



## Charles H. Rogovin

January 24, 1931 - January 10, 2016

Charles H. Rogovin, 84, of West Conshohocken, a law school professor and longtime law enforcement official at the state and federal level, died Sunday, Jan. 10, of a suspected heart attack at Lankenau Hospital.

Mr. Rogovin, a specialist in criminal law, as well as in organized and white-collar crime, joined the Temple University School of Law faculty in 1977. At his retirement in 2009, he was named professor of law emeritus.

He held numerous high-profile jobs in public service.

From 1985 to 1993, Mr. Rogovin served as vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission and participated in the investigation that led to the 1995 conviction of former Attorney General Ernie Preate Jr. in a mail-fraud case.

Preate pleaded guilty to one count of failing to report \$20,000 in campaign funds. Prosecutors alleged that he had accepted kickbacks from illegal video-poker operators for allowing them to stay in business. He resigned from office and served prison time.

"It was our information and investigation that was then turned over to the federal authorities for prosecution," said Allen Hornblum, who served with Mr. Rogovin on the five-member panel.

"Charlie was a law professor with a deep baritone voice," Hornblum said. "He was very knowledgeable and when he spoke in that tone, you thought you were hearing guidance coming down from Mount Sinai."

Mr. Rogovin warned that "if we pursue this, it could be the death knell of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission," Hornblum said. Mr. Rogovin was right; when the item came up for continued funding before the General Assembly "we were shot down," Hornblum said.

The panel disbanded in 1993. But throughout its deliberations, Mr. Rogovin never wavered in pushing for prosecution of Preate.

"Charlie said that this was our obligation, our duty, and our mandate, and we should not just go after the low-hanging fruit. If we had information that a major public figure was involved in corruption, it had to be pursued," Hornblum said.

Special agent-in-charge Jim Kanavy helped gather evidence for the panel's probe. The day before Mr. Rogovin was to brief the General Assembly on its findings, he asked those in the room: "What do we have here? What is it?"

"The silence was deafening," wrote Kanavy in an online remembrance. "I said, 'The sale of his office.' Charlie replied, 'Exactly!' and relief filled the room.

"The next day he was thrown before the legislative lions and did, as usual, an exceptional defense, and his reputation for integrity helped carry the day."

"He was a great mentor, and it is a tremendous loss," Kanavy wrote.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Rogovin served as assistant attorney general under Massachusetts Attorney General Elliot Richardson. In that role, he was chief

of the Criminal Division from 1967 to 1969.

He had served in Philadelphia as an assistant public defender, an assistant district attorney, and chief assistant district attorney. He also was former director of the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in 1970.

In another assignment, he was a member of the President's Commission on Organized Crime during the Reagan administration. After three years of work, he presented the commission's final report to President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

Born in Jersey City, N.J., Mr. Rogovin graduated from Wesleyan University in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in history and went on to earn a degree from Columbia University Law School in 1956.

An active civic volunteer, he had recently been elected and sworn in as a West Conshohocken Borough councilman.

In 1988, he replaced Lewis F. Gould Jr. on the SEPTA board of directors. Mr. Rogovin told the Philadelphia Daily News that he had not pursued the post. "This is my home, and I'm interested in its future," he said.

Marcy Rogovin, also a lawyer, met her husband when she was assistant dean of students at Temple Law in 1980. He wryly greeted her as "the new schoolmarm," the couple told The Inquirer in 2010, and love soon bloomed for the two, both of whom were divorced. They married in 1988.

Between them, the couple had four children. They settled in a home overlooking West Conshohocken.

In retirement, he continued to stay in touch with his students and colleagues. "He was the consummate mentor, forever," his wife said.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Caleb Rogovin; daughters Laura Rogovin, Rachel Gross, and Emily Goldmann; two grandchildren; and a brother. His former wife, Amy Rogovin, also survives.

A memorial service is to be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, in the Moot Courtroom, Temple University Beasley School of Law, 1719 N. Broad St., Philadelphia. Burial was private.

