



71ST ANNUAL

ALUMNI AWARDS

A CELEBRATION OF ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

JUNE 2, 2012

Rockefeller Memorial Chapel

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



PHOTO BY DAN DRY

The Public Service Award honors those alumni who have fulfilled the obligations of their education through creative citizenship and exemplary leadership in service in ways that benefit society and reflect credit on the University.

ERIC D. ROSENTHAL, AB'85

Washington, DC



Eric Rosenthal is the founder and executive director of Disability Rights International, which is dedicated to promoting the human rights and full participation in society of people with mental disabilities worldwide. The organization is renowned for its work training human rights and disability activists, investigating human rights violations against people with disabilities, and using the international media to generate support for new protections worldwide. Rosenthal has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the US National Council on Disability.

HE WRITES:

"Many of the experiences that formed my career took place at the University of Chicago. Professors John MacAloon and Jean Comaroff exposed me to psychology and anthropology. Under Professor Dennis Hutchinson, I gained exposure to the protections the law could provide for people caught up in mental health or criminal justice systems. But no one touched my life more than Professor Harold Richman. In his soft-spoken manner, he was able to convey the movement for deinstitutionalization as every bit as inspiring as Martin Luther King's struggle against segregation. Professor Richman showed me how to use law and social policy to make good on the promise of social justice. I reconnected with Professor Richman decades after I graduated—but just before his terminal illness. I am grateful to have been able to thank him. He agreed to join my board, but I was too late to take up his offer to join forces in international advocacy. I dedicate this award to the memory of this kind, brilliant, and inspiring man."