

11-1-2022

MacMillan Law Library Creates Elle "Haunted" Woods Scarecrow

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Recommended Citation

Rodgers, S. (2022). MacMillan Law Library Creates Elle "Haunted" Woods Scarecrow. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 59(4). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol59/iss4/16>

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MacMillan Law Library Creates Elle "Haunted" Woods Scarecrow

The Atlanta Botanical Garden is celebrating the 20th anniversary of [Scarecrows in the Garden](#), and this year, the MacMillan Law Library decided to throw its hat in the ring.

Scarecrows in the Garden is an annual event that allows families, groups, artists, and other members of the public to bring in handcrafted scarecrows and put them on display in the garden. MacMillan's Head of Access Services Kristi Tanner has wanted to create a scarecrow on the library's behalf for several years. "Ever since I found out about the event, I thought that it would be a great way to connect the public to our library. The garden has had some fantastic displays in the past, and I was convinced that my staff could pull it off. And this year, we did."

Deciding after whom the scarecrow would be modeled was difficult. While several great ideas were floated, including building Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* (to be named "Somewhere Over the Raincrow"), staff members eventually settled on Elle Woods from *Legally Blonde*. At Emory Law, Reese Witherspoon's famous character is not only iconic but also extremely popular among the students.

Access services staff members constructed Elle "Haunted" Woods in two weeks using a skeleton, thrifted clothes, tree branches from a librarian's yard, and other accessories. They strove to include as much pink as physically possible, right down to the fingernails that were glued onto her skeletal hands. The tree branches were used as a backdrop as she sat down and studied on a flowering stump, complete with fake bugs strewn throughout her spiderwebs and clothing. Her pink purse contains a "Boo" Book (a play on the Blue Book that our law students use during their studies).



Elle "Haunted" Woods Scarecrow

And of course, staff members could not leave behind her trusty skeleton dog Bruiser.

In the interest of durability, all her clothes (and her famous golden locks) were waterproofed. Fishing wire, glue, and other materials were used to secure her to her stump and help her sit

up, and staff members were careful not to exceed the 50-pound weight limit.

While designing Elle was meant to be a fun outreach initiative, it also turned out to be an excellent team building exercise. Daniel Goss, access services desk supervisor, noted:

We really saw how well we work together, especially in a creative and collaborative sphere. You really learn how people deal with stress when you're combing out a tangled blonde wig for the fifth time in less than ten minutes. You end up bonding over things like the struggle to nail a branch to a stool and make it stay.

Even outside of the access services department, other library staff members were kept abreast of the project's progress and made helpful suggestions and would come by the access services offices to see Elle. The hope is that we will have a similar effect on the public, who are not really aware of MacMillan Law Library and what we do.

Elle will be available to view in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens from October 1st-October 30th. If you go and visit her, be sure to snap a pic and tag **@macmlawlib** on Instagram.

Sarah Rodgers is the librarian for outreach and programming at Emory University School of Law