

*Speakers include:*

*Welcome—Ward Farnsworth*

*William Forbath*

*Martha Minow*

*Barbara Hines*

*Patricia Hansen*

*Jessica Parker-Battle*

*Karen Engle*

*Sue Heinzelman*

*David Wiseman*

*A Celebration of the Life of  
Zipporah Wiseman*



*Friday, April 1, 2022  
The University of Texas School of Law*

*3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
Eidman Courtroom*

*Reception following  
4:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.  
Jamail Pavilion*

## Zipporah Batshaw Wiseman (1930 - 2021)

Zipporah Batshaw Wiseman, Thos. H. Law Centennial Professor Emerita in Law, died in Cambridge, Massachusetts on January 20, 2021, at the age of 90. Born and raised in Montreal, Professor Wiseman grew up speaking English and French, and also learned Hebrew and Yiddish. Her mother, Dr. Anne Tarshis, was an obstetrician-gynecologist; her father, Harry Batshaw, a justice of the Quebec Superior Court. Zipporah attended McGill University, where she received a BA in 1950. She lived and worked for a brief time on Kibbutz Matzuva in Northern Israel, after which she came to the United States to attend Yale Law School.

Zipporah was one of a very small handful of women at Yale in the early 1950s. There, she met fellow law student Frederick Wiseman. In 1954, the year after graduation, they married, and were married for 65 years. After law school, Zipporah clerked for Justice Raymond Wilkins of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. In the years that followed, she and her family settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Zipporah was a private practitioner and a public interest attorney, serving as a supervising staff attorney at the Cambridgeport Community Legal Services and Counseling Center.

Zipporah became one of the first women in law teaching in the United States when she joined the faculty of the Northeastern University School of Law in 1973. Professor Wiseman immediately proved to be what she would always remain: an inspiring teacher and colleague and an invaluable and tireless mentor of women students and of the next generations of women in legal academia.

Professor Wiseman taught commercial law, wrote important scholarship in that field, including an oft-cited *Harvard Law Review* article, and became co-author of a leading casebook, *Commercial Law: Cases and Materials* (Little, Brown, 2nd ed., 1982) (with Vern Countryman and Andrew I Kaufman). During her years at Northeastern, she also helped found “fem-crits,” a group of feminist critical legal scholars and practitioners in the Boston area who met regularly, often to

Professor Wiseman joined the Texas Law faculty in 1989. She taught a great variety of courses, including commercial law, constitutional law, feminist jurisprudence, law and literature, reproductive rights, and economic justice. She was also an affiliated faculty member of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, where she served on the executive committee for a number of years.

Professor Wiseman’s scholarship at Texas Law included a pioneering anthology on law, literature, and gender, *Representing Women: Law, Literature and Feminism* (Duke, 1994), which she co-edited with Professor Susan Heinzelman of U.T.’s English Department. Professor Wiseman also devoted many years to studying and writing about the life and career of another trailblazing legal scholar, Soia Mentschikoff – work that drew on Professor Wiseman’s expertise in commercial law alongside her engagement with women’s experience in the world of law and the legal academy.

Along with her many years of law teaching at Northeastern and at Texas, Professor Wiseman also held visiting professorships at Harvard Law School, American University Washington College of Law, Boston College Law School, and L’Institut d’Études Politiques in Paris. She also was awarded a fellowship at Harvard-Radcliffe where she served as a Bunting Fellow.

Shortly after her death, Professor Wiseman’s family members, colleagues, and friends from across the country established the Zipporah B. Wiseman Prize for Scholarship on Law, Literature, and Justice. The international and multidisciplinary writing prize is awarded annually in honor of Professor Wiseman’s important work at the intersection of law and literature. The first annual prize was awarded in 2021. Information on the prize can be found at <https://law.utexas.edu/humanrights/zipporah-b-wiseman-prize-for-scholarship-on-law-literature-and-justice/>.