Nancy Ingram Kenderdine: Colleague, Mentor, Friend

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Once upon a time there was a law school that strove for excellence and in its quest hired many new faculty, including Nancy Kenderdine, the heroine of our tale. Nancy awed students through the years with her teaching expertise and students describe Nancy as articulate, intelligent, opinionated, demanding, with a formidable presence in the classroom and, at times, a wicked sense of humor. After singing her praises, many students often add the remark, "What a character." Students always have the utmost respect for Professor Kenderdine as a professional and an equal respect for her legendary final exams. Many would probably be surprised to discover that the teaching guru of OCU metamorphosed from a woman cocooned in a traditional role. Indeed, it is a credit to Nancy that she is not a stagnant person; rather, Nancy constantly grows as a person and, to a large degree, Nancy will always be a work in progress.\(^2\)

The birth of Nancy Sloan Ingram was celebrated in Rockwood, Tennessee on February 5, 1942. Nancy was the daughter of an affluent businessman\(^3\) in a small town and was raised, as most daughters of this era, to become the perfect wife and mother. In many ways, Nancy was raised as the proverbial southern belle complete with presentation as a debutante. The reader at this point might be surprised because the person that Nancy evolved into through the years doesn't resemble a junior

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1. "I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prize fighter, a man-hater, you name it. They call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage, and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy. There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash, and overbearing. Whether I'm any of those things, or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am -- and this ought to be made very clear at the outset -- I am a very serious woman." MEL ZIEGLER, ED., BELLA! INTRODUCTION (1972) (quoting Bella Abzug), reprinted in ELAINE PARTNOW, ED., THE QUOTABLE WOMAN 362 (1978) [hereinafter QUOTABLE WOMAN].

2. "My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue. An everlasting vision of the everchanging view."

Carole King, "Tapestry" (1971), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 446, supra note 1.

3. Nancy's father owned a wholesale grocery business.
leaguer. In fact, Nancy would rather forget about being a debutante.\(^4\) Nancy was escorted by her brother, Turner, when she was presented during her freshman year of college in a floor-length white ball gown, complete with a hoop skirt, at the Cotton Ball in Chattanooga. Nancy’s curtseying to the assembly symbolized her coming of age and availability for courting by eligible men. Ironically, I know no one courageous enough today to even suggest to Nancy that she place herself on an auctioning block. Nancy would much rather remember her days playing basketball and being the star spot forward for the Rockwood High School Tigers. It is illuminating that the only fact about her life that Nancy insisted be included in this article is that Nancy was honored in 1980 by being named to the All-Time All-Star Rockwood High School Basketball Team. Perhaps, her fondness for sports and swimming in the Tennessee River instead of ballroom dancing was the first indication that Nancy was not going to be satisfied with the role society deemed appropriate for women born in the 1940’s.

Yet, while growing up in the 50’s Nancy showed signs that she was going to be a “leader of the pack.” How does one become a leader of the pack? Nancy’s parents always told her that there was not anything she could not do. As a result, Nancy did pretty much what she wanted to do as a youth, and later as an adult. In high school, Nancy was President of the Student Council for two years and a Cheerleader.\(^5\) Nancy also developed her musical talent by not only learning to play the piano,\(^6\) but by also playing the saxophone in the Foot Dusters, a dance band that played at local dances. Much more suited to Nancy’s personality, she

\(^4\) However, the author, as a railroader’s daughter, enjoys reminding Nancy of this fact and relishes in finally sharing Nancy’s dark secret with the world. The author is also one of the few people who was allowed to see pictures of Nancy in her debutante gown. In response to my occasional reference to her status as a debutante (other than one of Kenderdine’s famous if-looks-could-kill glares when I would mention this fact in a tawdry attempt to win an argument), Nancy has threatened to burn the pictures through the years. I really don’t know if the pictures still exist. Despite Nancy’s careful hiding of this information, there are still a few remnants of her early training. When suited up as an attorney or professor, Nancy’s belt, shoes and purse will invariably match. I have also discovered that Nancy has stored in her reserve brain cells a working knowledge of Emily Post and can answer almost any question that arises regarding proper etiquette. Plus, Nancy can still do a perfect curtsey to the floor. “The art of being a woman can never consist of being a bad imitation of a man.” Olga Knoff, The Art of Being a Woman (1932), reprinted in Quotable Woman 212, supra note 1.

