

Saint Louis University Law Journal

Volume 44
Number 3 (*Summer 2000*)

Article 3

7-20-2000

Eileen H. Searls Dedication

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Recommended Citation

Jeffrey E. Lewis, *Eileen H. Searls Dedication*, 44 St. Louis U. L.J. (2000).

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.slu.edu/lj/vol44/iss3/3>

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TRIBUTES

EILEEN H. SEARLS DEDICATION

JEFFREY E. LEWIS*

Few are born to the life of academia and even fewer become synonymous with an academic institution. Eileen Haughey Searls has the distinction of living both of these dreams.

Born the daughter of a university professor, Eileen's childhood centered around the University of Wisconsin and its surroundings. Collegiality became the foundation of her personality and service to the academy—the entire academy—became a lifelong habit. It is no coincidence that Eileen chose the academic life.

In 1952, the Law Library holdings included 23,000 volumes. To date, the holdings include over 500,000 volumes and volume equivalents. It is through Eileen's diligence and guidance that new and advanced technologies are as ubiquitous to the Library as statute books, law journals, and the Library of Congress cataloging system. Eileen pioneered the use of a facsimile machine to obtain material needed for her collections.

Today, as in 1952, Eileen's library is more about the people at Saint Louis University School of Law than it is about books and computers. Her former assistants manage their own law libraries throughout the country. Her former student workers include deans, judges, community leaders, and practicing lawyers. The common link is that of Eileen's guidance and direction, as well as her love of knowledge through books.

For many years, the library budget was spare. Consequently, Eileen overcame budgetary hurdles through her numerous trips to the Library of Congress in search of the duplicates she shipped back to Saint Louis

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University. Foreign law collections have prospered as well under Eileen's direction as a direct result of her exchange agreements with law libraries around the world. She was the founder of several law library consortia, assisting in the development of many libraries as well as our own.

Major awards have been bestowed upon Eileen Haughey Searls in recognition of her many achievements. She was Saint Louis University Woman of the Year in 1988. Most recently, she was awarded the prestigious Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries in 1999.

The name of "Eileen Searls" is synonymous with "Saint Louis University School of Law Library." Her span of forty-eight years of leadership and dedication will remain with us indefinitely. It is hard to imagine the School without her. It is harder still to imagine anyone more deserving of a wonderful and prosperous retirement.

Eileen Haughey Searls will continue to be the embodiment of the professional values we cherish here at Saint Louis University School of Law. These professional values will carry us into the next millennium as we train the future lawyers of the nation. This issue of the *Saint Louis University Law Journal* is dedicated to you, Eileen—with all of our best wishes for a wonderful retirement!