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In Memoriam: Soia Mentschikoff

Soia Mentschikoff, who was born in Moscow on April 2, 1915, died in Coral Gables, Florida, on June 18 of this year. Soia had been a member of our Council for three years. To a law professor, such as myself, and indeed to many others, Soia Mentschikoff was a great figure in the law. In addition, she led the way for women in the law, having been a partner in a major New York law firm at the age of 29, and the first woman to teach at Harvard and at Chicago. When she and her husband, the equally famous Karl Llewellyn, moved from Columbia to Chicago in 1951, the move was almost seismic.

Soia was a gifted, powerful, analytic person. She was the associate chief reporter for the Uniform Commercial Code. She had been the Dean of the Miami School of Law for eight years until 1982. There her qualities, and possibly the place of her birth, earned her the affectionate but awed nickname of "Czarina." Her interest and practice in commercial matters also brought her into international commercial matters, in which area she occasionally acted as a consultant.

She brought her great intellectual qualities to the work of our Council. We shall miss Soia.

Don Wallace, Jr.

July 13, 1984

