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Elizabeth M. Scheib

John J. Sciallo

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Elizabeth M. Scheib

*John J. Sciullo**

It is, I think, no exaggeration, to say that in any law school the influence of the law librarian is as far-reaching and as decisive as that of any other faculty member. For good or ill, that influence will operate to expend or contract the horizons of all who use the vital library facility. Even though we know of law libraries that are evaluated solely on the number of volumes in them without regard to the accessibility of those books to the users, or to the diversity of the collection, we tend to take for granted the law library which is functionally structured and yet creatively enriched. But such a library is most emphatically the end product of the care, attention and often wrenching decisions of a concerned law librarian.

Professor Elizabeth Scheib has had to satisfy over the period of her tenure as law librarian, not only the usual constituencies of students and faculty, but to an unusual degree has been required to respond to the demands of the community of practitioners who make heavy use of the Duquesne Law Library. Within the ever-present budgetary and space confines which are the lot of the librarian, she has excelled at creating and developing a resource which has served the wide-ranging and sometimes disparate demands made upon it.

But if this is tribute, and deserved tribute, it fails to do justice to one who gave the School a crucial cohesiveness during the period after Dean Brophy's death. Her service to the Law School spans, alone of those now on the faculty, the era of the "night school" Duquesne and the present-day enlarged and enriched two-division law school.

In addition, Betty Scheib is a lawyer, and her commitment to the law still forces her to keep current with the legal issues of our present society. But if there is an area of the law which she truly loves, it is property. Property lawyers understand that our system of property ownership has been a millennium in the making. From the Norman Conquest to the present, the process of change has been one of evolution, not revolution. Miss Scheib understands that kind of

* Associate Dean, Duquesne University School of Law.

development but she also recognizes that some of the differences of the common law are analytically irrational, and only from a historical viewpoint explicable. She is a true property lawyer.

And yet the human dimension, the unfailing good humor and the constant willingness to expand her awareness of developing areas of the law to accommodate the requirements of differently oriented faculty members is the quality which leaves the strongest impression on Betty's colleagues. If we expect competence, and that is not a word I use lightly, we treasure the gracious friend.

If it is not presumptuous, we, the faculty of Duquesne Law School, wish to thank Professor Elizabeth Scheib for a task superbly performed and the warmth of a friendship so long enjoyed.