\(^5\) The author would pay good money to see Nancy show up to a faculty meeting in her cheerleader outfit complete with pom-poms.

\(^6\) Nancy still enjoys playing the piano as a form of relaxation.
also played in a soft rock-n-roll band, The Elvino’s, which made weekly appearances on a local radio station. Lest the reader believe that Nancy was the perfect teenager, Nancy had at least one run-in with the law. One Friday night after a meeting of the CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship), a group of bored teenagers piled into Nancy’s car. It was close to Halloween so someone (perhaps Nancy) suggested that the girls soap the band director’s window because he was out of town. A back seat occupant vetoed the idea because they might get into trouble. Someone (Nancy, perhaps?) suggested an alternative. They cut letters out of a newspaper and pasted the letters on paper to create the message “You are to be killed. Avoid crowds.” It was close to Halloween, after all, so the note was left on the band director’s door. As luck would have it, however, on Monday the Knoxville television station ran a picture of the note when the band director’s window was by happenstance shot out on Saturday night. There, for all to see, was the carefully crafted note. All would have perhaps passed unnoticed except one girl confessed to her mother and Nancy found herself being interrogated by the Chief of Police. As Nancy now dryly remarks about this incident, “I’m glad we didn’t soap his windows or we could have gotten into real trouble.”

After leaving her mark on Rockwood High, Nancy attended college at Duke where she majored in playing bridge and drinking beer. She also met and fell in love with Jim Kenderdine and wed soon after graduation in 1964. Appropriately, Nancy supported Jim in his quest for a master’s degree and then a doctorate in Business Administration at Indiana University. Nancy worked as a Poll Taker and as the Director of a Teen Center in Bloomington, Indiana to support Jim’s educational

7. I erroneously thought The Elvino’s was a pun on Elvis Presley. Wrong. The literal translation of el vino is “the wine. “What a character.”

8. Nancy also worked as a counselor at a summer camp for girls in her beloved Tennessee Mountains during the summer months of her college years.

9. The rumor that honor students had attempted to kill the local band leader was soon replaced by the unsubstantiated rumor that the band director took advantage of the situation and shot out his own window to scare his wife into reconciliation.

10. “What a character.”

11. Nancy’s official major was Psychology.

12. Many times, houses were ten miles apart and Nancy had to drive 200 miles a day to interview 10 people to meet her daily quota as a poll taker.

13. Nancy was forced to resign from this position when she was four months pregnant. Nancy and Jim really needed the money; however, her boss told her that she could have a miscarriage if one of the teenagers accidentally bumped into her stomach. The real reason is probably that people at this time thought it inappropriate for a pregnant woman to be around teenagers.
pursuits. When Jim was awarded his doctoral degree, the women's club handed out certificates to all the wives, a "PhT" degree, "putting hubby through."\(^\text{14}\) Nancy became a mother in 1966.\(^\text{15}\) As with anything Nancy set out to do well, Nancy was and remains an excellent mother to her son, Jay.

During this period, however, the true Nancy Kenderdine began to evolve.\(^\text{16}\) Much like the heroine of one of her favorite books, Nancy began to open the door of the room in which she has been placed by societal norms.\(^\text{17}\) Nancy began to ask Jim if she would get her turn at graduate education after he finishes his doctorate.\(^\text{18}\) Nancy wanted to go to law school,\(^\text{19}\) a goal considered by many at the time not appropriate for a married woman with a young son.\(^\text{20}\) Oddly enough, her signature

