

In the Public Interest: Louise (Grossman) Trubek (BA '57, HISTORY)

Founder and Director of one of Wisconsin's earliest nonprofit public interest law firms, leading advocate consumer and health care rights

Louise Trubek has been a pioneer for most of her life. She left Brooklyn in 1953 to attend UW as one of the first "Ford Girls" on the Madison campus. At age sixteen, she was among 165 precocious teens from around the country who studied on campus between 1951 and 1955 under a Ford Foundation-funded early admissions program.

Upon graduation, she studied law at Yale University as one of six women in her class. After earning her law degree, Trubek established two visionary public interest law projects in New Haven, CT.

She returned to Madison when her husband David, whom she had met as an undergraduate student, accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 1974, she founded the Center for Public Representation, which quickly became Wisconsin's premier legal advocacy firms.

Tackling issues such as marital property reform, health care consumer law, and elder law, the center combined senior lawyers with law students in programs that set new standards for legislative advocacy and consumer education. In recognition of her work, Trubek received the Marigold Shire Melli Achievement Award from the Legal Association for Women, the Association of Trial Lawyers' Human Rights Award, and was named one of the ten people who made a difference in Wisconsin during the 1980s.



THE CAPITAL TIMES/WWW.MERLIN-NEI.COM

Today, she heads the UW Law School's Health Law Project, which focuses on health law, policy, and administration, and writes and teaches on public interest law in the United States and internationally. She shares her expertise on public interest law practice with legal communities in Southeast Asia and Latin America.



COURTESY LOUISE TRUBEK

Louise Trubek with fellow "Fordie"