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Memorial: Yvonne Jeannette Chandler (1957–2020): Mentor

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they could rely on her for a glowing recommendation letter, wise counsel, or an entertaining evening out on the town during one of the impressive array of law library conferences she attended.

¶27 I last saw Dr. Chandler at the 2016 SWALL-SEAALL Joint Meeting in Dallas. I had planned on grabbing a quick breakfast at the hotel one morning before attending the day's slate of meetings. As it happened, the restaurant hostess directed me to a table immediately beside Dr. Chandler. I was shocked to see that she was sitting alone, as I seldom saw her anywhere without at least two or three others in her entourage; she nearly always had a huge following everywhere she went. Capitalizing on this unique opportunity, I quickly joined her at the table, and we proceeded to chat, catch up, and laugh for well over an hour.

¶28 I was recently reminded of what a stellar person Dr. Chandler was when my colleague at Baylor Law, Professor Matt Cordon, stated that she was the best mentor he ever had. Upon learning of Dr. Chandler's passing in August, Matt shared with me an email that he had received from her in July 2017. She had invited Matt to the HALL/DALL/SWALL/UNT Alumni Reception at the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting in Austin. Matt thanked her for the invitation and replied that he was not planning on attending the Annual Meeting that year, as he had become a "defector" and had shifted his focus away from librarianship and toward legal writing and had become the director of the Legal Writing Center at Baylor. In typical Dr. Chandler fashion, her response to Matt was as follows:

You will always be my graduate. I'm so proud of you and everything you have accomplished since the day we met when you were studying for the bar exam. Congratulations, and remember you will always be mine, and I'm going to keep you on the list so that you can know everything we are doing at the University of North Texas.

¶29 That email exchange sums up the way I will always remember Dr. Chandler. I consider it a rare privilege to have been her friend, and I trust that many hundreds of others share the same sentiment.—*Brandon D. Quarles*⁵

"Mentor"*

¶30 Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler, also known as Bonnie or Dr. C to many, was a phenomenal professor and law librarian. She had passion beyond belief for the library and information science profession, specifically law librarianship and legal informatics. Dr. Chandler provided endless advice, support, and dedication to our profession. She was a respected member of the law librarian community for 40 years, and known for her boundless energy and passion. In 2020, Dr. Chandler was awarded the American

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Association of Law Libraries' highest honor, the Mariam Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award. As a graduate of Clark College in Atlanta, Yvonne earned her master of science in library science from Atlanta University and a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Michigan. She served as president of the Texas Library Association, the largest state library association in the United States, from 2013–2014, and was selected to serve on the External Advisory Board for the University of Michigan.

¶31 For 27 years, Dr. Chandler was employed with the University of North Texas (UNT) as a professor in the Department of Information Science in the College of Information. She was responsible for teaching with the iSchool courses around information access and retrieval, government information, and legal/law librarianship. Due to her commitment to law librarianship, she developed and expanded the University of North Texas, Department of Information Science Law Librarianship Program, from which more than 150 law librarians across the nation have graduated, including me. As program director of the Nevada/Utah, Los Angeles, SWIM, LEAP II, NoCAL, Lubbock, and ELMS cohort programs, she also advised students and assisted them with job placement. Her efforts at UNT did not go unnoticed as she received several Institute of Museum and Library Services grants to support and help more than 300 master's degree students obtain their degrees.

¶32 From my professor to mentor to peer and colleague, we had almost 18 years of learning and laughing together. When I first met Dr. C, it was a fall day in 2002 in Las Vegas. I was in the front row at the University of Nevada–Las Vegas, ready to start my master's degree in library science with the University of North Texas in the first Nevada cohort. I remember the day like it was yesterday. She walked into the room with all smiles in a neon pink dress. I immediately knew we would instantly connect. Each time she was in Vegas, I would text and call her and swing by to pick her up no matter where she was! As I credited in *Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries* (2006, p. 142), Dr. Chandler was one of the most influential mentors in my career. If it weren't for our continued communications even 1400 miles away, my courage to leave my home, and my determination to grow within the field, I would never have moved to Texas or grown to be where I am today.

¶33 I had the distinct privilege of working with Dr. Chandler at the University of North Texas from 2009–2015, and boy did we have a ball! The first course I taught at UNT was her INFO 5366 Law Library Management course while she was on sabbatical. It helped me to get an insider look from the Dr. C perspective (even though I had taken that class years before as one of her students). The peer relationship was natural, and our dual desires to promote law librarianship and support diversity were instrumental in our becoming closer. We stuck together like two peas in a pod. She was always a mother to me: a caring mother, a dear friend, a supportive peer. We always worked hard so we could play hard, and we enjoyed our deserved time sightseeing and eating after work at conferences. We held advising sessions together for the Nevada and California cohorts, where she conducted advising and I reviewed the internship and practicum

opportunities. We often roomed together at conferences, watched endless television shows, and graded until the wee hours. I will most miss her smile, her encouragement, and all the wonderful things we shared with one another. There is another angel watching over us, cheering us along and supporting us as we continue her work and cherish her legacy within library and information science, law librarianship, and diversity.
—*Michele A. L. Villagran*⁶

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