\[\text{14. It is not surprising that one of Nancy's first academic works deals with the proposition that degrees should be considered marital property and be given a monetary value for purposes of division of marital property during a divorce. Nancy Ingram Kenderdine, Contributions to Spouses' Education: The Search for Compensation When the Marriage Ends, 5 Okla. City U. L. Rev. 409 (1980). "A mind truly cultivated never feels that the intellectual process is complete until it can reproduce in some media the thing which it has absorbed." Ida Tarbell, The Ways of Woman, ch. 5 (1914), reprinted in Quotable Woman 99, supra note 1.}\]

\[\text{15. "And when her biographer says of an Italian woman poet, 'during some years her Muse was intermitted,' we do not wonder at the fact when he casually mentions her ten children." Anna Garlin Spencer, Woman's Share in Social Culture (1912), reprinted in Quotable Woman 90, supra note 1.}\]

\[\text{16. "[T]rue emancipation begins neither at the polls nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul." Emma Goldman, The Tragedy of Women's Emancipation, Anarchism and Other Essays (1911), reprinted in Quotable Woman 130, supra note 1.}\]

\[\text{17. "Mira was hiding in the ladies room. She called it that, even though someone had scratched out the word ladies' in the sign of the door, and written women's underneath. She called it that out of thirty-eight years of habit, and until she saw the cross-out on the door, had never thought about it. 'Ladies' room' was a euphemism, she supposed, and she disliked euphemisms on principle." Marilyn French, The Women's Room 1 (1977). "Because in a way it doesn't matter whether you open doors or close them, you still end up in a box. I have failed to ascertain any objective difference between one way of living and another. The only difference I can see is between varying levels of happiness, and I cringe when I say that." Id. at 4. The Women's Room is a 70's consciousness-raising session in book form. It is a must read for women.}\]

\[\text{18. "The widening of woman's sphere is to improve her lot. Let us do it, and if the world scoff, let it scoff - if it sneer, let it sneer. . . ." Lucy Stone, Speech, "Disappointment in the Lot of Women" (October 17-19, 1855), quoted in Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, & Mathilda Gage, 1 History of Woman Suffrage (1881), reprinted in Quotable Woman 37, supra note 1.}\]

\[\text{19. "[T]here never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." Susan B. Anthony, The Status of Women, Past, Present, and Future, The Arena (May, 1897), reprinted in Quotable Woman 41, supra note 1.}\]

\[\text{20. "Above the titles of wife and mother, which, although dear, are transitory and}\]
changed during this time from meek and dainty to bold and defined. The day Jim finished his education and was established as a Professor in the School of Business at the University of Oklahoma was also the day that Jim dropped a law school application in Nancy's lap.

Nancy's parents and Jim were very supportive of Nancy in her pursuit of a law degree. However, Nancy did not really receive positive feedback from most people when her status as a law student was revealed. The kindest thing that was said to her was that law school would be a good hobby for Nancy once Jay was in school. The most perplexing were expressions of feeling sorry for Jay because he was in day care, or for Jim because he had to pick up Jay from day care. Nancy went to law school during the Viet Nam War, the days of the draft and the educational exemption from the draft. The most unkind statement made to Nancy was that a man was dying in Viet Nam because she was in law school.

During this era, Nancy was one of the few women attending law school. As Nancy remarks, all the women law students could meet in the women's room, and the women's room was small. "We met in the accidental, there is the title human being, which precedes and out-ranks every other." MARY LIVERMORE, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR DAUGHTERS? ch. 7 (1883), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 43, supra note 1.

21. Nancy also changes from a Republican to a Democrat. Nancy is fond of saying that she did not leave the Republican Party, the Republican Party left her.

22. "Over and over women heard in voices of tradition and Freudian sophistication that they could desire no greater destiny than to glory in their own femininity [and] to pity the neurotic, unfeminine, unhappy women who wanted to be poets or physicians or presidents." BETTY FRIEDAN, THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE, ch. 1 (1963), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 365, supra note 1.

