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Dedication to E. Ann Compton Keel

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DEDICATION TO E. ANN COMPTON KEEL

Any practicing attorney who has attended the College of Law can tell first hand of the one great enemy of law students: the inefficient allocation of time. Indeed, it is difficult to maintain a desirable study schedule with extracurricular activities, a husband, children, and other responsibilities. Ann Keel labored under these many duties as a fellow student of mine at the College. Ann was also faced with battling a serious illness. We lost Ann to that illness in late 1991, and we now dedicate this *National Coal Issue* to her memory.

I was a staff member on the *Law Review* when Ann served with Gary Wigal as co-editor of the *National Coal Issue*. The Issue was planned in every detail. It included authors like Senator Robert C. Byrd and addressed timely topics such as coal arbitration under the National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreements and criminal liability for environmental violations by coal operators. Ann's and Gary's dedicated efforts resulted in one of the most timely and well-prepared coal issues in recent memory.

Ann authored an article that appeared in Volume Ninety-Two of the *Law Review*.¹ Her article appeared in the *National Coal Issue* and, not surprisingly, that coal issue too received a great deal of praise for its timeliness and usefulness to the profession. A perusal of Ann's article will demonstrate to the reader her sincere attention to detail, as well as her coherent and scholarly style.

1. E. Ann Compton Keel, Note, *Attorney's Fees Under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977: A Primer*, 92 W. VA. L. REV. 987 (1990).

Ann's efforts on the *Law Review*, while rising to the level of excellence, represented only a small fraction of her endeavors. She was an accomplished student. She graded-on to the *Law Review* and I often saw Ann working on an outline for Business Organizations or some other course.

Although Ann had long wanted to become a lawyer, she was first and foremost a wife and mother. Her interest in law began after graduating from Barnard College while serving on the staff of Congressman Richard Roudebush. After giving up a promising career in Washington, and helping put her husband through the Ph.D. program at Stanford University, Ann was ready to enter law school at the University of Pittsburgh when the birth of her first son, Donald, once again delayed her plans to become a lawyer. After a move to Morgantown to accommodate her husband's career and the birth of a second son, William, Ann was finally able to begin her dream of becoming a lawyer. As a law student, I know that Ann often had to juggle her studies and personal life and she often mentioned her family to me. I could tell that whatever priority Ann gave to the *Law Review* and law school, these two took second chair to those at home. This ordering of priorities, however, never affected Ann's performance in other areas.

This brief and inadequate treatment of Ann's many accomplishments illustrates her determination and balance. Ann was a living example to all of us who face daily what seem to be unbearable pressures, impending deadlines, competing responsibilities, and the overall demand that our efforts exude the highest level of quality and excellence. Ann dealt with all of these, in addition to her illness, with courage and good humor. Words cannot do justice to Ann's character. Only those of us who knew Ann even superficially can appreciate the loss of a truly exemplary peer.

I take great pride in the privilege of dedicating this Issue to Ann. Working with Ann while I was a staff member and then seeking her guidance while a member of the Editorial Board, I know firsthand of her dedication to this law review. That dedication will live on even though Ann is no longer with us. After Ann's passing she directed donations, in lieu of flowers, to the *West Virginia Law Review*.

This direction led to a generous gift by Mr. Stephen G. Young in Ann's memory. The fund established by Mr. Young was the first significant contribution the law review had received in some time. This fund, in addition to the more recent Ralph J. Bean Law Review Endowment, signals a new era for the *West Virginia Law Review*, and opens doors long closed by budget constraints.

By her work, her continuing example, and the gift dedicated in her honor, Ann Keel has left a unique and lasting legacy to this publication. More importantly, however, she has left the memory of her friendship and her dedication to those of us who knew her and worked with her. This memory will indeed linger long.

FRANK W. VOLK
Editor-in-Chief
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