Contributions may be made to the Innocence Project Clinical Fund in care of dean JoAnne Epps, Temple University Beasley School of Law, 1719 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19122

# Tribute Wall

“Of all the people I have known, there are relatively few I can say that I have really loved – Charlie was one of them. And, if I were not out of the country on the day of his memorial event, I would have been honored to deliver these remarks personally. Marcy asked me to mention some of the Rogovin contributions to law enforcement. I have chosen three of many.

*Following the gangland movies of the earlier decades, the glorification and familiarity of names like Luciano and Capone, Costello’s testimony before the Kefauver Committee, the assassination of Anastasia, the underworld meeting in Apalachin and the public revelations of Valachi, Italian crime was organized crime and organized crime was Italian crime. Conferences were held to discuss the phenomenon, task forces and strike forces were set up to fight it, and books and reports flowed from the pens and typewriters of academics. But of all the voices, there was one from the beginning, steady and sure, that fought for the proposition that we all recognize as true today, that organized crime was decidedly more than the mob, that non-traditional, or emerging, or, maybe, best put, ignored groups, had been, were, and would be a law enforcement problem for years to come – and that the more ignored they were, the more problematic they would be. Those who listened to Charlie made a difference, those who did not, took years to realize how right he was and how wrong they were.*

*Similarly, as those same law enforcement agencies geared up to fight the mob, if they had ever heard of an analyst or even if they had one, it was an older cop who knew the names of the mob figures and knew to which group they belonged. But of all the voices, there was one from the beginning, steady and sure, that fought for the proposition that we all recognize as true today, that analysis is a critical component in the development of effective strategies and tactics leading to successful prosecutions. Charlie’s analysts were sophisticated; they included women; they were well educated (often holding advanced degrees in other than law enforcement disciplines) and often the first to utilize computers in their work; they understood link analysis and could assign strength and validity factors to those links, and when used intelligently,*

*advanced investigations in significant ways. Those who listened to Charlie made a difference, those who did not, took years to realize how right he was and how wrong they were.*

*The final area I would like to mention is related to law enforcement, but greatly transcends it. Charlie championed the underdog, the less powerful, those who had much to offer but for one reason or another were not given the chance to do so. With few women and minorities in law school and law enforcement, he mentored those students in particular, encouraged them to apply to prosecutors' offices, wrote letters on their behalf and called the chief prosecutors -- on each occasion, understanding that he was laying his reputation on the line. He followed their careers and would continue to provide advice, support and help whenever it was needed or requested.*

*Students that he recognized as extraordinarily capable but perhaps socially awkward or physically unappealing, he worked with, fought for, and remained their mentors, even friends, for years to come.*

*Many of those students, or even younger colleagues in offices he ran, went on to follow his lead, promote his ideas, and prove him right once again.*

*We refer to certain people as prescient because what they understood and said turned out to be correct. Charlie was indeed prescient, but, more importantly, did not merely say what he understood and wait for history to support him -- he was willing to take the alternative position; he fought, pushed, wrote (beautifully), spoke (magnificently), cajoled, argued, and, created a revolution in law enforcement. I will miss him terribly.*

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**Ron Goldstock** - February 16, 2016 at 01:13 PM

HM

“ Dear Mrs. Rogovin and his children,

*Please accept my deepest condolences in the passing of Mr. Rogovin. I was fortunate to have met him in the 1990's when my father worked for him at the Pennsylvania Crime Commission. I will always remember that deep voice, his kind words with respect to my career goals and above all the interest that he displayed in my personal development. I know he would always ask my father how I was doing? And when it came time to apply to Graduate School at New York University in 1997, he wrote me a glowing recommendation that ultimately resulted in my gaining admittance. I treasure his words, " I write to endorse with enthusiasm the application of Heather Martens....she has always manifested a work ethic of the highest order... " I often reflect back on the trust and faith he had in me and the way he so willingly gave his time and effort to do this for me. He was a master wordsmith to say the least. I know his passing will leave a big void in your life but I want you to know that I, and I am sure many others, will treasure the time we shared with him. Thank you for sharing Mr. Rogovin with me.*

