



SVITLANA KRAVCHENKO'S WORK CONTINUES

Svitlana Kravchenko's mother used to ask herself at the end of the day, "Did we do something useful today?" She taught her daughter to ask that same question, says Olena Kravchenko, Svitlana's niece. But her aunt transformed that question, asking herself, "Did I do something useful for the planet today?"

Svitlana Kravchenko died Feb. 10 at age 62, but her wide-ranging work and teaching in environmental law and human rights will go on, according to her husband, UO law professor John Bonine.

Kravchenko met her husband in 1994 at an environmental conference in Ukraine. Both shared a passion for environmental law — Bonine is a co-founder of the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, as well as a founder of Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW).

An internationally recognized scholar of environmental law, Kravchenko established herself as a champion of conservation and resource law in the Ukraine before coming to UO Law School to become director of the Masters in Law (LL.M.) Program in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She taught at Lviv National University for 29 years in Ukraine and was a citizen diplomat at the Aarhus Public Participation Convention. She served as an elected member and vice chair of the Aarhus Compliance Committee, hearing cases brought by citizens against the government, Bonine said.

Her research influenced universities and public policy around the world, according to Mary Wood, professor of law and faculty director of UO Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program.

"She was a towering figure in the international environmental law community," Wood said.

The law firm Kravchenko founded in Ukraine, Environment-People-Law, which niece Olena and Bonine are continuing, was the first public interest law firm in that country, Bonine said.

"Svitlana is among the most, if not the most, internationally acclaimed person ever to have taught at the UO Law School," said Oregon Law Dean Michael Moffitt. "Her reach extended into dozens of countries, and a part of our reputation and impact was a product of her international acclaim."

Bonine said the Svitlana Kravchenko International Award for Human Rights and the Environment has been created to continue Kravchenko's work. It will go to two categories of people, Bonine said: environmental law scholars who maintain a close connection with their students, and public interest lawyers and citizen activists who advocate for human rights and the environment, with a particular focus on public participation and access to information, which, Bonine added, "was a huge part of her life."

"She loved people more than herself. She loved the planet, animals, the environment more than herself," Olena Kravchenko said.

"Svitlana was the warmest, most loving person and professor I have ever met," Bonine said. "Her students knew that love, and I knew that love in a personal way."

Donations to the award founded in Kravchenko's honor can be made via ELAW at <https://donationpay.org/elaw/> and a memorial tribute page can be found at wkly.ws/17d

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