

Oklahoma City University School of Law

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Judy Morgan's Career Spans the Modern History of OCU Law School

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JUDY MORGAN'S CAREER SPANS THE MODERN HISTORY OF OCU LAW SCHOOL

Alvin C. Harrell*

I. INTRODUCTION

Oklahoma City University (OCU) School of Law Library Director Judy Morgan retired at the end of the 2009–2010 academic year. While no doubt we are all happy for Judy, her retirement is a loss felt by the entire Law School community, not least because Judy combines two unusual characteristics among her many talents: She is superbly competent and at the same time as nice a person as one is likely to meet. Partly as a result, the OCU Law Library is one of the most user-friendly institutions on the planet. Moreover, Judy's career spans an eventful period in the history of OCU. It requires a rare combination of talents to successfully serve as the director of a university law library, and Judy managed that feat from 1986 to 2010.

Judy's tenure as Law Library Director spanned a period of the greatest changes in legal research and the role of law libraries within the law school in the history of legal education. In the 1980s, legal research was largely book-specific. Research was done in the "books," e.g., the West National Reporter system, state and federal statutes, Shepard's citators, and legal encyclopedias such as American Jurisprudence and Corpus Juris Secundum. The West key number system digests were consulted in book form. The 1980s saw the early computerization of law library resources with Lexis and Westlaw. From the 1980s, when computers became linked together in a "daisy chain," to the later digitalization of legal materials, the development of wireless networks, and access by iPods, the entire structure of legal research has changed. During that time, as noted below, there were many changes and

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challenges. OCU is fortunate to have had Judy Morgan at the helm of its Law Library during this crucial period.¹

Thus, Judy's tenure spans the modern period of progress at OCU School of Law. While her time at OCU does not exceed that of the recently retired Professor Richard E. Coulson,² her twenty-seven-year career at OCU coincided with a steady stream of achievements in the Law School and the Law Library. Such are these achievements that to review Judy's career is to review the progress of the Law Library, and the Law School itself, over this period. Judy is so closely associated with the Law Library and its progress that the two seem inseparable. Judy's role and her contributions to this progress mean that her retirement is an appropriate time to note some of these achievements.

II. THE 1980S AND 1990S

When Judy Morgan joined the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1983 as Assistant Director of the Law Library, the Law School had recently moved into the Gold Star building (in the Fall of 1979) and occupied the North and South Wings of the first three floors and the South Wing of the fourth floor. The east front entrance was a revolving door, and there was no west entrance. The administrative offices and dean's suite were on the first floor (i.e., the basement) in the South Wing, and the main classrooms were in the North Wing of that floor. Faculty offices were on the third floor in the South Wing. The University's Education Department occupied the North Wing of the fourth floor. Limited as these facilities were, they were a significant improvement over the old "barracks" previously occupied by the Law School.³ In December 1984, the Education Department was moved from the Gold Star building, and that space was renovated for the Law School. Classrooms remained largely on the first floor, but there were a few on the fourth floor in the South Wing, along with the moot courtroom.

1. Your author is indebted to Judy Morgan for much of the history recited here and thanks her and her staff for this and their many other contributions to the Law School, the *Law Review*, and your author's various research projects.

2. Probably no one can ever exceed that record. See, e.g., *Tribute to Richard E. Coulson*, 34 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 1 (2009).

3. Though many of us harbor fond memories of that old facility, and received a very fine legal education within those walls, one must admit that the move was a signal event in the progress and history of the Law School. See, e.g., VON RUSSELL CREEL & BOB BURKE, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW: A HISTORY 59-72 (2008).

2010]

Morgan's Career Spans the Modern History

521

Room 406 was notorious for its poor ventilation, a real “oven” much of the year. The *Law Review* offices along with the moot court board and the student Board of Governors occupied the small West Wing off the foyer of the fourth floor. The Law Library also gained some space in the back of the fourth floor North Wing, which eventually housed the Native American collection and study rooms.