*With Love,  
Heather L. Martens*

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**Heather L. Martens** - February 16, 2016 at 07:00 AM

DS

“ I first learned of Charles Rogovin by way of his writings on organized crime when I became interested in the topic in the late 1960s. Two decades later I finally met and got to know Charlie when I worked with the Pennsylvania Crime Commission to produce the 1990 Report on Organized Crime in Pennsylvania. Charlie played a central leadership and intellectual role in framing the report and ensuring that it was accurate in content and precise in write-up. Working with the Commission, and with Charlie, as we analyzed intelligence information on organized crime/corruption and prepared the report, was an exceptional learning experience for me. I fondly recall in particular Charlie’s encouragement and good wit during the somewhat grueling final push to complete the 1990 Report, and then Charlie’s strong (“booming”) voice applauding its publication and his forever ongoing pride in it. Revered for his keen intellect and powerful voice, he was in so many ways as well: a fine, fine, human being. I will miss hearing about “How is Charlie doing” by way of his good pal, Fred Martens, but will never forget him.

*Darrell Steffensmeier, Penn State University*

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**Darrell Steffensmeier** - February 11, 2016 at 10:11 AM

JJ

“ I was filled with sadness after hearing the news of Charlie's passing. Charlie was the most interesting, intellectual, witty, and wise person I have had the privilege of knowing. I will miss him, dearly.

- I will miss Charlie's command "Let's saddle up Farb" when he and Marcy were preparing to leave the premises;
- I will miss Charlie's "Brigadier General" story;
- I will miss Charlie's "PSs;"
- I will miss the guidance and tutoring Charlie provided to me when I was preparing for a speech or presentation, or just simple remarks to a public audience;
- I will miss the "happy" emotion I felt when we were visiting for the weekend and I heard the elevator door open upstairs, because that meant Charlie had awakened from his afternoon nap and would be joining us again in conversation;
- I will miss the "special" white wines Charlie would purchase when he knew I was coming for a visit;
- I will miss Charlie's genuine interest in how my job was going and what was new in the "Compliance" world;
- I will miss Charlie's very funny voicemail messages, full of wit and charm;
- And, many, many more...

*PS, simply said, I will miss "Charlie." This time, Charlie saddled up alone. Rest in peace my friend and may the perpetual light shine upon you.*

*Richard and my thoughts are with you, Marcy. Lean to your grandchildren for bits of joy during this time of grief. We will see you soon.*

*Jane Jacobs-Lowe*

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Jane Jacobs-Lowe - January 30, 2016 at 10:01 AM

HM

“ 4 files added to the album *Charles H. Rogovin*



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**Holly Maxson** - January 18, 2016 at 10:22 AM



“ *Paula Carter lit a candle in memory of Charles H. Rogovin*



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**Paula Carter** - January 16, 2016 at 01:58 PM

PG

“ Dear Marcy,

*My wife and I are on vacation in Marco Island, hence the informality of this response. About 25 years ago we had a lovely dinner at your home marked by Charlie's humor. (I still repeat one of his jokes today.) You graciously entertained us and to this day Mary's memory of that time is rich in Rogovinian humor and hospitality. A true scholar and deep thinker. I was always sorry that I came to the Police Foundation after his tenure there. I will lift a glass tonight in his honor.*

*Pat Gallagher*

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**Pat Gallagher** - January 14, 2016 at 02:46 PM

GB

“ We wish to extend our condolences to Marcy and Charlie's entire family.