23. Even though I attended law school after Nancy, the author still remembers the bewildered expressions on people's faces when they found out I had been accepted or was attending law school. The remarks they made included "don't you want to be a woman?" "Are you trying to be a man?" "Don't you want to find a husband and have children?" And my favorite, "you aren't one of those feminists, are you?" I really don't know if society perceived it as worse to go to law school as a single woman or as a married woman with a young son. Perhaps, it was just perceived as equally wrong or, at least, equally inappropriate.

24. Historically, ladies' rooms were very small in law schools compared to large men's rooms. This reflected the predominately male gender of the faculty and student body of law schools. As with most professional buildings of the era, the women's rooms were constructed to meet the needs of secretaries, not professors or students. At this point in time, there was only one stall in the women's room at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. When there were only 12 women (which soon dwindled to 6) in law school, this wasn't much of a problem. However, by the time Nancy graduated, OU had admitted more women in each class and 50 women with only one stall was a
women's room because we probably were not really welcome to congregate elsewhere. 25 At least they had some fun at an informal Christmas party when they drank champagne and ate sugar cookies in the woman's room with the added benefit that Nancy enjoyed her Contracts class for the first time ever following this celebration. 26 Unfortunately, Nancy's experiences while in law school mirror that of other women's. There were, of course, no women on the faculty. The Criminal Law Professor always called on Nancy for all the rape cases. Nancy, thinking two can play this game, got even when she went into his office for an individual conference and asked him to explain the difference between buggery and sodomy. 27 Although Nancy excelled at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, 28 Nancy had difficulty finding a job as she approached graduation. A job announcement on the placement bulletin board stated, "No one who can't grow a beard need apply." When Nancy applied as a trust officer, she was told that even though she was clearly the most qualified applicant, that the bank could not hire her because the little old ladies would not be comfortable dealing with a woman. Oddly, Nancy will occasionally remark today that she has never been discriminated against. 29 The aghast reader might wonder why an

problem. The women law students received a second stall only after a new Dean was appointed and his wife happened to be a law student. Women during this time (and until new buildings were built across the country) got tired of standing in line for a stall. "She climbed up the three flights of ancient, creaky stairs, reflecting that the ladies' room was in an inconvenient location because it had been added long after the building was erected. The school had been planned for men, and there were places, she had been told, where women were simply not permitted to go. It was odd. Why? she wondered. Women were so unimportant anyway, why would anyone bother to keep them out?" 30 MARILYN FRENCH, THE WOMEN'S ROOM 3 (1977). The author is referring to the "ladies' room" in Sever Hall at Harvard.

25. Professor Emeritus Marj Downing attended law school ten years prior to Professor Kenderdine. Professor Downing's husband was in law school and she was the only woman during much of her education. As Nancy remarks, Marj was treated almost as a pet in many ways while in law school. One was a pet, more than one became a threat. See, Nancy Kenderdine, A Conversation with Marj. Downing, 22 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 815, 817 (1997), wherein Professor Downing remarks that women in law school "were treated as sort of mascots, and tolerated, but not taken very seriously."


27. "What a character."

28. This is no surprise. We were at this time at least a decade away from "ordinary women" attending law school. Nancy was Order of the Coif, graduating third in her class. Number 1 was also a woman; number 2, a man. The man wrote on his resume, "Number 1 Man in the Class."

29. "One of the oddest things in life, I think, is the things one remembers." AGATHA CHRISTIE, ENDLESS NIGHT ch. 3 (1967), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 223, supra note
intelligent woman given these experiences would make such an assertion, especially a woman who will immediately fight against any form of discrimination today. In my opinion, Nancy never personalized the discrimination she confronted because all women were being treated similarly. Nancy never felt the victim of invidious discrimination\(^{30}\) because she was being treated normally for women of this era,\(^{31}\) her experiences were not atypical.\(^{32}\)

However, The University of Oklahoma College of Law recognized talent unlike the outside market. The faculty was sufficiently impressed with Nancy's performance as a law student and her abilities,\(^{33}\) that the Dean hired her as soon as she graduated in 1973. Nancy spent the next four years fine tuning her administrative talents as first Assistant Dean for Admissions and Placement, and later as the Director of Continuing Legal Education at O.U., which at the time was the only C.L.E. program in the state. Nancy also practiced law part time in Norman for a few years.\(^{34}\) She worked “just long enough to realize that if she had to continue to try and be polite to judges who didn’t properly apply the law she would soon be disbarred.”\(^{35}\) While she has the patience of Job with students, my wall can attest to the fact that she has a low tolerance for faculty and administrative B.S. Although she usually manages not to

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1. Nancy and I share a love of reading, particularly mysteries.

