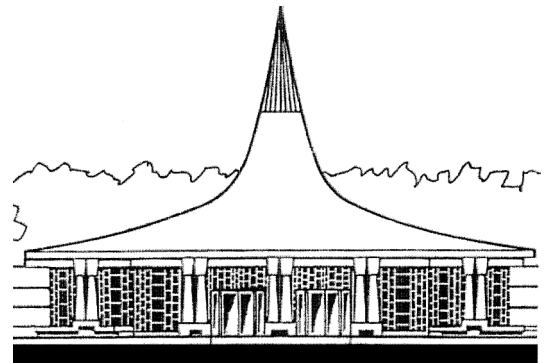
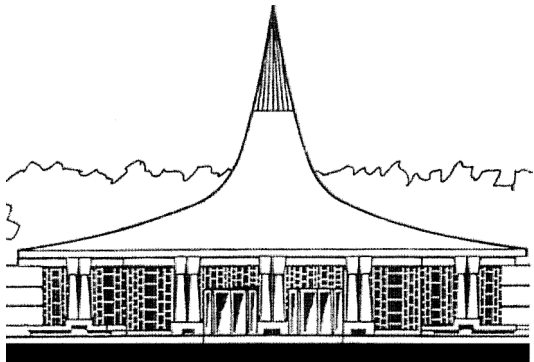


**2015
The Ethical Society
of
St. Louis
Ethics in Action
Award**

Honoring

Arlene Zarembka



Ethical Society of St. Louis

October 15, 2015

Ethical Society of St. Louis

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Arlene Zarembka

We at the Ethical Society of St. Louis are pleased to honor Arlene Zarembka with our Society's annual Ethics in Action Award (previously known as the Ethical Humanist of the Year Award).

Arlene Zarembka is a local attorney and activist who has dedicated her professional life to defending the rights of those who are among the least powerful. Missouri Supreme Court Justice Richard B. Teitelman wrote of her, "Throughout her life Arlene has been a champion of the underdog." He wrote also, "No cause was too big or too small; no client unworthy of Arlene's advocacy" and "Arlene represented her clients very ably against the best lawyers in St. Louis, gaining their profound respect."

A graduate of Clayton High School and Swarthmore College, Arlene earned her Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University. From 1976 to 1980 Arlene was a staff attorney at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. During these years her areas of practice included representing neighborhood residents facing displacement by redevelopment corporations and insurance redlining. She successfully sued an insurance company that cancelled a client's insurance policy on her home in north St. Louis shortly after the policy had been issued, although no claims had been made on the policy. The suit claimed that the cancellation was based on race.

Attorney David Lander former Director at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, in his letter of nomination said of Arlene, "She is and was brilliant, fearless and completely committed to helping people whose rights were being trampled upon. She filed and tried pioneering cases on behalf of low income people who were being forced out of their homes and neighborhoods in order to allow different and wealthier people to live in them. Her work was remarkable as was her work ethic." In 1983, Arlene represented the Williams family in

Flower Arrangement

Mary Wittry and Juliette Smith

Hospitality

Welcome, visitors! Hearing Assistance Units are available in the foyer before Platform. Please see one of our members if you would like the use of one today.



a case that stopped the condemnation of their home in the Tiffany neighborhood of St. Louis. The St. Louis Board of Alderman had granted Midtown Medical Center Redevelopment Center (MMCRC), a private redeveloper, eminent domain in the Tiffany area. Although the Williams' home fully complied with all St. Louis City property maintenance codes, MMCRC sued to condemn their home after the Williams refused to make numerous expensive interior and exterior renovations exceeding code requirements. Arlene represented the Williams in court, challenging MMCRC's abuse of its eminent domain powers. With Arlene's support, community organizers protested MMCRC's demands. Although the judge ruled that MMCRC had the legal right to proceed with condemnation, MMCRC finally bowed to community pressure and agreed to negotiate a far more reasonable rehabilitation agreement.

According to Missouri Court of Appeals Judge Larry Mooney who knew her in law school, "Arlene was in the vanguard of women seeking entry into the legal profession. She proved herself bright, assertive and committed even when dealing with male professors who were less than welcoming."

Arlene has long been open about being lesbian and served as a role model for other attorneys. She brought her professional expertise and her status in the local community to bear on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) citizens of Missouri. For decades Arlene has been a key figure in political and legal efforts for LGBT rights. In 1985, as a cooperating attorney with the ACLU, she was successful in a federal lawsuit striking down St. Louis City's ordinances against "cross-dressing" and "lewd and indecent conduct." Police used the ordinances to arrest transgender persons who were "cross-dressing" and to arrest men who dressed as women in drag shows, a popular form of entertainment in the gay community.

