

MARIAN GOULD GALLAGHER: WHO WAS SHE ANYWAY?

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Marian Gould was born in Burlington, Washington. A graduate of the University of Washington School of Law in 1937, she earned her B.A. in librarianship in 1939. Marian spent two years as Assistant Law Librarian under Arthur Beardsley, and then resigned to become Law Librarian and Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Utah. In 1944, Marian Gould Gallagher returned to Seattle to become the Law Librarian and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law.

Marian Gallagher's service to the University of Washington, legal education and law librarianship spanned over four decades before her death in October 1989. The law library was even named for Marian upon her first retirement in 1981.

Many people serve their employers for years in the same career. What made Marian Gallagher so special? I guess what made her so special is the influence she had on the law librarianship profession and on legal education. But the questions remain: How did she manage to do the influencing? What made her influential? Why did people listen to her? And what did she have to say?

Looking at Marian Gallagher from this perspective, even the casual observer would have to admit her sheer competence in law librarianship. Marian was an excellent organizer, excelled at creating systems and procedures, and was very skilled in working with people at all levels—her staff, faculty, students, and alums. She believed that a library exists to serve its users. She was a creative problem-solver and a thoughtful leader.

But competence in one's job is not enough to win the many accolades heaped upon Marian Gallagher. So there must be something else. The something else is Marian Gallagher, the person. Marian was a warm, humble, witty woman—a person people liked to be with. As her circle of professional colleagues—law professors, deans, law librarians, students, lawyers and judges—grew, so grew her notoriety and influence.

Marian became known by many through the seventy students she graduated from the University of Washington Law Librarianship Pro-

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gram; through her activities with the bench and bar in the State of Washington; through her service to the University of Washington community; through her labors for national organizations such as the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools, and the American Association of Law Libraries; and through the many people who were lucky enough to hear her speak or act as mistress of ceremonies.

When an important job needed to be done, Marian could be counted on to do it right—thoroughly, efficiently and thoughtfully. In addition to running a first-rate law library, she directed the education of over seventy lawyers who earned library degrees, taught many law school classes, performed her share of law school and University of Washington committee work, consulted for a number of law schools and law firms on library and building matters, inspected law schools for the ABA/ALS, was in great demand as a speaker and mistress of ceremonies, and gave of her time and talents to the American Association of Law Libraries.

Among her more prestigious honors, she served as the President of the American Association of Law Libraries (1954–55), was a member of the Bogernor's Conference on the Status of Women (1964–71), served on the President's National Advisory Commission on Libraries (1967–68), was on the Advisory Commission for the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services (1976–80), and served for years on the ABA Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. In recognition of her illustrious career and many accomplishments, Marian Gallagher was twice awarded the AALL Distinguished Service Award (1955 and 1984) (the award was named for her in 1990), and was named Distinguished Alumna of the University of Washington Graduate School of Library Science in 1970, the University of Washington School of Law in 1980, and Whitman College in 1981.

Marian certainly knew many of the right people (primarily men) over the years. After all, she lived in the state of Washington most of her life. The appointments and honors she received, though, cannot be explained solely on the ground that she knew the right people. She was influential because she was regarded as an outstanding professional, because she had a wide circle of friends and colleagues, and because she did not consciously try to influence. Marian did her job—perhaps even past her own expectations. She did not manipulate or deceive. Marian was honest and direct in all her dealings. She expected others to have the same ethic.

Dedication to Marion Gould Gallagher

I, like many others, am in the profession of law librarianship because of Marian Gallagher. Although I was strongly encouraged into this profession by my first mentor, Virginia Kelsh, Marian Gallagher's fine reputation in the law librarianship community was unparalleled. I was "Mrs. G.'s" student in 1975-76. Along with five other lawyers, I came to Seattle and the University of Washington to learn law librarianship from the best: Marian Gallagher.

After law school, the year of library school provided quite a contrast for most of us. We took 31 credit hours of regular library school courses and 14 hours of courses from Mrs. G. Her classes were small, informal and chock full of practical, real-life information. Mrs. G. shared her vast knowledge and experience with her students. She didn't play games or work to belittle us. And she showered her class sessions with her dry wit and her obvious love of her profession. Learning from Mrs. G. was fun! Mrs. G. found the humor and fun in everything. In fact, she used to say that she didn't have time for people who took themselves too seriously and who didn't entertain her. Well, she always reciprocated on the fun side.

To come back to Seattle ten years after my education under Mrs. G. to be the director of *her* law library was a rare honor indeed. It was also pretty scary! The Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library will always be her library. But rather than finding it an oppressive burden, I find my situation very challenging. I am challenged each day to keep the law library a living place, a people place, an environment of warmth and learning—the kind of library Marian created.¹ That's not an easy task in today's world of computers, automated systems, CD-ROM technology and fax machines.

I struggle with the need to make the right decisions about one of Mrs. Gallagher's more notable successes, the *Current Index to Legal Periodicals*. Started for the UW law faculty in 1958 as a weekly current-awareness subject index of articles published in the "just received" law journals, *CILP* has a circulation of over 2200 copies and is available on WESTLAW or directly from us in paper or machine-readable form.

Even after Marian's untimely death, I and many others remain influenced by her optimism for the future, her love of life, her vast knowledge and competence, and the place she made for librarians in the profession of law. Thank you, Marian, for my career.²

1. *Profile: Marian Gallagher*, B. BULL., April 5, 1985.

2. For more information about Marian Gallagher, see *Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library: An Oral History*, compiled and edited by Mary Ann Andersen (Washington Law School Foundation, 1988).