In 1981, Westlaw had been acquired, along with a West Automatic Law Terminal (WALT); Lexis was not acquired until 1985. The computer room was located at the back of the first floor North Wing and housed the Westlaw terminal and a Lexis deluxe terminal donated by an Oklahoma City law firm. The room was later renovated and named the Homsey Computer Lab, which was incorporated into the large computer lab in the renovation of 1995. Through membership in the Mid-America Law Library Consortium, in 1983 the Law Library acquired telefacsimile equipment that was state of the art, to be used for the interlibrary loan of journal articles. The law library also participated in a union catalog of serials through the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). The Kerr Law Library Challenge Grant Program, successfully completed in 1982, provided funds (\$600,000) to purchase materials for the collection, and Judy supervised this effort.

In the Fall of 1994, there was another major step forward when the Sarkeys Law Center was opened, and in the Spring of 1995 the remodeling of the Gold Star building for the sole use of the Law Library and faculty offices began. The entire lower (basement) level was gutted, the old classrooms were eliminated, and both the North and South Wings were renovated as expanded study space and shelving for the library collection. The Law Library technical services department became officed in the former dean's suite and registrar's office. The North Wing of the first floor was remodeled as a reference wing with a large computer lab, the Special Collections room, and a smaller computer lab. Faculty offices in the South Wing were renovated, and additional offices were added on the third floor North and South Wings. The Native American collection was relocated to the West Wing of the third floor. In the Spring of 1995, the Law Library hosted the SWALL (Southwestern Association of Law Libraries) meeting. One of the themes of the meeting was the renovation of the Gold Star building for the Law Library and faculty offices, and the new Sarkeys Law Center.

In 1996 the Law Library staff asked to take charge of all support for Law School technology, including maintenance of all hardware and

software troubleshooting, so as to better assist faculty and students with technology problems and instruction. Technology decisions were now made by a Computer Committee consisting of the Dean, Associate Dean, Director of the Law Library, Associate Director, Associate Dean for Career Services, Director of Finance, Computer Services Coordinator, Electronic Services Librarian, and Special Assistant for Communications and Alumni Relations. An American Bar Association (ABA) Report noted that the Law Library and Law School had made significant strides in the use of technology since the 1992 inspection.

III. LAW LIBRARY BIBLIOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION, CONTROL, AND TEACHING

Bibliographic control refers to the catalog that provides access to the Law Library collection and circulation systems. In 1986, when Judy Morgan became the Director of the Law Library, there was reliance on a card catalog and a manual circulation system. In 1992, the University purchased its first automated system, OLIB, for the Dulaney-Browne University Library and the Law Library. This was a British system based on Oracle and never functioned well. In 2002, the Endeavor Voyager system was purchased, which included acquisitions, circulation, and catalog features, or as it is now called, OPAC modules. Upgrades and enhancements, such as links to titles in the online databases, were added each year. Research information is available from one's office, home, or cell phone.⁴

When Judy first came to OCU, the only electronic database was the newly acquired Westlaw, which was accessed on a WALT. It was available only in the morning and after 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon. There were two terminals, and the procedure was for a librarian to accompany the user to the terminal in a room at the back of the first floor North Wing and type in the OCU password while the user covered his or her eyes so as to not see the password. The user's time online was monitored and carefully recorded. Lexis subscription began in 1985, as a result of a gift to the Law Library of a Lexis terminal, which Judy has characterized as having the appearance of the command station in a Star Trek movie. Later, Lexis was accessed on orange terminals called Ubiqs. WALTs and Ubiqs were provided by the vendors.

The teaching role of the Law Library began with bibliographic

4. Or, as in your author's case, the Law Library staff and Faculty Assistants.

2010] *Morgan's Career Spans the Modern History* **523**

presentations in selected courses, such as Professor Morgan's Trial Practice course, and presentations to students about technology in the courtroom. Soon, however, Law Library staff were offering a course on advanced legal research for credit. A summer associate training session was also offered each spring. By 2004, Advanced Legal Research was divided into two courses, with Advanced Legal Research on United States Law offered each Fall and Advanced Legal Research on Foreign and International Law offered in the Spring. Typically, these courses were team-taught by Director Judy Morgan, Associate Director Lee Peoples, and Reference Librarians Darla Jackson and Karen Kalnins.