30. “[W]e still wonder at the stolid incapacity of all men to understand that woman feels the invidious distinctions of sex exactly as the black man does those of color, or the white man the more transient distinctions of wealth, family, position, place, and power; that she feels as keenly as man the injustice of disfranchisement.” ELIZABETH Cady Stanton with SUSAN B. ANTHONY, & MATHILDA GAGE, HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE vol. I (1881), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 26, supra note 1.

31. “For what is done or learned by one class of women, becomes, by virtue of their common womanhood, the property of all women.” ELIZABETH BLACKWELL with EMILY BLACKWELL, MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN (1860), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 45, supra note 1.

32. “I know a twenty-eight-year-old woman, a recent graduate of Harvard Business School. She asked me the other day if I wasn't afraid of what people will say if I associate with the women's movement. What she doesn't understand is that it's because of the movement and people like me that it's now not as difficult for her to make it.” BETTY MEDGGER, WOMEN AT WORK (1975) (quoting Muriel Siebert), reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN 394, supra note 1.

33. Nancy has remarked that the Dean probably had no choice. They had a top graduate who could not find a job because she was a woman and was married to a professor in the business school. Even if this was a factor in the hiring decision, I would bet it was indeed a very minor one, if one at all.

34. Nancy had a general practice, including wills, family law, and criminal law. She also has a perfect trial record. She tried one case and won.

35. “What a character.”
blow until after the fact, there are several autographed dents in my office wall from her much dented, and often thrown briefcase.\textsuperscript{36} I must admit that I was somewhat relieved when Nancy decided that discretion dictated that she should switch to a soft-sided briefcase.

While at O.U., Nancy was also an Adjunct Professor and recognized for the first time her true calling in life, teaching. Nancy’s love of teaching led her to accept a professorial position at O.C.U. in 1977.\textsuperscript{37} Professors Creel, Coulson, and Arrow have previously described Professor Kenderdine’s varied contributions to the School of Law, in both administration and academics, her teaching excellence, her role in faculty governance, and the sense of loss the faculty will feel when Nancy is no longer our colleague. Additionally, Nancy’s mentoring days are drawing to an end.

Nancy Kenderdine was my mentor, and I really don’t know if Nancy chose me as her student or I chose her as my mentor or whether the mentorship simply evolved. Regardless, I learned much of what I know about legal education from a master. Nancy taught me about faculty autonomy, academic quality, law school curriculum, developing courses, classroom techniques, techniques for dealing with students (including when to say “yes” and when to say “no”), and approaches to testing and grading. Hopefully, her teaching expertise is reflected to some degree by my performance in the classroom and her philosophy about legal education will survive her retirement by my continued presence on the faculty. Our relationship perhaps changed from mentor/student to one with more parity when I first discovered that Nancy was not always right.

This epiphany occurred when Nancy almost caused a law student to be imprisoned in a Mexican jail. I served as Nancy’s Associate Dean while Nancy was Acting Dean.\textsuperscript{38} Nancy is simply a brutally efficient

\textsuperscript{36} Nancy has a good arm on her. I was always amazed by the force with which her briefcase would hit my wall. I am also very glad I never made Nancy really mad.

\textsuperscript{37} Unfortunately, I graduated before Nancy joined the faculty and I regret never experiencing Nancy as a Professor. However, I knew her prior to joining the faculty by reputation. I was told by friends who had the privilege of being in her class that she was terrific and “a character.”

