 and a J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law in 1969. After his graduation from law school, he worked as a deputy securities commissioner, a legal aid attorney, and a senior legislative analyst before joining the IU faculty as a visiting lecturer in 1972. He taught for several years, left IU to practice law for a year and then returned to a tenure-track position as assistant professor of business law in 1975. Mike excelled in all three dimensions of academic achievement and was promoted through the ranks to associate professor in 1979 and professor in 1985. Later in his career, Mike was honored with three appointments to distinguished ranks. From 1993 to 1997, he was Charles M. Hewitt Jr. Professor of Business Law, and from 1997 to 2005, he was Arthur M. Weimer Professor of Business Administration. In 2005, he was appointed Jean Ann and Donald E. Foster Chair in Business Ethics.

Mike's scholarship initially focused primarily on the areas of contract and product liability law. He published well and often in a variety of law journals, such as Georgetown Law Review, Vanderbilt Law Review, Minnesota Law Review, and the American Business Law Journal. In the middle part of his career, his interests expanded in the direction of organizational ethics and control of corporate behavior. He published a number of articles on these topics in law, business, and ethics journals. Four times, he received the America Business Law Journal's award for the best article of the year.

Mike also distinguished himself as an academic leader. He was appointed chair of the business law department even before he had been promoted to professor and served in that role for three years. In 1984, he was appointed to a three-year term as associate dean for academics for the business school. He performed so well that he was called back into this role twice after his original term had elapsed. In 1990, Mike was appointed to a faculty task force charged with developing a plan to integrate business ethics into the business curriculum and became the point person for coordinating the ethics integration effort. Ever loyal to IU and the Kelley School, Mike rarely said no to requests to lead this or that effort, no matter how time-consuming the undertaking. Even in the years in which Mike was in an official leadership role, colleagues sought his wisdom on all issues of importance.

Mike was an unforgettable teacher. In his classes, he brought to bear his broad wisdom from other ages and disciplines, as well as his trademark sense of humor (often turned on himself), to challenge his students to examine their own thinking. Over the course of his career, he taught tens of thousands of students in settings ranging from 300-student undergraduate classrooms to corporate conference rooms. He won 20 teaching awards and was identified several times as an outstanding faculty member by Business Week. He co-authored several editions of two business law textbooks, *Law for Business* and *Business Law and the Regulatory Environment*. In the past two decades, his teaching has focused on Kelley's MBA Program, where he not only taught courses about managing legal risks but also developed and taught courses on business ethics and critical thinking that are now fixtures in the program. A YouTube video of his final MBA class shows students giving him a rowdy standing ovation that lasts several minutes, a fitting tribute to a beloved professor who taught them new ways of thinking and helped to shape them as business professionals. All faculty members like to think they

are special, but Mike was indeed special. He was a true triple threat in the academic sense – excellent in research, teaching, and service.

He met his soul mate, Virginia Kleinhans, on a blind date in his second year of law school. They married on November 27, 1969. They celebrated their wedding anniversary in November, 2019.

Mike loved fast motorcycles, fast cars, and fast sailboats. Mike and Virginia sailed catamarans and Mike proclaimed Virg, his nickname for her, a “lousy captain and an uppity crew.” He was a huge fan of Formula One racing, especially the Ferrari team. One of his biggest thrills was visiting the Fiorano Circuit, the Ferrari test track in Fiorano Modenese, Italy, with no less than the great Michael Schumacher, his favorite driver, screaming around the track.

After a bad motorcycle accident wrecked his knee, Mike became an enthusiastic bicyclist and he and Virginia enjoyed 25 wonderful and challenging summer bike trips abroad, Italy and the Alps being his favorites.

Mike was not only a voracious reader, but fluent in Italian and a wonderful conversationalist. There was not a topic that someone could bring up that Mike could not contribute to the conversation. Mike had something to say about any topic (and did not hesitate to say it). The topic could be current events, public policy, or one's own academic interests. Chances are he could add something or at least ask really good (tough) questions. He made everyone around him think harder and more clearly as you were unlikely to get by with fuzzy thinking around him.

He was also an enthusiastic bridge player as well as a life-long weight lifter, one of the HPER noontime regulars. As an undergraduate, he came in second in the Mr. IU body-building contests, and he always blamed his skinny calves for coming in second. He later became the faculty advisor for the IU weightlifting club. He pushed himself hard in the weight room and was possibly the strongest business law professor east of the Mississippi River.

Mike was a connoisseur of fine wines, but only reds, and fine Italian clothes. Mike dearly loved all of his westie “pups”: Kiltie, Mackie, Lucy, Desi, Niki, and Buddy Boy AKA Mr. Barky.

He is survived by his beloved wife Virginia (Kleinhans), his brother Bill and his sister-in-law Caroline (Kaiser), his sister Debby Prickett, his brother Doug and his sister-in-law Trinda (Fennelly), and numerous nieces and nephews. He will also be missed by his brother-in-law Fritz Kleinhans, his sister-in-law Alice Kleinhans and her spouse Ron Eskin.

This resolution will be part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and copies will be sent to his wife, Virginia.

Jane Mallor
Faculty Emeritus, Kelley School of Business
Indiana University Bloomington

Bob Jennings
Faculty Emeritus, Kelley School of Business
Indiana University Bloomington

Charles Trzcinka
Professor, Kelley School of Business
Indiana University Bloomington

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Virginia Metzger, 837 S. Sheridan Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401