

Memorial Resolution for Meredith Jane Ross

For twenty years, Clinical Professor Meredith (Merry) Ross was the director of the Frank J. Remington Center at the Law School. But she was so much more than that. In 2006, Meredith received the Wisconsin Alumni Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award was richly deserved because she was, in every way, a true leader.

Under Meredith's watch, the Remington Center and clinical education grew exponentially. When she started, we were the Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Program, a single-focus clinic housed next door to a blood bank on Bassett Street. By the time she retired in 2012, we had become the Remington Center, a large, nationally recognized, multi-faceted educational organization devoted to virtually all aspects of criminal justice. And yes, we are now located in the law school.

As if this weren't enough, Meredith also negotiated contracts with federal and state agencies, directly supervised students, and taught doctrinal classes. Her ability to multi-task was almost super human, but somehow she managed to always get it done, with only a modicum of expletive-laced complaint.

Meredith died of cancer in April 2016, leaving us with a large hole in our individual and collective hearts. You see, Meredith wasn't just our boss; she was our friend, colleague, confidant, mentor, and ballast. She was the person we all went to when we needed to straighten out our thoughts about a case, an article, teaching, a professional or personal conflict, or the fine points of grammar. We knew that Meredith could help us find the answer because she had an uncanny knack for cutting through confusion and verbiage, and always knew when a semi- colon was preferable to a comma.

Meredith was married for twenty-one years to the Law School's own Dave Ward. Together they baked, adored their Shiba Inus, binge-watched British television series, and built a dream house on Crystal Lake in Wautoma. In addition to her husband, Meredith is also survived by a sprawling one-of-a-kind family, and friends too numerous to count.

The Remington Center and the entire Law School owe a huge debt of gratitude to Meredith Ross. She made us better, not only as teachers and scholars, but as people. Thank you friend.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele LaVigne, Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law