

Obituary

David L. Kaserman

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David Kaserman died on January 24, 2008, at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham, after a brief period of illness and hospitalization exacerbated by his long-time status as a kidney transplant recipient.

At the time of his passing, Dave was Torchmark Professor of Economics at Auburn University, in Auburn, Alabama, having previously served with distinction on the faculties of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and his alma mater, the University of Florida.

David Kaserman was born on September 22, 1947, in Knoxville, Tennessee, and he remained spiritually an East Tennessean for his entire life. He was proud of this roots and this was reflected in his honest and open character. After working his way through college at the University of Tennessee, he entered graduate school in economics at the University of Florida, obtaining his PhD in 1976. During this time, he began his life-long collaboration with Roger Blair, and focused his attention on research in anti-trust economics, regulation, and industrial competition. After working for the federal government at HUD and the Bureau of Economics of the FTC, and at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, he joined the faculty at Tennessee as an Assistant Professor in 1979. He relocated to Auburn in 1986 and briefly served as department head until kidney problems forced his withdrawal from administrative work.

During his career, he published well over 100 journal articles, including influential papers in the areas of vertical integration, industrial organization, and antitrust economics. His work appeared regularly in leading journals, including *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and many others. He was a strong supporter of, and contributor to the *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, and was serving on the editorial board at the time of his death. He was a scholar to the end making sure that JRE received a referee report, which he accomplished from his hospital bed a week before he died.

Dave was the author of numerous books, including *Antitrust Economics* (2nd edition with Roger Blair, Oxford University Press, forthcoming), and *Government and Business: The Economics of Antitrust and Regulation* (with John Mayo, Dryden Press, 1995). As a result of his personal experience as a dialysis and kidney transplant patient, Dave devoted increasing effort to his work on explaining and resolving the shortage of organs for transplant. His book, *The U.S. Organ Procurement System: A Prescription for Reform* (with Andy Barnett, The American Enterprise Institute, 2002) provided both a strong indictment of the current nonsensical system, and proposals for basic reforms which would, if implemented, save thousands of lives. Professor Kaserman was working with colleagues on another book, *The International Organ Shortage: Economic Causes and Human Consequences*, at the time of his passing. His coauthors have resolved to complete the work, and it will be published under the auspices of the IFO Institute of Munich by the M.I.T. Press in 2009, with a dedication to David Kaserman.

He leaves behind his wife Lois, son David, daughter Laura, and four grandchildren, whom, with the greatest pleasure and pride, he taught to hunt, fish, and appreciate the haunting beauty of the hills of East Tennessee.

Randy Beard
Auburn University