*We have known Charlie for many years – as a professor, commissioner, tutor, mentor and most importantly friend. We cherished his friendship and marveled at the insightful guidance he offered. Our communities (school, local government, law enforcement) benefitted from Charlie's wisdom; it is comforting for family and friends to know that Charlie provided many positive contributions to our world.*

*Rest in Peace our good friend.*

*Alan and Denise Bailey*

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**G. Alan Bailey** - January 14, 2016 at 09:19 AM

JK

“ As a Special Agent of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission I worked on numerous investigations under Professor Rogovin. They ranged from when I was on the lower end of the totem pole to the Preate investigation when i was Special Agent-In-Charge. While briefing Charlie the day before he was to make our case for undertaking this high profile investigation, he asked those of us in the room, "What do we have here, What is it ?" The silence was deafening. Charlie could be a very demanding boss. I said " The sale of his office." Charlie replied, "Exactly!" and relief filled the room. The next day he was thrown before the legislative lions and did, as usual, an exceptional defense and his reputation for integrity helped carry the day. It would be two years before justice would be served and I continued to work very closely with he and the other Crime Commission leaders. A great mentor and a tremendous loss.  
Jim Kanavy

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**Jim Kanavy** - January 14, 2016 at 08:04 AM

KT

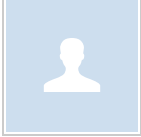
“ People enter our lives for a reason and a season. I entered Klein Hall in1981 as a student worker for the Organized Crime Research Program under the direction of Professor Rogovin, Dr. Davis and Barbara Bennett Yates. Professor Rogovin introduced me to the Dean for Students, Marcene Goldman, who had a full time secretary's position. "Boss" as he was affectionately called by our team gave one mandate as a stipulation for getting the job, "finish school!" Done. I kept my word. Rest in peace, Boss...and thank you.

Kimberly Taylor-Benns



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**Kim Taylor** - January 13, 2016 at 08:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Charles H. Rogovin.



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January 13, 2016 at 11:43 AM



“ *Sometimes those with valuable experience are reluctant to put their arm around younger professionals in need of guidance and support. Not Charles Rogovin.*

*From the day that I met him, he was a source of tremendous insight and helpful constructive criticism. Our relationship grew from the classroom setting, to the occasional lunch meeting around Temple University in which we talked law and law enforcement, to meetings between two friends in the Bucks County/Hunterdon County area--long after I graduated from Law School--in which we talked about life in general. He took a lot of his time to help me through my legal education, my career, and my life. I am forever grateful.*

*Tell the good guys on the other side I said hello. We'll go after any bad guys when I get there.....*

*Lieutenant Ryan Melsky, Esq. aka "Mr. M"*

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**Ryan Melsky** - January 13, 2016 at 11:30 AM

“ The news of Charlie Rogovin’s unexpected passing will cause shock and sadness across the international law enforcement brotherhood. His wisdom, wit and professional expertise was widely valued and will be sorely missed. But the seeds and fruits of his counsel will live on.

*As a member of the Special Intelligence Section of Scotland Yard’s Organised Crime Department in the 1970’s and early 1980’s, I had the privilege of partaking of his sage advice while reshaping and seriously ameliorating the Yard’s intelligence function, when attending his riveting lectures at Sea Girt State Police HQ New Jersey, at Princeton University and Pennsylvania Crime Commission - and later when he visited London at Jesus College Cambridge. He and Fred Martens his cohort in the battle against Organised Crime, contributed immensely not only to the Yard’s fight against International Organised Crime, but also to my professional success and personal well-being when later I retired from the Metropolitan Police and became a TV documentary researcher/consultant with Thames TV, embarking on a groundbreaking, in-depth exposé of the history of Cosa Nostra in America with the 1984 seven-part Series “Crime Inc.” - the first of many of the genre that have followed in subsequent years. Not only Charlie’s reservoir of knowledge and experience, but introductions to his and Fred’s network of associates across America, from law enforcement, academia and the fourth estate, were also a major contributing factor to the success of “Crime Inc.” which won the British Press Guild Documentary of the Year Award and was nominated for that year’s BAFTA award.*

