

# Denver Journal of International Law & Policy

---

Volume 32  
Number 4 *Fall*

Article 2

---

January 2004

## In Memoriam: Jonathan C.S. Cox

Ved P. Nanda

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/djilp>

---

### Recommended Citation

Ved P. Nanda, In Memoriam: Jonathan C.S. Cox, 32 Denv. J. Int'l L. & Pol'y [i] (2004).

This Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Journal of International Law & Policy by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact [jennifer.cox@du.edu](mailto:jennifer.cox@du.edu), [digitalcommons@du.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@du.edu).

---

## In Memoriam: Jonathan C.S. Cox

### Keywords

International Law: History

## **In Memoriam**

### **Jonathan C.S. Cox**

This edition of the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy* is dedicated to the memory of Jonathan Christopher Stonington Cox (J.D. 1971, M.A. 1970), our founding Editor-in-Chief, who died suddenly on February 1, 2004. Jonathan made his mark at the College of Law. He was instrumental in strengthening the Denver International Law Society and initiating the drive to establish the *Journal*; throughout his legal career he continued to provide dynamic leadership to the International Legal Studies Program in many ways. A few years ago, Jon, along with several other former students and now dear friends, established the Ved Nanda Professorship in International Law that, more than being a tribute to me, enshrined our common respect for international law at the University of Denver.

I vividly recall the day when a cocky young man walked into my office questioning several aspects of international law jurisprudence. He wanted to reshape the international system on the use of force, on the role of the state in the international arena, and on issues ranging from the Law of the Sea to Space Law. This young man was Jon Cox, a student in my International Law class during his first year. I had recently left Yale Law School as a great admirer of Professor Myres McDougal's "Law, Science, and Policy" approach to international law, as well as of the contribution of The New Haven School. I repeated to Jon what Professor McDougal had told me a few years earlier, when I questioned him on his approach to international law: "Wait a few more weeks until I brainwash you." It was the beginning of a lasting and durable friendship with Jon.

Jon had entered the law school after making his mark at Stanford – as captain of the soccer team and a hot prospect for being on the U.S. Olympic team. He was intense and yet very personable, and his peers considered him larger than life. Leadership was natural for him. He not only revitalized the International Law Society but made it a premiere participant in the national organization, the Association of Student International Law Societies, as it was called then and International Law Student Association, as it is known today. At the national meeting of ASILS in Washington, during his second year at the College of Law, Jon successfully promoted a classmate who had succeeded him as President of our own International Law Society, Julius Duru from Nigeria, for election as the national president. That was a coup for the University of Denver as Julius won, and very gratifying to me because as a student at Yale I had been the very first President of the ASILS.

When Jon began at the College of Law, Robert Yegge, then Dean, was an ardent supporter of international law. He, however, did not have sufficient resources to finance a new journal. As I shared this information with Jon and some

of his colleagues who were keen to start a new journal, Jon said that he, along with his friends, would be able to raise the money to start one. In the meantime a good friend of the program, Ed Goodin, who had founded an oil exploration database firm, offered to pay for the first issue and to continue helping us until the College of Law was able to provide the necessary financial resources. This year, the *Journal* celebrates its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary edition and it gives us pride to give the credit for our founding to Jon and his friends who courageously took the initiative.

As I mentioned earlier, Jon also led the initiative to establish an international law professorship at the College of Law. Along with several former editors of the *Journal* he succeeded in this initiative as well.

The International Legal Studies Program and the College of Law, along with Stanford University were of very special interest to Jonathan. He enjoyed working hard and long hours, he was very successful as a lawyer, and he was full of zest and adventure. He became not only a lifelong friend and supporter of the Program but a dear personal friend, as well: Jon's son, Stonington, is my God-son and my daughter, Anjali, was his God-daughter. Jonathan Cox's death was untimely and shocking.

It was a strange coincidence that the evening before he passed away, Jon called me on the phone and kept talking for a long time about our families, about his work, and about the College of Law and his vision for the International Legal Studies Program. I still cannot get over the great loss the Program, the *Journal*, and I personally have suffered.

*Ved P Nanda*



Jonathan C.S. Cox