\textsuperscript{38} We soon learned that a unique problem was created by having two women in the Dean’s office. Service in the Dean’s office requires attendance at many university and bar functions. Two female deans were unusual and we tended to stand out in a crowd. At this time, professional attire for women consisted of a black, navy, brown or gray suit or a navy blazer with a khaki skirt or khaki blazer with navy skirt. After showing up at several functions with basically the same outfit (for example, we would both have on our navy suits or we would both have on brown suits), we learned to call each other the night.
and I probably resembled a sponge soaking up information about legal education under her tutelage. One day, a graduating evening student needed help with a simple problem. He had to go on a business trip to Mexico during registration and could not graduate unless he got specific courses in the evening division. Although he had registration priority as a graduating student, he would lose that priority if he was not present during registration. We arranged his registration even though he was going to be in Mexico. The appreciative student asked what he could do to thank us and Nancy replied, “Bring us some absinthe from Mexico.” As soon as the student left, I asked Nancy what she had asked the student to bring back from Mexico. Nancy replied, “Absinthe. Everybody knows what that is.” It is a drink that was banned in the U.S. and most other countries because it allegedly caused hallucinations and blindness. You are just too young and not from the 60’s, but the student knew I was just kidding.” Famous last words. The following week, the student returns to the Dean’s office and his first exclamation to Nancy was “you almost got me thrown in a Mexican jail! Did you know that stuff was illegal?” Nancy’s horrified response, “Oh no! You didn’t really try to buy some, did you?” The innocent student, trying to comply with a request from the Dean, had in fact gone into a liquor store and requested “absinthe.” Nancy was much relieved that the innocent student had found an honest clerk who refused to sell him absinthe and also told our innocent student that he shouldn’t ask for it again because he would be arrested trying to get back across the border. Even after this experience, this very nice student still brought back two bottles of tequila, complete with worms, for the two deans who had performed this “favor” for him. Of course, Nancy apologized before a function so we wouldn’t show up looking like the “bobsie twins.”

39. When Nancy returned to the Dean’s office as Associate Dean in 1997-1999, Nancy was on the Dean’s Committee that arranged for President Walker to retire from the University. Nancy is very proud of the work she performed on this Committee.

40. Note the contradiction. I was somebody and Nancy always treated me like somebody, yet her statement was “everybody knew.” As an intelligent person, Nancy, as many intelligent people do, occasionally assumes everyone knows what she knows.

41. I assumed “enquiring minds would want to know” if Nancy ever indulged in absinthe. Her e-mail response to my inquiry was, as follows: “Nope. It was outlawed before my time . . . but we all knew about it because Ernest Hemingway and several other well known authors of the day were big users and it was talked about in the underground literature of the time. This was, after all, the hallucinogenic 60’s when you could order peyote buds from Smith’s Cactus Farm in Texas.” No comment, other than “what a character.”
profusely to the student. Then, Nancy turned to me when the student left and said “oops!”

This experience gave me two things: a bottle of tequila and the knowledge that Nancy was not always right. Instead of blindly accepting anything Nancy said as gospel, I begin to question and argue. Through the years to come, Nancy and I have probably discussed and argued about almost every issue involving legal education and current affairs. Hopefully, Nancy has gained some insight from me as I have continued to learn from her. Of course, Nancy and I were always friends.

Nancy and I have seen each other through the most difficult times of our lives and have shared in each other’s happiness. Simply stated, life doesn’t provide many friends like Nancy. My friendship with Nancy has also provided me with some unique insight into her personality.

42. “Oops”, Kenderdine? With all due respect, the author thought this was a slight understatement at the time.

43. Sometimes the faculty believes that Nancy and I agree on everything. That is not true. We do tend to think alike on many issues and if at times we tend to present a united front (called by one administrator, “a conspiracy of women”), it is because we have already “fought it out” to reach a consensus. If the faculty could overhear our discussions, the faculty would soon be divested of the idea that we always agree or that I always agree with Nancy. Interestingly, Nancy and I have often wondered why in the past we were always scheduled to teach on different days. Was this just happenstance or did the thought of Nancy and I conspiring together cause some past administrators to schedule us on opposite days?

