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Memorial: William J. (Bill) Beintema (1944-2015)

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Memorial: William J. (Bill) Beintema (1944-2015)

Sibyl D Marshall, *University of Tennessee College of Law*



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Memorial: William J. (Bill) Beintema (1944–2015)*

¶1 After many years as a law librarian, law library director, and humanitarian, Bill Beintema passed away on November 12, 2015, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Bill was born and grew up on Long Island, New York, in the town of Sayville. He earned both his undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Miami. He obtained his Master of Library Science degree at Florida State University. He is survived by his wife of forty-two years, Jane, who often accompanied Bill to regional and national professional meetings.

¶2 Bill started his career as the assistant director at the University of Miami School of Law Library. He accepted his first director position in 1978 at the Oklahoma City University Law Library, where he served for six years and cofounded the Central Oklahoma Law Librarians Association. In 1984, he became the director of the Law Library at the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville. He served faithfully and effectively in that position for twenty-five years, retiring in 2009.

¶3 In addition to leading the Law Library at the University of Tennessee, Bill contributed broadly to the College of Law in various capacities, including chairing as well as serving as a member on a number of committees. In particular, he served on the College's Building Committee in the 1990s during an important time during the expansion of the building, playing a significant role in planning and overseeing the growth and renovation of the facility, including the law library. In recognition of his service to the college, he was twice awarded one of the college's highest honors, the Carden Faculty Award for Outstanding Service. While at the University of Tennessee, Bill published an annotated bibliography addressing legal issues involving clergy malpractice.

¶4 Bill also had a distinguished and meaningful record of professional service during the course of his career. He was intimately involved with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), chairing and serving on numerous committees and in various capacities, including the Placement Committee, Awards Committee, and Statistics Committee. He also chaired CONELL very early in his career. Bill served three years on the *Law Library Journal* editorial staff and also served for an extended period of time on the editorial board of the quarterly newsletter of the Audio Visual/Micrographics Special Interest Section. Bill took great pride in the fact that he had attended forty-five consecutive AALL Annual Conferences, often with his wife Jane by his side.

¶5 Additionally, Bill made notable contributions to the profession through the Southeastern Chapter of AALL (SEAALL), where again he served in numerous capacities. He was honored with the SEAALL Special Service to the Chapter Award in 2001, and he received a lifetime membership and appreciation award in 2011. He

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was also the founding director of COSELL, the Consortium of Southeastern Law Libraries, and served a number of years as treasurer of the consortium.

¶6 Perhaps Bill's greatest contributions to the profession, however, came through the many connections he made with other law librarians throughout the profession and across the country. He has been described as warm, friendly, entertaining if not hilarious, and a good soul. He befriended many of us and was often especially supportive of those early in their careers. He had a way of making others feel important and comfortable. Those who knew him best described him as a light spirit with a big heart, a jokester with few equals in the profession. In a world filled with problems and challenges, Bill's humor and compassionate care for other people are greatly missed.—*Scott Childs*¹

¶7 Bill was my library director for more than ten years. He was a wonderful mentor and friend to me. He provided gentle guidance when I was unexpectedly promoted to acting head of public services when I was barely out of library school and had been at the Joel A. Katz Law Library for less than a year. He showed me the value of making connections and staying actively engaged in the profession, even though our library was tucked far away from major metropolitan areas and other law libraries. Most of all, Bill was one of the kindest people I have known. He loved to tease, but he never had a mean word for anyone, and I knew I could turn to him for a corny joke or a friendly chat whenever I needed a bit of warmth. Bill was a man of broad interests, from his church, to travel, to photography and all sorts of work with graphics, images, and publishing. He loved discovering new restaurants as well as cooking—his molasses icebox cookies were legendary and are sorely missed at our library gatherings! I consider myself fortunate to have worked with him as long as I did.—*Sibyl Marshall*²

“When Pigs Fly”

¶8 That was one of Bill's favorite responses when asked a question. Often teasing and ironic in his conversation, Bill used his wit to entertain, never to hurt someone. His love of good food, good friends, and interesting travel was of primary importance to him, second only to his devotion to his wife, Jane. He is missed by all who knew him.—*Loretta Price*³

1. Associate Dean for Library and Technology Services and Professor, Joel A. Katz Law Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

2. Head of Public Services and Associate Professor, Joel A. Katz Law Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

3. Collection Management Librarian and Associate Professor, Joel A. Katz Law Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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Law Library Journal Author's Guide

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