

## Memorial: W. Nicholas Pope (1942–2008)\*

¶1 Nick Pope passed away in January 2008 at the age of sixty-five. He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease when he was in his fifties, cutting short a career he loved. Even before becoming a librarian, he had led a citizen petition drive to create a library district in Greenup County, Kentucky.

¶2 Nick came to law librarianship as a second career. He served as an attorney for Ashland Oil (or as he referred to it, “Big Oil”) for seven years. He earned degrees in journalism, law, and library science from the University of Kentucky (UK). When UK incorporated the College of Library and Information Science into the College of Communications as the School of Library and Information Science, Nick was sure that he was the only person who had degrees from both the journalism and library science programs. His classmates in the journalism school and his Sigma Chi fraternity brothers were a Who’s Who of the future leaders of journalism and politics in Kentucky, and included author Bobbie Ann Mason. He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi and Beta Phi Mu.

¶3 Nick served two terms on the UK Alumni Association Board of Directors. He loved Kentucky basketball; he had grown up listening to radio broadcasts by Cawood Ledford and was true blue.

¶4 While studying for his M.S.L.S., Nick taught legal writing at UK. He also began doing workshops for public library trustees with Dr. Larry Allen of the College of Library Science. It was in one of Dr. Allen’s classes that I first met Nick. He was in his final semester; I was barely into the program. We met again at the Matthew Bender dinner during the 1982 AALL Annual Meeting in Detroit. I joined him and other librarians from his 1980 CONELL group, and we dined together for many years after.

¶5 Nick graduated from library school at a time when a J.D./M.L.S. could go straight to an Associate Director’s position. He went to the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, where he also taught Legal Research and Writing. He later moved to the law firm of Arter & Hadden as their Director of Libraries.

¶6 Above all, Nick was a gentleman. Even as his illness progressed, he still maintained his sense of self. He leaves his wife Joyce, two children, and three grandchildren as well as a host of friends.—*Carol Bredemeyer*<sup>1</sup>

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1. Assistant Director for Faculty Services, Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky.

¶7 I knew Nick Pope during his tenure as Arter & Hadden Law Librarian. He meshed so beautifully with my perception of the character of the firm: refined, cultured, respectful, and respected. Nick was the epitome of gentility, and he embraced and exercised the unique Southern talent of turning every conversation into an occasion for storytelling. And the best stories of all centered around Nick's primary identity as a husband and father: a routine business call from Nick always carried an anecdote that illuminated his love and appreciation for his wife Joyce, or his awe and admiration for their children Jennifer and Clark. During one such call, Nick disclosed to me the diagnosis of his illness, with frankness, clarity, and humor. Alzheimer's Disease later infected my family as well, and I now know too well the path Nick faced. I know it was a path made much easier for him surrounded by the loving family he and Joyce created. Now, that's a true legacy.—*Jan Novak*<sup>2</sup>

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2. Associate Director, Cleveland Marshall College of Law Library, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio.