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## VICKI LAWRENCE MACDOUGALL

### Alvin C. Harrell

Professor Vicki Lawrence MacDougall began teaching at the OCU School of Law in 1978. It was the beginning of forty years of outstanding teaching, scholarship, and other contributions to the students and school. The School of Law and all of us associated with it have benefitted immensely, continuously, and in countless ways from Vicki's decision to join the faculty and devote her career to OCU. No doubt she will continue to serve the school in many ways, as a teacher and Emeritus Professor. But inevitably there will be some loss of her talents and dedication, by reason of her retirement from the full-time faculty, and this will be felt by all of us who love this school.

Perhaps it is often felt, upon the retirement of a long-time valued member of the faculty, that an era has passed. But, with Vicki's retirement, this seems more clearly the case, at least to those who have known and valued Vicki's role at the school, and perhaps even more so for those of us who have known Vicki since she was a student. It was my privilege to serve as one of her law school professors, and even then, as a student, her exceptional intellect and sound judgment were apparent. Richard Coulson and Von Creel apparently thought so too, and following Vicki's post-graduation service as Judicial Counsel to Oklahoma Court of Appeals Judge Dwain Box, they convinced her to join the full-time faculty. It was an astute move on their part.

Almost immediately, and for some four decades thereafter, Vicki's talents provided unique and valuable contributions to the students, school, and faculty. There are too many such contributions to be recounted here, and beyond any such list, no matter how extensive, are the even more important (and often intangible) benefits of Vicki's counsel, advice, support, and friendship for those of us who care about OCU. These contributions cannot be replaced and will be sorely missed.

Vicki's support for OCU dates from her time as a student in the 1970s and has always been unwavering and significant. As merely one, obvious

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example, she has done more (indeed, far more) than anyone else to create, nurture, and maintain the *Oklahoma City University Law Review* as a principal vehicle for the production of scholarship within the Law School and community. When your author was a student in the late 1960s and early 1970s, OCU had no law review or equivalent publication to serve as a platform for student editors and faculty or student scholarship. As a student, I was acutely aware that this was missing from the school, as were members of the faculty and Deans Coulson and Creel.

Vicki, in conjunction with others (but due significantly to her efforts), fixed this, serving as Survey Editor and then Managing Editor in the inaugural years of the Law Review. It was very fortunate (for OCU and the students) that she joined the faculty a short time later, as throughout her subsequent forty-year academic career, she remained a stalwart supporter and active champion of the Review, serving as Faculty Advisor for much of that time (and always serving as a principal advocate for the Review, in a variety of ways). The *Oklahoma City University Law Review* stands today as a scholarly journal of the highest order, a symbol of credit to academic excellence at OCU, and a credit to Professor Vicki Lawrence MacDougall.

Vicki, of course, is also a highly-regarded scholar in her own right, with more than two dozen published articles and books to her credit. Her scholarship spans a variety of subject areas (with, naturally, some focus on tort-related subjects). Over the years, your author has had occasion to carefully review a number of these publications and (partly by reason of nearly thirty years editing an academic journal) I can attest that Vicki's research and scholarship are of the highest quality, excelling even in relation to that of many others in the profession and academia. Clearly, Vicki has contributed greatly to the scholarly reputation of the Law School, over many years and in many ways.

Vicki's prowess as a teacher is so well known, and widely recognized, that it hardly seems necessary to mention it. Still, this is the most important function of any faculty member, and Vicki always (yes, from the beginning) has been recognized as an exceptionally gifted teacher, indeed one of the very best anywhere. Your author still recalls the somewhat humbling experience of serving on a tenure review committee for Professor Creel, which entailed interviewing his students and hearing one after another (some of them students in my class as well) tell how Professor Creel was the best professor they ever had. Though in a less formal setting, I have consistently heard similar comments from Vicki's

students. This is reflected in her many teaching awards (most of them reflecting direct recognition by the students), including Outstanding Professor and Professor of the Year, among many others.

Vicki has made many other contributions to the school and students, some in unusual and unheralded ways. As just one example, for many years she served as faculty for the Oklahoma Bar Review, helping to provide a low-cost and fully-live bar exam review course for students taking the Oklahoma Bar Examination. This is not an easy job, and Vicki's dedication to the students was apparent. The results were impressive, and I feel sure the students who benefitted would agree that Vicki's participation was instrumental in this success.

On a more personal level, I would like to note that, just as Vicki was my student, both of my children (Andrew and Ashley) were students in Vicki's courses. I don't believe she knew this at the time, and in both cases, they received their lowest grades in law school from Vicki. Despite this, both are effusive in their praise of Vicki's teaching.

Vicki is the last of the three Twenty-First Century full-time tenured faculty (hired as such) to have graduated from the OCU School of Law (the first was Richard Coulson, and I am the other).<sup>1</sup> In fact, Vicki is the last full-time tenure-track faculty to be hired as such after graduating from an Oklahoma law school.<sup>2</sup> Her tenure as a faculty member spans the period from the Deanships of Richard Coulson and Von Creel to the present (she also served as Assistant and then Associate Dean, 1978-1982). This period has included a lot of changes and progress for the school, and Vicki has contributed greatly to this success by her outstanding service as a teacher, scholar, and faculty member. For your author, Vicki is a connection between the traditions and proud heritage of the school and its future. With her retirement, then, it seems truly the end of an era. So I am happy to congratulate Vicki and celebrate her career, and say thanks, Vicki, for all that you have done for OCU.

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1. Of course, Dean Jim Roth is the fourth as he has faculty status, though his current duties are primarily deaconal rather than academic. Also this does not include 20th Century faculty such as Dean and Professor Ted Foster, who was also an OCU graduate.

2. Again, it can be noted that Dean Roth also qualifies if one includes deaconal appointments, as does Dean Emeritus and Professor Valerie Couch.