

Biography of Joseph Goldstein[†]

Joseph Goldstein was a member of the Yale Law School faculty for more than 40 years. He is remembered as an exacting but kind, tireless, and devoted teacher; a creative and thoughtful scholar; and a prolific author. He taught criminal law and wrote or edited a number of books in the subject, among them a 1962 casebook, *Criminal Law* (with Richard Donnelly and Richard Schwartz), and in 1974, *Criminal Law, Theory and Process* (with Alan Dershowitz '62). He also taught and wrote in constitutional law. His book, *The Intelligible Constitution*, was published in 1992. But his greatest impact on legal scholarship and practice was in the area of intersection among the disciplines of law, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis.

The origins of this avenue of study can be traced back to Professor Goldstein's earliest professional endeavors as a lawyer. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1952, he clerked for a year for Judge David L. Bazelon of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. At that time, Judge Bazelon was focused on issues surrounding the insanity defense and the emphasis that the law puts on state of mind rather than criminal act. Later in life, in 1968, Professor Goldstein completed his psychoanalytic training at the Western New England Psychoanalytic Institute.

For almost a decade, Professor Goldstein worked with Jay Katz, a member of the Yale Law School faculty and a specialist in family law and in psychoanalysis and the law. Out of their collaboration came two books, *The Family and the Law* (1965); and *Psychoanalysis, Psychiatry and Law* (1966), co-authored with Alan Dershowitz.

As an outgrowth of this intellectual inquiry, Professor Goldstein embarked on a new project with Anna Freud, the noted child psychoanalyst, and with Albert J. Solnit, then director of the Yale Child Study Center. From this collaboration came three groundbreaking books on the relationship among children, their parents, and the law: *Beyond the Best Interests of the Child* (1973, 1979); *Before the Best Interests of the Child* (1979); and *In the Best Interests of the Child* (1986). These volumes have been widely cited by legal scholars, judges, and practitioners, and have been translated into numerous languages. Professor Goldstein's last book, a compendium of the topics discussed in the *Best Interests* trilogy, was called *The Best Interests of the Child—The Least Detrimental Alternative* (1996). In these final two projects, Professor Goldstein's wife,

[†] This biography of Joseph Goldstein was authored by Elizabeth Stauderman, Director of Public Affairs, Yale Law School.

Sonja Goldstein '52, joined the original authors as a co-author.

Born in 1923 in Springfield, Massachusetts, Joseph Goldstein received an A.B. from Dartmouth College in 1943. Upon graduation from Dartmouth, Professor Goldstein served with the U.S. Army in World War II. After the war, he was stationed in occupied Japan. Professor Goldstein then entered the London School of Economics, where he met his future wife, Sonja. He earned his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics in 1950. His thesis on apathy in a British trade union was published to wide acclaim in 1952, the year in which he also received his LL.B. from Yale Law School, where he was Article and Book Review Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

After his clerkship with Judge Bazelon, Professor Goldstein worked briefly at Stanford and Harvard Law Schools before coming to Yale in 1956, where he remained on the faculty until 1999. In 1968, he was named the Justus H. Hotchkiss Professor of Law. One year later, he became the Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law, Science and Social Policy, a position he held for ten years until he was named Sterling Professor of Law in 1978. He was also appointed a professor at the Yale Child Study Center in 1976. He became Sterling Professor Emeritus in 1993, but continued his teaching and research at Yale Law School as the Derald H. Ruttenberg Professorial Lecturer in Law.

Beyond his scholarly pursuits, Professor Goldstein devoted his time, compassion, and expertise to many organizations and causes. In 1964, he was a founder of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc., and served on its board from 1974 until the time of his death. He was also a member of the board of the Friends of Legal Services of South Central Connecticut from 1980 until his passing, and was its president in 1981–82. He was president of the Friends of the Library of the Supreme Court of Israel from 1996 to the time of his death. He served as a board member of the Sigmund Freud Archives, beginning in 1968. In addition, he was a founding board member of the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City, an organization dedicated to urban and social reform and to encouraging just practice in public services.

Professor Goldstein was often recognized for his scholarship and his contributions to the field of law. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, he was also the recipient of the Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award of the Connecticut Bar Association in 1983. In 1984, the American Psychoanalytic Association conferred upon him honorary membership "in recognition of his contribution to psychoanalysis as a scholar and teacher as applied to the fields of law and psychiatry."

He received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Law of Goethe University in 1985; and a Special Achievement Award from the New Haven Legal Assistance Association in 1989. In 1990, the International Academy of Law and Mental Health presented him with the Philippe Pinel Award.

Biography of Joseph Goldstein

Professor Goldstein is survived by his wife, the former Sonja Lambek; his four children: Joshua, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Anne, of West Hartford, Connecticut; Jeremiah, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Daniel, of Davis, California; and eight grandchildren; his brother, E. Ernest Goldstein, of Texas; his sister, Mimi Sommer, of New Haven, Connecticut; and a host of friends, colleagues, and former students around the world.

