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## *FORWARD:*

# REMEMBERING STACIA HOLLINSHEAD

JAMES LEVAULT<sup>1</sup>

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, the Northern Illinois University law review community lost one of their former members in an act of senseless violence. Stacia Faye Hollinshead, Class of 2018, was brutally murdered in Wisconsin at the home of her ex-husband's parents.

Stacia was a mother, a daughter, a sister, and, to many of us, a dear friend. Stacia's work ethic was unrivaled and that work ethic constantly showed during her law school career, especially when it came to law review. There were many occasions when Stacia would be in the library working hard on a cite check, often late in the evening, with her precious daughter working on something right beside her.

I remember many occasions where Stacia would come up and ask me a question and then I would end up spending quite a while talking to her and her daughter. One time in particular, I was working at one of the tables in the library, and Stacia and her daughter were seated next to me. Stacia had come over and asked me a question about the law review assignment she was working on. Her daughter followed right behind her and when Stacia was done asking me her question, her precious daughter started asking me questions. Stacia tried to stop her, telling her "he's busy, you can't bother him right now." I told Stacia, it's fine, she is not bothering me at all. I sat and talked for quite a while, even after Stacia went back to her table. Then the best thing happened. I mentioned that I was needing to leave because I was starting to get hungry and then that sweet child went over to her table, grabbed a box of cookies she had and came back to offer me a cookie since I was hungry. It was a simple act of kindness from that child, not even old enough to be in school at the time, that told me everything I needed to know about her mother.

Stacia was selfless and always willing to offer help to anyone in need. She served her Country as an Intelligence Analyst for eleven years in the United States Army. Stacia was not the type of person to just give the minimum required effort. She worked tremendously hard and accomplished so much in her life. She was a constant figure at the law school, always engaged in class discussion, and the type of person that just made you a better

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1. James LeVault is the former Editor-in-Chief of Volume 38 of the NIU Law Review and the acting EIC when Stacia was a member of the law review. The entire law review has felt this tremendous loss, along with the rest of the NIU community.

person by being around her. Her departure leaves a big hole in the lives of so many, especially her family.

As the Editor-in-Chief of Volume 38 of Northern Illinois University's Law Review, it is my honor to provide a short snippet into the life of Stacia Faye Hollinshead. I had the privilege of calling her a friend, like so many of us on law review. Words cannot begin to express the sadness her family and friends have felt since her tragic passing. My heart continues to go out for her sweet daughter. That child loved her mother so much, you could tell just by seeing the way she looked at Stacia. Stacia will be greatly missed by so many.