44. Our friendship began immediately when I joined the faculty. Our bonding as friends resulted, in part, in sharing common experiences in dealing with a predominately male world. For example, our male colleagues really didn’t want to hear about how a male administrator would constantly rearrange himself whenever he talked with Nancy or me. Decorum prevents me from revealing our nickname for this administrator.

45. Nancy and I were divorced around the same time. People tend to get close when they go through a divorce concurrently. Thanks, Nancy, for all the support, advice, and guidance you have given me through the years. Probably the darkest days of Nancy’s life were those immediately prior to and following her divorce from Jim.

46. Thanks for the baby shower, Nancy (of course, the baby shower followed Emily Post guidelines). Thanks for having Jenny there (Nancy arranged for my brother’s widow to be a surprise guest at the shower). The happiest I have ever seen Nancy was the day she bought her two-seat sports car. After her divorce, Nancy indulged in her fantasy of owning a sports car and purchased a small two-seat red sports car with no trunk (why, after all, would a single woman need a trunk?). Nancy never stopped grinning as we test drove her new car. Finally, we stopped for dinner when I noticed an electronics store next door to the restaurant and told Nancy I needed a new stereo. Following dinner, Nancy helped me select my new stereo. Shortly thereafter, people driving through the parking lot probably wondered why two women holding boxes of stereo equipment where laughing outside a red two-seat sports car. I now have great empathy for those college freshmen who use to cram themselves into phone-booths.
Never suggest to Nancy to do something unless you are willing to follow through with the suggestion.\(^{47}\) One year, I was trying to convince Nancy to attend the faculty grid-iron. We were both reluctant to attend the faculty roast hosted by the student bar association,\(^{48}\) but I was still trying to come up with various arguments to get her to make an appearance. Finally, Nancy said, “I’m not going. I have nothing to wear.” This was not a silly concern. Few professional women kept semi-formal gowns in their closets. I responded, “Fine, we can go rent costumes.” Nancy inquired what type costumes and I said (without thinking,\(^{49}\) I might add), “gorilla suits.” Nancy eyes lit up and she said she had always wanted to wear a gorilla suit.\(^{50}\) That is how a week later we found ourselves dressed in full gorilla suits in the parking lot of the Civic Center wondering how we were going to get to the grid-iron on the second floor when we had to go through a religious revival that was (unbeknownst to us when we made our plans) being hosted on the first floor. The answer is, you walk through the religious revival like you own the place with gorilla heads held proud. The two gorillas did enjoy the grid-iron. However, some students were upset that Nancy was portrayed as a gorilla inasmuch as a gorilla stood up when Professor Kenderdine’s name was called during the presentation of the faculty.\(^{51}\)

Another aspect of Nancy’s personality is that she will accomplish whatever she sets as her goal and will rarely quit until that goal is reached.\(^{52}\) Nancy is a strong-willed person who will get the job done.

\(^{47}\) For example, at one time O.C.U. was in financial trouble and there was an unsubstantiated rumor that the law school was going to become an extension of O.U. I told Nancy that we should let people know that the faculty didn’t like the idea. That afternoon, I found myself with Nancy purchasing bumper stickers saying “Better Dead Than Red.”

\(^{48}\) At this affair, the students would put on skits to roast the faculty. The problem was the students could think of nothing funny to do regarding the female professors other than portray us as prostitutes. It wasn’t funny. Nancy was always the prostitute with the John Wayne walk. Nancy does have a kinda feminine John Wayne stroll because she suffered a slight case of polio as a child.

\(^{49}\) We all do “non-think” things. The author is reminded of the children’s book where Daisy-Head Mayzie signed her contract with “non-think ink” with disastrous consequences resulting. Dr. Seuss, Daisy-Head Mayzie (1994) (Daisy “signed her name in think-proof ink.”).

\(^{50}\) The author thought, “oh s___t.”

\(^{51}\) Two years later, we made a repeat performance when we dressed in Easter bunny in tuxedoes costumes for a grid-iron that was scheduled on the Saturday night before Easter. Our expert opinion is that the gorilla suits are hotter, but they are also a lot more fun than Easter bunny outfits.

