

## A Tribute to Dean Nina Appel on Her Retirement

*Thomas M. Haney\**

In 1983, when Nina Appel, the newly named Dean of the law school, asked me to serve as her associate dean, I was of course flattered. Nina herself had been associate dean with Dean Bud Murdock, undertaking that position with all the vigor that she brought to every endeavor upon which she embarked. Watching her, I had been able to get some perspective on the responsibilities of the associate dean.

Little did I realize, when I soon accepted her offer, that this would be the start of more than twenty years of working with Nina day to day—and what an exhilarating, challenging, and satisfying experience it would be.

Nina was already on the law school faculty when I joined it in 1975. When she was hired, she was only the second woman to join the full-time faculty. It was an exciting time—women had just recently started coming to law school in large numbers, although they had been part of the student body at our law school since the early 1920s. Loyola was fortunate in welcoming these women, and Nina's status on the faculty provided them—and all students—with an excellent role model.

I was on the faculty committee that conducted the Dean search after Dean Murdock left that position for an office in state government. The committee considered a number of applicants, presumably all qualified in some way. The president of the university, Raymond C. Baumhart, S.J., directed the committee to submit three names to him so he could select the next Dean from among them.

With the approval of the law faculty, the search committee sent one name to the president: Nina Appel. She was clearly the most outstanding of the candidates that the committee had reviewed, and the faculty concurred.

The committee was not only refusing to send three names, however, which might have been considered overstepping its mandate. The one candidate recommended by the committee, Nina, was also revolutionary for the institution. If chosen, she would be the first female Dean in the law school's then seventy-five-year history (and only one of a handful of female law deans across the country). She would also have been the first

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Dean who was not Catholic, which had previously been a given in the Jesuit Catholic university.

President Baumhart, a progressive educator with a doctorate in business administration from Harvard, accepted the committee's recommendation, and Nina became the law school's ninth Dean—a position that she held for almost twenty-one years.

Nina was a dynamic and creative Dean throughout her tenure in that position. Under her leadership and through her efforts, the law school transformed over those two decades. Her emphasis was always on public service and professional responsibility, and she eagerly embraced the Jesuit ideal of education being for service to others.

One of her first initiatives was the creation of a health law center, one of the first in the country and which today remains a nationally recognized program. Her goal initially was to bring lawyers and doctors together in dialogue and cooperation in the belief that the two professions could better serve the public by working together rather than viewing each other as adversaries. The Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy has now evolved into a remarkably diverse and successful operation, still attempting to understand the health care industry and to operate—both at policy and on personal levels—for the benefit of society.

From there she moved her focus to children. As Diane Geraghty testifies elsewhere in this Issue's tribute to Nina, Nina enlisted an alum, Jeff Jacobs, who, with Diane, created the Civitas ChildLaw Center to fulfill their mutual goal of addressing the unique legal needs of vulnerable children.

Undistributed class action funds later served as a catalyst for Nina's creation of an antitrust center to address the interests and needs of consumers. The Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies continues today to address national and global antitrust matters, but with a specific and unique focus on consumers and the public interest.

It would be tiresome to list all the initiatives and programs that Nina brought to Loyola. The annual Law and Literature lecture; the expansion of the law school's clinical offerings; the creation of a unique master's degree in law program for nonlawyers (M.J.) to educate individuals from different professions and businesses about the impact of law on their endeavors; and many others—they all remain a testament to Nina's creativity, initiative, and foresight.

Throughout much of Nina's time as Dean, the University was undergoing significant structural realignments and, as a result, law school budgets were unusually tight. Nina established a leadership team consisting of herself, Jim Faught as assistant (and later associate) dean, Ellen O'Gallagher as general business manager, and me. The four of us

worked daily to weather the University's storms and other vicissitudes and to try continually to make the law school experience more enriching, more rewarding, and more beneficial for the students, the alumni, and the community.

Nina has had a deep and thoughtful devotion to legal education in all its aspects. Her passion led to her selection as Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar—the national accrediting body and coordinator of American legal education—during its centennial year, 1992–93. She was only the second woman to hold that singular position. She used her position to undertake a range of initiatives to help that professional body advance the work of making legal education better prepared to serve the interests of law students, the public, and the legal academy.

Working with Nina every day was not only a rewarding experience for me personally, but also enlightening on many different levels. I learned from her the value of talking matters through with everyone concerned with an issue. I saw that she really believes that everyone has value and talents that can and should be encouraged and promoted. She truly embodies the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*, treating everyone as an individual and recognizing the unique qualities of each person.

Nina has taught me the value of keeping one's head, not losing one's temper regardless of the provocation, and always maintaining a forward-looking perspective without dwelling on the past.

I find that my years as associate dean under Nina were the most rewarding of my career. I am truly grateful for having had that experience. She has made me a better person, and I believe that everyone who knows her would embrace a similar sentiment.

As she retires from her teaching career, I applaud the editors and staff of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* for taking the opportunity to mark this occasion. The law school is losing a most remarkable leader, and I am losing a friend and colleague.