IV. THE NEW CENTURY 2000–2010

By the time of the 2005 ABA inspection, responsibility for the computer labs and audio-visual services had been transferred to the Department of Law School Technology. State of the art electronic display and video and DVD systems were installed in the classrooms. The computer labs were upgraded. Wireless and network systems were integrated with the university system. In 2000, the current Voyager catalog system was purchased, and compact shelving was installed in the lower level of the North Wing.

In 2002–2003, study rooms were added in the lower level of the North and South Wings, and electrical outlets and network ports for computers were added on the third floor and in the Reference Wing. Advanced Legal Research was split into the two courses, United States Law and Foreign, International, and Comparative Law, as noted above. Additional shelving and volumes were added on level three in the North Wing and the lower level of the South Wing. Two study rooms in the second floor North Wing were converted to faculty offices. In the Spring of 2003, wireless access became available throughout the Law Library. In 2004–2005, the digital collection LexisNexis U.S. Congressional Serial Set (1789–1969) was purchased, and wireless access was expanded throughout the Gold Star building; Darla Jackson joined the staff, and the student lounge got cable television. The Native American Center area was converted to faculty offices, and that collection was moved to the level three lobby area.

The latest ABA inspection was conducted in 2005–2006 and was the first joint ABA/AALS inspection since the Law School received AALS accreditation in 2003. The Report was complimentary to the Law Library staff and the services offered, but continued to express concerns

about the arrangement of the collection because of the physical shape of the Gold Star building. Scanners were added to the Law Library copiers, and an evaluation of the serials collection began. The Law Library moved up to a new grouping of libraries, those with collections of 300,000–400,000 volumes and equivalents.

On the downside, 2006–2009 was a time of retirements along with a reorganization of the Law Library staff. Associate Director Patti Monk resigned to accept a position as law librarian in Alameda County Law Library, near San Francisco. Long-time staff members Bill Dudley, Marge Hester, Wanda Wilson, and Jim Gettys retired. But Lee Peoples was appointed Associate Director and received tenure track faculty status, and Darla Jackson became Head of Reference and Circulation Services. Karen Kalnins was hired as Reference Librarian. In the Fall of 2009, Emily Browne joined the staff as Circulation Librarian, and Jenny Rempel was hired as Circulation Assistant.

In 2006–2007, Systems Librarian Kathryn Broad placed second in the American Association of Law Libraries contest entitled “A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community,” in the categories *Best Picture Overall* and *Most Humorous*, with a picture of Judy Morgan’s dog. Flough is seen below on duty at the reference desk.



Judith Morgan, director of the Oklahoma City University Law Library, walks with her dog, Flough, through the library stacks. Many dogs are used as service animals to help people with disabilities. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the law doesn't provide a definition of "service animal," but it does require that service animals be treated as if they are part of the disabled person and allowed into public spaces.
Photo by Kathryn S. Broad, systems librarian at Oklahoma City University Law Library

Some of these events and developments may seem routine to non-library staff who are necessarily focused on other things, or may even seem to occur seamlessly and naturally, without any need of careful and expert guidance. But anyone who is paying attention knows that this is

not true. The progress of the Law Library and Law School since the early 1980s is recited here because it serves not only as a reminder of important elements in the history of the Law School, but as a reflection of the achievements during Judy Morgan's tenure at OCU. Moreover, Judy's accomplishments are not merely those of the Law Library, as noted below.