\(^{52}\) It is curious that the only thing that Nancy has failed to accomplish when she set
For example, Nancy will continue to play the same game of “Roof Rats” or “Free Cell” over and over again until she wins the game. Nancy is a terribly self-confident person: it never occurs to Nancy that she won’t succeed. When Nancy was Interim Dean she observed a man going up the stairs carrying a rifle. Remembering the “Texas Tower” incident, Nancy chased after the man who was rather surprised because he was a professor in the education department and was just going upstairs to show a friend his antique rifle. But, the point is that the thought never occurred to Nancy that she wouldn’t be able to single-handedly bring down an armed gunman. However, this author remains perplexed about one aspect of Nancy’s personality. I will never understand, given her fine analytical mind, why Nancy will bypass perfectly good “Black Jack” tables in Vegas to play the slots.

Nancy will now be able to play the slots more often when she retires from Oklahoma City University. Nancy retire? I doubt it. Nancy will never retire; Nancy has simply conquered legal education and has decided to move on with her life, but she will undoubtedly set new goals for herself, although those goals may be currently unknown. Nancy will clearly have more time to spend with her two dogs and the highlight of her life, her grandson, Adam Lee Kenderdine. I am also sure that Nancy will occasionally miss the classroom experience and that the law school will miss her presence. Oklahoma City University will suffer a big loss.

a goal is reflected in her many attempts to stop smoking. Nancy became addicted to cigarettes when she attended Duke. The cigarette manufactures would leave free samples of their products on the pillows in the dorms while breakfast was being served. Nancy has tried various things through the years to quit smoking. Nancy describes herself as cheap. She bet a friend that she would quit smoking or she would pay the friend $1,000. Nancy figured that the thought of paying out a thousand bucks would get her to quit. Nancy paid the thousand. It is indeed a scary thought (to the author as a similarly addicted person) that cigarette addiction is more powerful than Nancy’s willpower.

53. Nancy and I share the same fondness for certain types of computer games. She has probably taken my name in vain more than once since I gave her “Zoo Tycoon.”
54. “What a character.”
55. Go figure.
56. When I asked Nancy what she was going to do when she retired, she responded, “something else.” When I asked her who I was going to confide in when she left the faculty, she said “someone else.” “What a character.”
57. Nancy loves dogs. Her two dogs at present are Whitney, a black and white runt miniature schnauzer, and Rocket, a 120-pound giant schnauzer and fence-jumper black lab mix. Rocket is the funniest looking dog in the world. This animal has a lab body with a huge schnauzer head. No offense Nancy, but Rocket looks like a genetic mutant.
58. A conservative estimate from the Dean’s office is that Professor Kenderdine has educated approximately 8,000 lawyers.
with Nancy’s retirement and I will miss her as a colleague, but fortunately I will not have to miss her as a friend. I know Nancy as a very special person, a person for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration. Upon her retirement, I will attempt to assure that Nancy’s knowledge of legal education will survive through my continued presence on the faculty and I will also attempt to assume Nancy’s role as the occasionally necessary proverbial thorn in the faculty’s side.59 However, unlike the rest of the O.C.U. family, who will be saying good-bye to Nancy upon her retirement, I am very privileged to simply say, “See you around, Kenderdine.”

59. “I have spent many years of my life in opposition and I rather like the role.” JOSEPH P. LASH, ELEANOR: THE YEARS ALONE 194 (1972) (quoting letter to Bernard Baruch from Eleanor Roosevelt written November 18, 1952) reprinted in QUOTABLE WOMAN, supra note 1. For example, my position will be that this article is a contribution to legal scholarship in the area of woman and the law and should be placed on the publication list. What do you think, Kenderdine? After all, it has cites and everything. Professor Arrow, as self-appointed keeper of the pubs list, will likely disagree. I will ask for it to be placed on the pubs list; he will remove it. I’ll put it back on; he will remove it, etc. This debate will most likely be resolved by who retires first.