*Our friendship, firmly forged during that era, has remained constant ever since; it is with great sadness that my wife Pauline and I heard of Charlie’s sad passing. We had received a cheerful communiqué by email only a few days earlier in which he gave no hint of recent crucial health problems, though we were aware of his various troubling illnesses in recent years as age took its toll.*

*We have many happy memories of mutual visits on both sides of the Pond which we shall treasure for ever. We shall also miss his eye-twinkling badinage and the goodwill he generated by his very presence - a gentleman of 'the old school', to the core. Rest in Peace dear friend. Your work is done; may your rewards be manifold in whatever revered role you are now playing in the Great Scheme of Things.*

*Our thoughts at this sad time are with his lovely wife Marcy and their children and grandchildren.*

*Frank Pulley  
Norfolk UK.*

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**Frank Pulley** - January 13, 2016 at 10:29 AM

ES

“*My condolences to Marcy and to all the family that has loved Charlie. Charlie's death is a great loss for his friends and for all those who have had the fortune to speak to him and learn from him a lot. I have met Charlie when I was in Wash DC studying Organized Crime in Us and I learned a lot from him. I was his guest years after in his house in Philadelphia where I enjoyed his company and the company of Marcy. I cannot forget the warm hospitality that surrounded me during these days.*

*Thanks Charlie for your humour your smile, your brilliant way of telling stories. I will keep your memory and your place in my hearth for ever*

*Ernesto Savona*

*Milan, 12 January 2016*

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**ERNESTO SAVONA** - January 12, 2016 at 04:03 PM

FM

“ There are few people that you will meet in a lifetime that will leave an indelible mark on your life. I was most fortunate and privileged to have met one--Charlie Rogovin. From the days he and I spent traversing Colorado in the 1980's, to my last days at the Pennsylvania Crime Commission in the 90's, and till the day he he passed on to a better life, I have had the unique privilege of sharing in his wit, his humor, his incisive and cutting reasoning, and above all his integrity and decency. He was the creme-de le-creme of ranconteurs, lecturer extraordinaire, a brilliant scholar, and a gentleman who always made everyone, regardless of position or title feel important. Yes, I shall miss my monthly conversations with Charlie. But I know that he will always be there to tap on my shoulder, whisper in my ear, and be a guiding light. I will bask in the many memories and lessons that he unselfishly imparted on me. Rest in peace my friend and know that you have left the world a better place because you cared about people.

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**Frederick Martens** - January 12, 2016 at 02:56 PM

BY

*The Boss was a "tough guy" with a big scary voice. But when you really got to know him, he was a very kind and gentle man. He didn't want that to get around. He called me Tiger and I called him Boss. Initially, I worked for him and Tony Bocchino. The Boss was an Associate Dean and Tony was Director of Clinical Programs. We had a lot of fun while getting a lot of work done. Many mornings we sang a song (in harmony) the boss taught us, "Lately I've Had Trouble Meeting Mary." I have a lot of good memories and amusing stories about Professor Rogovin,*

*He helped me so very much--he believed in me, more than I believed in myself. He pushed me to do things I didn't know I could do. When he got the federal grant to research organized crime, he insisted that I apply for the administrative assistant position. I thought I was a good secretary, I worked hard, and all I wanted to know was, "Why can't I be an Executive Secretary?" Because of his belief in me and the support and confidence he showed, I went for it and actually became a reasonably good administrative assistant for that program. Every other job I applied for after that, he was my best reference. I always knew he was proud of me and it meant a lot.*

*If you know me at all, you know I'm in tears now--quite the emotional slob am I. I loved Professor Rogovin dearly.*

*To Marcy, Laura, Caleb, Rachel, Emily the grandbabies, family and friends, you are blessed to have wonderful memories--as am I. CHR, RIP I will never forget you and I will always love you. Tiger aka Barbara Bennett Yates*

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**Barbara Bennett Yates** - January 28, 2016 at 07:28 PM