

Memorial: Patricia A. Keller (1951–2005)*

¶1 Pat Keller passed away from a brain tumor on February 18, 2005. Although born in McPherson, Kansas, Pat grew up in Des Moines, Iowa. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Missouri and received her teaching certificate from the University of Iowa. She began her teaching career in Charles City, Iowa, where she taught seventh-grade English. While visiting a friend in Washington, D.C., Pat met her future husband Mike. After moving to D.C., Pat taught school in Maryland.

¶2 Pat began her library career with Hill, Christopher & Phillips in Washington, D.C., which later became part of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart. During this time she obtained her masters degree in library science from Catholic University. Pat and Mike then moved to the Los Angeles area where she worked as a librarian. They soon moved again, to New York City, where Pat worked for Proskauer Rose and Willkie, Farr & Gallagher. Finally they returned to the D.C. area, where once again Pat worked at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart—this time as library director. In addition to holding this position for more than fifteen years, she took on the added role of paralegal coordinator for several years.

¶3 An active member of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Pat served as a member of the Executive Board, was cochair of the Arrangements Committee for many years, and served as chair of the Education Committee. In recognition of Pat's hard work and dedication, she was chosen LLSDC Outstanding Member of the Year for 1997–98. She was elected chair of AALL's Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section for 2001–02.

¶4 She was an avid AALL Annual Meeting attendee and could often be found at the education programs—that is, when she wasn't networking with colleagues, Bloody Mary in hand and a good suggestion, joke, or pithy observation to share. She was the consummate private law librarian—always getting the patron what they needed when they needed it.

¶5 Pat was my first boss out of college. Working with her was a delight. Her roots as a grammar teacher never left her. If she was anywhere near me, I would often hear her say “take” when I used the word “bring” incorrectly. We had lots of laughs over my inability to get it right. After working with her for eight years, I decided to relocate. One of the most difficult parts of that decision was knowing that I would never have as great a boss as she was. I am thankful that I got the opportunity to work with her again a few years later.

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¶6 Although she never learned to skate, Pat was a huge fan of amateur ice skating. She attended the national championships many times and the world championship once. Pat enjoyed attending plays at the Shakespeare Theatre, going to the opera, and taking classes through the Smithsonian Resident Associates. She and Mike liked to bike ride on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and take hiking vacations at national parks.

¶7 Pat is survived by her beloved husband Mike, her mother, a sister, two brothers, and many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews. Pat lived her life unselfishly and with great generosity. She never asked people for anything. Pat passed away never knowing the lasting effect she had on the people who knew her. We miss her dearly.—*Stacey Digan*¹

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