

MARY S. LAWRENCE

Director of Legal Research and Writing
University of Oregon 1978 - 2000

Linda H. Edwards

Mary Lawrence served as the Director of Legal Research and Writing at the University of Oregon for 22 years. In 1949, Mary began her post-secondary education in her native Scotland, at the University of St. Andrews, where she was honored as an English Medallist. In 1960 and 1962, respectively, she received her B.A. and M.A. in English from Michigan State University.

During the next twelve years, Mary established a national reputation as a scholar and teacher in the fields of English and English as a Second Language. She taught at Ohio University, the University of Pittsburgh, St. Mary's College, and the University of Michigan. Her book, *Writing As A Thinking Process*,¹ now in its second edition, was a groundbreaking text for students studying English as a second language.

Then in 1977, Mary earned her J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law. Not willing to let her go, the Dean asked her to teach Legal Writing that next Fall, and thus began Mary's second teaching career. In 1978, she was appointed Assistant Professor and Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at Oregon. Under Mary's leadership, Oregon became one of the first law schools in the nation to hire full-time law graduates to teach Legal Writing. During her years as Director, Mary earned the Orlando John Hollis Award for Outstanding Teaching, and she published three books, numerous articles, and several instructional videotapes. She served on nearly every Law School committee and on many University-wide committees. In 1996, the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research presented Mary with its Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession.

Mary was a founding member of the Legal Writing Institute and the Association of Legal Writing Directors. She has held every standing office in the AALS section, and she has chaired numerous planning committees for Section programs and workshops. The list of Mary's national presentations on Legal Writing covers three

¹ Mary S. Lawrence, *Writing As a Thinking Process* (2d ed., U. of Mich. Press 1996).

pages. She has served on the Legal Writing Advisory Committee of the Law School Admission Council and the Committee on Appellate Practice of the American Bar Association Appellate Judges Conference. She is a member of Scribes, and she serves on the Editorial Board of Perspectives.

When Mary retired last year as Oregon's Director, the school endowed a scholarship in her name and announced plans to hold a Legal Writing Symposium in her honor. Despite the minor detail of her retirement, Mary continues her contributions to the field of Legal Writing. She remains active at the University of Oregon Law School, working with upper-level law students on their writing portfolios and preparing material for pre-law students who are non-native speakers. She is presently working on two books, *How to Read and Analyze the Law*, forthcoming from LEXIS Publishing in 2001, and *Legal Research Guide: Strategies and Practice* (both with Paul Beneke). She has undertaken a study to identify the skills judges and law firms expect from their law clerks and associates. She continues her service on the Editorial Board of Perspectives and her active involvement with all of the national Legal Writing organizations. Most important of all, she continues to be a mentor to many Legal Writing teachers across the nation.

On July 20, 2000, the Association of Legal Writing Directors made Mary the first recipient of the Rombauer Award. The award salutes a person who has contributed significantly to the field of Legal Writing (1) by education about the importance of Legal Writing; (2) by published scholarship that advances the teaching of Legal Writing and the understanding of its underlying principles; (3) by contributions to national Legal Writing organizations; (4) by contributions to individual Legal Writing programs; and (5) by efforts to improve the status of Legal Writing faculty. These criteria certainly describe Mary's illustrious career, and the Association is proud to recognize her lifetime of achievement.

TO MARY LAWRENCE

On the Occasion of her Receipt of the Rombauer Award

[Speech by Linda H. Edwards on July 20, 2000, at the Legal Writing Institute Conference at Seattle University]

Mary, I want to talk to you tonight instead of *about* you. And I

talk to you on behalf of every person in this room and the many in our discipline across the nation who could not be here tonight -- for in one way or another, you have been a friend, teacher, and mentor to every one of us. You have embodied for us the best and most beautiful aspects of your Celtic tradition, and tonight we want to thank you especially for two of these.

First, we want to thank you for being for so many of us our Anam Cara, our Soul Friend. Scotland's Celtic tradition teaches us that each of us needs an Anam Cara, someone who will stand beside us over the long years, and who can call forth from each of us, through all the joys and sorrows along the way, our very best selves.

You have been an Anam Cara for so many Legal Writing teachers through the years -- for your fellow early pioneers, who, along with you, banded together to do the foundational work that has had such a profound effect on the study of Legal Writing and on the lives of those who teach it.

-- and for those of us who came later, whom you have welcomed so generously into the community. One who has been blessed by your Anam Cara friendship is more truly and fully herself for having known you. Tonight we thank you for giving us the priceless gift of ourselves.

Second, we thank you for embodying for us the wisdom of the Celtic Knot. The Celtic Knot has no beginning and no end. It shows us that everyone is connected to everyone else, and that tears in the fabric of the community wound and weaken us all.

You have taught us this truth. You have inspired us to keep our connections to each other strong, and to value our diverse talents and projects, for more than anything else, it is our connections to and our support of each other that will define our future.

And it is in our connections to each other that our discipline finds its best and truest self. So by teaching us to keep our connections strong, you have been an Anam Cara for our whole discipline. You have drawn forth the best of who we are collectively, our discipline's best and truest self.

Today, as our discipline is growing in so many directions, we need to remember your teaching more than ever. Mary, we want you to know that we have heard you. We promise you that we will not forget your example and good counsel. We will continue to respect each other, support each other, and value each other's efforts on behalf of our students and our discipline --

-- but only if you promise that you'll continue to be our Anam Cara, our Soul Friend, for many years to come.