

## IN MEMORIAM: JEAN BRAUCHER

Sen. Elizabeth Warren \*

Hello—I wish I could be with all of you in person today to help celebrate Jean Braucher’s life and her career, but I’m glad to at least have this chance to join you by video.

We lost Jean far too soon, but I am grateful for the time I had to get to know her and to work alongside her. I had great respect for Jean. She was strong and willing to take on hard conceptual problems. She was determined to counter conventional wisdom with carefully collected data, and she fought hard for policies that would help people who were often just overlooked in the legal system.

Jean and I focused on a number of similar issues during our careers as law professors—bankruptcy, contracts, commercial law, and consumer protection. During the fight over bankruptcy reform, Jean understood how important it was to preserve bankruptcy protections for families who needed it, and she was a strong voice pushing to make the bankruptcy laws simpler and more accessible to people.

Jean was a leader in the field, and she was focused on advancing our understanding of how bankruptcy and other areas of the law impact real people and families. Her empirical studies made a lasting contribution to our understanding of these important issues.

I was deeply saddened to learn of Jean’s passing. Her voice will be sorely missed, but her contributions helped build a foundation for change that will last over time. So thank you for organizing this event, and thank you for giving me the chance to pay tribute to Jean’s life and her legacy. We’re going to miss her.

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\* United States Senator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law, Emerita, at Harvard Law School. This is a transcript of the speech delivered by video at the Jean Braucher Symposium on April 17, 2015.

