

Tulsa Law Review

Volume 38
Issue 4 *The Scholarship of Sanford Levinson*

Summer 2003

In Memoriam: Ann Dooley

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Recommended Citation

In Memoriam: Ann Dooley, 38 Tulsa L. Rev. xi (2013).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.utulsa.edu/tlr/vol38/iss4/12>

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IN MEMORIAM

The Editorial Board of Volume Thirty-Eight would like to respectfully dedicate this issue of the Tulsa Law Review to the memory of Ann Dooley. Ann served as Editor-in-Chief for Volume Twenty-Seven before joining the United States Attorney's Office in Tulsa as a prosecutor assigned to cases in Indian country. She is remembered by those who knew her for her warmth, generosity, superb lawyering, and unswerving ethics. She died in September 2002 as the result of a tragic accident. She will be greatly missed.

A TRIBUTE TO ANN DOOLEY

Whenever I think back on my early years as Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention Services (“DVIS”), Ann Dooley was always there. What stands out more than anything is that I can’t remember Ann ever saying “No.” At times, when we would think how we could get something accomplished, from serving as Chair of the DVIS Silent Auction Picnic Fundraiser, to catering an Open House, I knew I could ask Ann and I became fairly certain she would say “Yes.” Maybe in her heart she knew I wouldn’t have asked if I hadn’t been desperate. And in those early years, fundraising and keeping costs down was a primary objective. The funny thing is that Ann never seemed taken aback or burdened by my requests. I can see her smiling; responding as if she was flattered to help, and I truly believe she was.

I know that Ann made the decision to go to law school based on her experience as a Junior League volunteer with DVIS. Following her three years at law school, she became a much more active board member. She impressed the board members as well by her “can do” approach to board related tasks and activities. Ann’s knowledge of the law became extremely important in the early 1990s as staff, the board, and the community began to question the high number of domestic violence related homicides that were occurring. DVIS began cataloguing those homicides in late 1992, and we began the difficult process of reforming our community wide response to domestic violence in late 1993. Ann was President-Elect of the DVIS Board at that time, and took over as President of the Board a year later in 1994.

At that time, we felt victims of domestic violence were falling through the many cracks in the system, and DVIS felt there wasn’t a strong enough response from the various city and county officials who were in positions to create the changes that were needed. It was a very difficult year, and I remember Ann giving both DVIS and me so much of her time. We were in the media daily, and Ann was always ready to strategize our most effective approach or offer support and words of encouragement. Her legal knowledge led me to push for policy reforms, which prior to her involvement, we believed needed a

legislative solution. Even when I was at my wits end, Ann would present an angle to the problem I hadn't viewed—which helped to move our agenda along.

Ann Dooley was President of the DVIS Board when then Chief of Police, Ron Palmer, began the first Family Violence Unit in the Tulsa Police Department's history. Ann was also President when the District Attorney, Chief of Police, and I went to San Diego to see their system of protection and made the commitment to bring that system back to Tulsa. And Ann was President when the courts established Tulsa County's first dedicated domestic violence protective order docket. I remember that when her term was over, the next board president felt so inadequate to fill her shoes.

Ann Dooley's passing is a loss for everyone. But I am working hard at incorporating all I learned from Ann, without her knowing she was teaching me, to make myself a better person. Currently, I am committed to documenting DVIS's history, in hopes that the contributions of Ann and others who gave of their time, energy, and money to build DVIS don't slip away. And most of all, I want to talk about her to the many, many people from Tulsa, and from around the country, who knew and worked with her. By doing this we will keep her work and memory alive for the benefit of all, colleagues and survivors of domestic violence, who were impacted positively by her time here on earth.

Felicia Collins Correia
Executive Director
Domestic Violence Intervention Services

In 1995, the United States Attorney's Office in Tulsa obtained a position for a prosecutor to be assigned exclusively to Indian country cases. As a criminal investigator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I was very interested in who would be hired. My main concern was that the person understand Native American culture and, preferably, be Native American. The Office hired Ann Dooley. The first time I met Ann, I thought no other person on earth could look more Anglo. Ann told me she had not been around Native Americans very much. However, by the way Ann looked at me and the tone she used, I could tell she was a compassionate person who seemed to want to learn all she could about my culture. Within weeks, I was taking Ann to tribal meetings, introducing her to tribal officials and other tribal leaders.

Because Ann's office is responsible for eleven tribes, Ann and I were together for long periods of time. Despite our totally different backgrounds, we developed a bond. Our first case involved a child sexual abuse allegation with numerous victims ranging from eleven to forty-one years old. By then, Ann knew the relevant statutes inside out. Since the suspect was a well-respected elder of the tribe, Ann took my direction, from trusting me with the tribal politics to asking me what to wear when visiting the area. As a result of Ann's willingness to cooperate with law enforcement and her awareness of the sensitivity of the case, the suspect pled guilty and served time in prison.

From that first case until I left the Bureau of Indian Affairs in May 2002, Ann Dooley was responsible for putting numerous child abusers, domestic batterers and drug abusers in prison. Ann's strengths in these cases were her knowledge of Indian law and her ability to communicate with the victims. Ann could establish a rapport with victims that began during the investigation and extended through prosecution and after the trial. Their safety was her primary goal.

Ann was always there when you needed her, both at work and at home. Ann was the person I went to when I needed to talk over a case. She was also there for the births of my two sons. And most recently, she was my rock when my mother was diagnosed with cancer and was in and out of the hospital. Ann Dooley left a huge void when she died, not only for her friends and family, but for the many families and victims in Indian country.