V. JUDY MORGAN, A PERSONAL LOOK

Judy graduated from George Mason University School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1982 after she received her M.A.L.S. in 1967 at the University of Wisconsin and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in 1962 from St. Norbert College. In 1982, she was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association and also the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma; in 1984, she was admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Before being named Director of the Oklahoma City University Law Library in 1986, she was Assistant Director from 1983 to 1984. She served as an Associate Professor from 1996 to 1999, was appointed full professor in 1999, and was awarded tenure in 2003. She was an associate at Merton Bulla & Associates from 1982 to 1984 and librarian at Kornfeld, Franklin & Phillips from 1985 to 1986. She served the Northern Virginia Community College from 1975 to 1982, as Assistant Associate Professor and Library Director. Judy is a member of the: American Bar Association; Oklahoma Bar Association; American Association of Law Libraries; Association of American Law Schools; Mid-America Association of Law Libraries; Mid-America Law Library Consortium; and Southwestern Association of Law Libraries. She has been active in the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, serving as: Nominations Committee Chair, 1993–1994; Grants Committee Chair, 1990–1994; Vice President, 1996; President, 1997; a member of the Executive Board, 1999; the Bylaws Committee, 2001–2002; and Local Arrangements Chair, 2002–2003. She also served as: Mid-America Law Library Consortium Treasurer, 1990–2006; Law Library Microform Consortium Board of Directors, 1996–1999; and Southwestern Association of Law Libraries Local Arrangements Chair, 1995.

Judy has served on many important Law School committees, including the: Law Library Committee (ex officio); Dean's Advisory and Budget Committee, 2001–2002 (ex officio), 2002–2004; Building Planning Committee, 2006–2008; Self Study Committee (ABA, 1998–

1999, and 2004–2006); ABA/AALS Committee, 1999–2000; Special Accommodations, 1998–2007 (Chair 2001–2002); and Disciplinary Tribunal, 2008–2010 (Chair, 2009–2010). Having served with Judy at various times on the Law Library Committee, your author can attest that she is the ideal committee member. She has also served on numerous University committees, including the: Copyright Policy Committee; Library Information Technology Committee; Risk Management & Safety Committee; and Faculty Senate Finance Committee, 1998–1999. In the broader community, she serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma Amateur Field Trial Association.

Judy's Publications include: *Using Change to Beat "The Grisham Factor"*,⁵ *Book Review: The Public Defender Experience: Inside the Heads and Hearts of America's "Real Lawyers"*,⁶ *Renovation Smartens Up Oklahoma City University Law Library*,⁷ and *A Bibliographic Essay on Prestatehood Legal Research for the State of Oklahoma*,⁸ which received the Andrews Award at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Over her many years of service at OCU, Judy has served under Deans Stuart Strasner, Robert Henry, Rennard Strickland, and Lawrence Hellman, and Interim Deans Arthur LeFrancois and Jay Conison. She participated in ABA inspections in 1992 and 1995 and the 2005 joint AALS/ABA inspection, as well as separate AALS inspections in 1997 and 2002 and the AALS membership inspection in 2003. Other recent highlights of Judy's career include: seeing the Law School obtain AALS membership in 2003; becoming a full professor in 1999 and receiving tenure in 2003 after being placed on a tenure track as Associate Professor in 1996; receiving Professor Emeritus status; and seeing tenure awarded to Lee Peoples and his naming as her successor as Director of the Law Library. It is exhausting just to contemplate these accomplishments. Judy, we thank you and wish you a well-deserved happy retirement.

5. Herbert E. Cihak & Judith Morgan, *Using Change to Beat "The Grisham Factor,"* MARKETING LIBR. SERVICES, June 1998, at 1.

6. Judith A. Morgan, *Book Review: The Public Defender Experience: Inside the Heads and Hearts of America's "Real Lawyers"*/Bradley M. Bittan, SWALL BULLETIN, Sept. 1998, at 41.

7. Patti Monk & Judy Morgan, *Renovation Smartens Up Oklahoma City University Law Library*, AALL SPECTRUM, May 2001, at 7.

8. Judith Morgan, *A Bibliographic Essay on Prestatehood Legal Research for the State of Oklahoma*, in 2 PRESTATEHOOD LEGAL MATERIALS: A FIFTY-STATE RESEARCH GUIDE, INCLUDING NEW YORK CITY AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 897 (Michael Chiorazzi & Marguerite Most eds., 2005).