

# In Memoriam: Prof. Michael W. Lewis

The Federalist Society lost a great friend with the passing of **Michael W. Lewis**, Professor of Law at the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law, in June, at age 50, of cancer.

Professor Lewis was a naval aviator, internationally renowned law professor, and tireless public advocate for a principled and wise application of the Law of Armed Conflict, consistent with both the values and interests of the United States.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, Professor Lewis flew F-14's for the U.S. Navy and graduated first in his class from Top Gun. He served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He then entered Harvard Law School, where he was a member of the Federalist Society and served on the editorial staff of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy. One year after joining the faculty at Ohio Northern Law School, he received its Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching.

Professor Lewis frequently participated in Federalist Society programming and scholarship, presenting on the topics of terrorism, national security, the rules of engagement, military tribunals, drones, and interrogation at dozens of student and lawyers chapter events nationwide, as well as the 2014 National Lawyers Convention.

Professor Lewis also served on the Executive Committee of the Federalist Society's International & Na-



tional Security Law Practice Group. Vince Vitkowsky, Chair of that Executive Committee, said “Mike was an amazing person—an incredible blend of talent, energy, charisma, sincerity, and generosity of spirit. We are privileged to have known him and worked with him, and we will miss him profoundly.” Rachel Brand, Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and law school classmate, remarked that she “greatly admired his intellect and his commitment to service to his country.” Robert M. Chesney, Associate Dean of the University of Texas School of Law, recalled that “Mike was fearless in engaging the hardest and most fraught issues in national security law. He combined his sharp intellect with his practical experience, and made unusually valuable contributions as a result.”

In announcing his passing, ONU Dean Richard Bales wrote that Professor Lewis “loved sports, loved his country, loved his family, and loved his work.” Former student and Federalist Society member Rob Luther recounted that “he excelled at everything he attempted and was a role model to the hundreds of students that were fortunate to have him. He’s going to be impossible to replace.” Professor Lewis is survived by his wife and daughter.