In 1986, Judge Susan Block struck down, as unconstitutional, Missouri's "sexual misconduct" statute, which made all sexual relations between consenting same-sex adults a crime. The State appealed. As a cooperating attorney for Lambda Legal, Arlene argued before the Missouri Supreme Court that the statute was unconstitutional. The decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the Missouri Supreme Court upholding such laws inspired the creation of the Privacy Rights Education Project (PREP) (now PROMO). Arlene was a leader in PREP's effort to repeal the sexual misconduct statute through legislation. Her status as a community activist who fought for the disenfranchised helped to attract the support of

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

1995	Peter DeSimone
1996	Richard and Kaye Parvis
1997	Arthur and Marian Wirth
1998	Jeanette Mott Oxford
1999	William Ramsey
2000	Ann Carter Stith
2001	David A Lander
2002	Eddie Mae Binion
2003	Chris Krehmeyer
2004	Ted and Linda Schroeder
2005	Suzsanne Singer, Ph.D.
2006	Fred Rottnek, M.D., MAHCM
2007	Joan Lipkin
2008	Judge Richard B. Teitelman
2009	Kingdom House
2010	Leon "Bud" Deraps
2011	Joan Suarez
2012	Dr. L. Lewis Wall
2013	Criminal Justice Ministry
2014	Dr. Patricia Wolff, Meds & Food for Kids

And Special Thanks To:

Jesse Easley
Laurie Fields
Bing Gibbs
Nancy Jelinek
Cathy Spalding

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

1976	James F. Hornback
1977	Frank Susman
1978	Frank E. Nutt
1979	Harriet Woods
1980	Deverne and Ernest Calloway
1981	Eldora Spiegelberg
1982	Paul Dewald, M.D.
1983	Kay and Leo Drey
1984	International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis
1985	Marion Jenkins Brooks
1986	Thomas Engelhardt
1987	Bertha Gilkey
1988	Hedy Epstein
1989	ACLU/Eastern Missouri
1990/91	Julia Goldstein
1992	B. J. Issacson-Jones
1993	Janet Becker
1994	Blanche M. Touhill

Ethical Humanist of the Year Award Committee

Alan Easton, chair
Carol Bartell
Brent Feeney
Linda Locke
Jessica Saigh
Stephanie Sigala
Mary Wittry

local elected officials for the work of PREP. She served as president of the organization from 1990 to 1993.

In the late 1990s, Arlene obtained the first co-parent adoptions for same-sex couples in Missouri from a judge in the St. Louis City Juvenile Court, and, soon thereafter, the first such co-parent adoption from Judge Susan Block when she became the adoption judge in St. Louis County. Arlene has continued representing same-sex couples in such adoptions since then.

In 2014 she and her spouse, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, were among ten plaintiff couples in the successful ACLU challenge to Missouri's ban on recognition of valid same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries.

Arlene is an author and public speaker. She wrote *The Urban Housing Crisis: Social Economic, and Legal issues and Proposals* (1990), and co-authored with Patricia McKissack a book for young adults, *To Establish Justice: Citizenship and the Constitution* (2004). She has given numerous presentations to lawyers, to law students and to the general public.

Arlene has been a member of the Legal Committee of the ACLU of Missouri and of the Public Policy Committee of the St. Louis Alzheimer's Association since 2004.

We at the Ethical Society of St. Louis are inspired by Arlene Zarembka's dedication to defending the rights of her fellow human beings.



Arlene Zarembka and Zuleyma Tang-Martinez

Program

Welcome

Kate Lovelady, Leader
Ethical Society of St. Louis

Music Selection

Darwyn Apple, Violinist

Tributes

David Lander

Attorney at Law
Current friend and former co-worker of
Arlene Zarembka

Michael Sherberg

Professor of Italian and Chair,
Department of Romance Languages and
Literatures
Washington University

Susan Block

Retired Judge, St. Louis County Circuit
Court, 1979-2004
Partner, Paule, Camazine and
Blumenthal, P.C.

Music Selection

The Impossible Dream
- Leigh and Darion -
Gary Scott, Pianist
Darwyn Apple, Violinist

Award Presentation

Ed Schmidt
President, Board of Trustees
Ethical Society of St. Louis

Remarks

Arlene Zarembka
2015 Ethics in Action Award Recipient

Music Selection

Darwyn Apple, Violinist

Closing Words

Kate Lovelady, Leader

Following the ceremony, you are invited to
meet Arlene Zarembka downstairs at a
dessert reception in her honor.

