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Letter to Susan Csaky regarding the Lucile Elliott Scholarship, January 27, 1975

William Younger

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Southeastern Chapter  
American Association Of Law Libraries  
Established 1954  
January 27, 1975

Mrs. Susan D. Csaky, Head  
Government Publications Department  
University of Kentucky Libraries  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506

Dear Susan:

This letter confirms my telephone conversation with you of this date. When the Executive Board increased the scholarship funds available to $500 per year at the August 24, 1974, (Hilton Head, South Carolina) meeting, there was no intention of changing the purpose for which it could be used. The wording of your past scholarship announcement set out below would not need to be changed:

Persons eligible are those living in the Southeastern area who are striving to improve their professional knowledge and advance their careers in law librarianship. The scholarship may be used for any purpose reasonably designed to carry out this objective, such as attending institutes or national meetings, or for expenses while attending school. It is not limited to members of the Chapter.

I do believe, however, that the intention was to limit the amount to $100 per grantee. If this amount should be changed, I will be glad to confer with the other two members of the Executive Board and get you an answer. Please let me know.

Thanks for doing the memorial about Pearl, and I am glad that you have sent it to Connie Bolden. I have sent a copy to Nancy Jo Kitchen and Caroline Heriot.

Sincerely,

William C. Younger  
President

WCY/ajb

cc: Nancy Jo Kitchen  
Caroline Heriot
IN MEMORY
of
PEARL W. VON ALLMEN

Although it was only 10 short years that I knew Pearl Von Allmen, her bright blue eyes, cheerful smile and energetic comportment will stay indelibly in my memory. She was not only a fellow Kentucky law librarian, but a sympathetic friend, good listener and, above all, a dedicated colleague. As she liked to put it: "A library reflects the librarian. Whether it runs smoothly or not depends on me."

Pearl Von Allmen's career was typical of the old-fashioned, hard-working, self-made librarian. Born in Santa Claus, Indiana, in 1912, she started as a secretary to one of the law professors at the University of Louisville, inherited the job of the law librarian when her predecessor got married, and although she had only a bachelor's degree in education, she proceeded to educate herself through the AALL summer institutes and to earn certification from the association. She had always hoped to become a teacher and in 1965 her dream was fulfilled: she was granted faculty status, thereby becoming the first woman on the Law School's faculty. In 1970 she was promoted to associate professor of legal bibliography at the University of Louisville School of Law.

She was an active member of our association missing but rarely the annual conventions and participating enthusiastically
in the work of the committees. She was a member of the Southeastern
Chapter and became its president in 1972 for a 2-year term which,
unfortunately, she could not complete. She was instrumental in
establishing our yearly chapter institutes and it was during her
presidency that the first workshop had its auspicious beginning.

Although Pearl's activities and accomplishments were many-
she was president of the Louisville Library Club for several terms,
she was a contributing author to one of the widely used legal
bibliography problem books, just to mention a few-she will be best
remembered for her rapport with students. She was their friend,
counselor and confidant. Sigma Delta Kappa, the legal fraternity,
gave her their first award for being the outstanding faculty member.

When Pearl started her career the library contained only
19,800 books and operated on a yearly budget of $2,000. By 1972
the budget grew to $50,000 and the holdings surpassed 65,000
volumes. During almost all of this time Pearl operated the library
alone with the help of only a secretary and a few students. Not
until 1970, when a visiting team from the American Bar Association
made the recommendation, was an assistant law librarian hired and
plans drawn up for classifying the collection and moving most of
the material scattered in innumerable storage places into new quarters. Pearl threw herself with characteristic enthusiasm into planning for the new building and for the move. She worked night and day on the project, skipping on vacation but promising herself a 'big rest' when the move was complete. Her enthusiasm was contagious and everyone talked about the progress on "Pearl's Palace". Unfortunately she could not see the end result. A cerebral hemorrhage rendered her unconscious for several months and she never recovered. Her untimely death was a great blow to the faculty and students of the University of Louisville as it was to all who loved and admired her.

Susan D. Csaky
Associate Law Librarian
Head, Government Publications Department