

# Joyce Ann Harpole Remembered: *An Inspiration*

By Henry Kantor '79 and Arminda Ferris '79

When we first thought about writing an article about our classmate Joyce Harpole, what came to our minds were words more than phrases. We remember Joyce's quiet intellect, unassuming insight, and pleasant gentleness as a law student. These attributes were transformed into devastating logic, careful analysis, and warm professionalism as a lawyer. We welcome the opportunity to tell you a little about her.

Joyce was part of the class of 1979, graduating first in the class. Okay, we're not impartial, but the class of 1979 really was extraordinary. Ask any one of us. We produced great lawyers, more than our share of judges and, most important, lasting friendships and associations based on very positive shared experiences.

In law school, Joyce managed to have a different life than many of her classmates. While we worried and crammed in the wee hours before an important exam, Joyce had a more civilized and relaxed approach: She would fix a nice dinner to share with her husband and then take a long, hot bath with candles burning around the edge of the tub. When she told us about her pre-exam evening, Joyce would sound calm and nonjudgmental.

It was pretty clear that Joyce was the smartest and most capable student in our class. That didn't mean she volunteered to answer every question (although she could have). When it was her turn to answer one of Professor Brunet's puzzlers, for example, Joyce would respond completely, accurately, and sensibly with words that enriched the rest of us. Sometimes we wondered why she didn't attempt to answer more questions, just so we could share her insights.

Somehow, we knew that Joyce would go on to Stoel Rives (as it is now called) and become an extraordinary lawyer. One of us had the chance to watch Joyce appear in court from the perspective of judicial clerk. The other had a different angle—as Joyce's adversary in several cases. The effect was more or less the same. (Arminda was amused to watch Joyce take apart the other lawyers' arguments so gently and painlessly. Henry, on the other hand, was not quite so amused when it was his turn to be taken apart.) Joyce was always prepared, organized, direct, practical, and considerate. She won on nearly every issue nearly every time. Her clients received superb representation, even when she realized her client needed to settle. Her partners valued her. Her fellow lawyers, on both sides, respected her.

Joyce died in 1994, leaving behind loving family, many friends, grateful partners, appreciative clients, and admiring colleagues. Her passing inspired a few of her classmates (anonymously known as the Harpole Committee) to try to do something to remember Joyce. The committee also had the welcome support of her firm. This effort became the Joyce Ann Harpole Memorial Scholarship, the Joyce Ann Harpole Award, and the Joyce Ann Harpole Lecture. Through each of these initiatives, the finer memories of Joyce are captured and preserved.

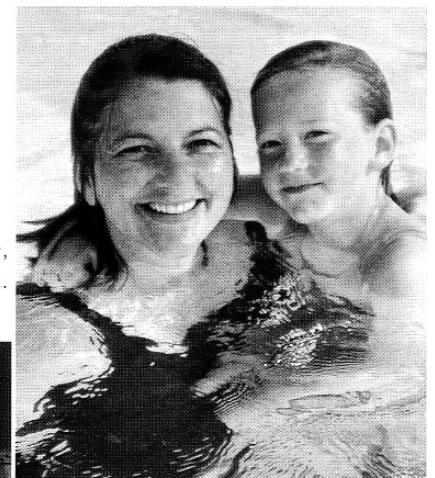
The scholarship has been given for four years to a worthy second-year student to help pay for his or her third year of law school. The award has been presented to such leading Oregon

lawyers as Ken Lerner, Linda Love, and Bill Van Atta. The lecture has covered such practical subjects as the culture of law firms, "real" legal ethics, how to be an ethical prosecutor, the balance between personal and professional lives, along with programs titled "Integrity Is More than Honesty: Being Whole," "Paper Training Puppy Lawyers," and "How Can You Defend Those Kinds of People?"

On October 5, the Law School hosted the 2001 Joyce Ann Harpole Lecture and Awards. The subject was "Dealing With the Difficult Client," which featured several distinguished speakers and panelists. After the lecture, the award was presented to Nancy Tauman '78, and the scholarship went to Sonya Fischer '02. (For more details on this extremely well-attended event, watch for the winter 2002 issue of the *Advocate Abridged*.)

While we miss Joyce, we remember her with these words and the inspiration she gave to us. Please join us in honoring Joyce's memory by supporting our Law School; its students and graduates; and the scholarship, award, and lecture in her name.

*Henry Kantor practiced law in Portland and is now a circuit court judge. Arminda Ferris practiced law in both Portland and Medford and is now a combination of a part-time pro-tem circuit court judge, a part-time business owner, and a part-time travel pro.*



Joyce Harpole with her daughter,  
Jessica.