*Jacque Secondine Hensley
Special Agent
Department of Criminal Investigative Services
United States Department of Defense*

What I will always remember about Ann Dooley is her absolute, irrational, unwavering determination to make the world better. She worked hard on the big picture, in Washington, D.C., developing policy, on the board of Domestic Violence Intervention Services. But just as important was the way she touched very real individual lives. With unbelievable attention to every need, she cared for her beloved Mildred, a wonderful elderly lady. She invited a child from a troubled home into her own home without hesitation. She planted a butterfly garden in memory of a lost child. She planted trees.

Despite Ann's frantically paced life, she was a true friend to scores of people. She knew the value of a word of encouragement, doing bad art together, cooking a gourmet meal, and taking road trips with girlfriends. She had a gentle way of making people feel heard and comforted.

From the first time I met Ann, while working on the Tulsa Law Journal, I knew something was very different about her. I suppose it has taken this long in the practice of law and in my friendship with Ann to nail it down. Ann was one of very few lawyers I have known who went to law school and practiced law for all the right reasons. She wanted to make changes in our world, in policies and in individual circumstances. Her study and work in the law was surely intense, but it was not about personal achievement, money, or power. To Ann, it was always about doing what she could to make the world safer, kinder, more peaceful, better.

In a profession too often marked by a jaded perspective, Ann may have seemed a little naive. But it was with her eyes wide open that she decided to trust people, to be honest with them, and to show her gentle nature. She was not judgmental about people's differences; in fact, she absolutely delighted in the variety in life. She simply refused to become pessimistic, cynical, or suspicious. In return, life brought her joy that she freely shared with those around her.

Ann left us much too soon. Those who knew her surely have a hole in their lives and in their hearts. But she left us a fine example—how to squeeze the most out of life, how to use your life, how to delight in the wonders of the world, and how to make it a little better for your fellow traveler.

Cathryn McClanahan
Assistant United States Attorney
Northern District of Oklahoma

I first heard of Ann Dooley through the grapevine of federal prosecutors. I was an Assistant United States Attorney in Phoenix, Arizona, who prosecuted crimes committed in Indian Country. Because of this experience, I was invited to speak at conferences regarding issues affecting Indian Country. Often, I learned that I had been asked only because Ann was unavailable. Ann was legendary for her tremendous dedication to Native American issues.

In 1999, when I became Deputy Director of the component of the United States Department of Justice which provides support for and guidance to the 94 United States Attorneys Offices across the country, I needed someone to serve as the liaison between the United States Attorneys and the Attorney General to provide advice on policy issues, including violent crimes in Indian Country. Of course, I thought of Ann.

Ann then joined our staff in Washington, D.C., on a detail. Ann worked diligently to help implement innovative programs and strategies that would address some of the issues plaguing Native Americans. She provided the United States Attorneys and the Attorney General with effective guidance and dynamic assistance, and she served as a powerful advocate for Native Americans as well as for battered women and abused and neglected children. Ann's hallmark was the ability to strike the right balance between aggressive prosecution and respect for each victim's rights, sensitivities, and culture.

I worked closely with Ann in Washington, and, to my everlasting gratitude, Ann Dooley became my friend. Ann had the uncommon ability to see herself in others and to see others in herself. She not only accepted differences in others, she delighted in them. She lived every moment with a sense of compassion, a sense of humor, a sense of adventure, and an overarching sense of joy.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Tulsa Law Review of the University of Tulsa College of Law for dedicating this issue to Ann. Given Ann's great love for both the world of learning and the rule of law, it is especially fitting that she should be acknowledged for her commitment to Native American issues in this manner. Everyone who knew Ann will miss her, but Ann's contributions to improving the lives of Native Americans should continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

*Mary H. Murguia
United States District Judge
District of Arizona*

Many years ago, I came across a saying, the source of which I no longer recall, that went something like this: "There is no limit to what a person can accomplish if she doesn't mind who gets the credit." I believe these words, which have always impressed me as a valuable lesson in life, best describe the life of Ann Dooley.

Ann was a thoughtful, deliberate, intelligent, compassionate, and caring person. She possessed a work ethic that few mortals could ever match. But, she was always willing to stop what she was doing when there was somebody who needed her help. And, as she freely did her good works, Ann did not look back for accolades or applause. Helping others was reward enough.

I first by chance met Ann Dooley, a registered Republican whose family was Republican, in a campaign for a Democrat. From that point on, we became friends and remained friends for the balance of her short life. One day, shortly after she decided to get out of her hamburger business, we were having lunch, and as we talked about her future, I suggested to her: "Why don't you go to law school?" At first, it appeared that she let the question roll on by with little notice, but the next thing I learned, she had enrolled as a student at our College of Law.

After she entered the University of Tulsa College of Law, Ann fully embraced the study of law, just as she had accepted life, to its fullest. It was as if she had made this great discovery of a discipline through which her passion for helping people would be even more effective.

While at the College of Law, she excelled as a student in the classroom and as a colleague with other students. She also became Editor-in-Chief of the Tulsa Law Journal, a high honor in itself. As she took on different tasks, she still found time to continue reaching out to help others who needed a protective hand or perhaps needed just a friend. After graduation, she entered the legal profession with the same level of passion for the law that she had held as a student. Her future in the profession was indeed bright.

Unfortunately, Ann's sudden death has created a spacious vacuum in the lives of many, and cut way too short the good works of this great steward of people. Ann will truly be missed by her husband, Tom, by her parents, Sid and Beverly Patterson, and by all of us who were fortunate enough to have shared a moment in her life.

James C. Thomas
Professor of Law
The University of Tulsa College of Law