
IN MEMORIAM

Angela Roddey Holder

(1938-2009)

The *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* has lost a great friend with the death of Angela Roddey Holder this past spring. Angela was a longtime member of the Board of Editors for the *Journal* as well as a past president of the Society.

Angela Holder was one of the earliest contributors to the field of health law, working as an educator, author, organization leader, and advocate over the course of her long career. She advocated fervently for vulnerable patients, particularly the terminally-ill and children, and she wrote extensively on medical-legal issues and bioethics.

Her advice — both professional and personal — was valued by individuals and organizations alike. She took special care to mentor faculty new to the field. Ann MacLean Massie, Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University, and Jesse Goldner, Professor of Law at Saint Louis University, both recall Angela's generosity in mentoring new health law faculty. Ann remarks that Angela's attention to new faculty "was characteristic of this woman who could be tough as nails on the outside but had a marshmallow interior"; and Jesse remembers that Angela "was so very kind in introducing me to people she thought I should know." Ann describes the memories we share of Angela presenting at conferences as a "small dynamo with unhesitating opinions and sharp turn of phrase; one-of-a-kind."

Born in Rock Hill, South Carolina, in 1938 and educated at Tulane University, Angela became one of the first women to practice law in South Carolina when she went to work at her father's law firm in 1960. In addition, she worked in the Criminal Division of the New Orleans Legal Aid Bureau and as Counsel to York County Family Court.

In 1964, she took on the role of educator as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Winthrop College in Rock Hill. There, she wrote her first book, *The Meaning of the Constitution*, which is currently in its sixth edition, coauthored with her son John.

After ten years at Winthrop, Angela decided to pursue an LL.M. degree at Yale Law School. Upon com-

pletion of her LL.M., Angela stayed in Connecticut to serve as the Executive Director of the Program in Law, Science and Medicine at Yale. Also in 1977, Angela started simultaneously as Counsel for Medico-Legal Affairs at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Law and the Yale University School of Medicine. She kept her position at the Hospital for twelve years and continued teaching at Yale until 2001.

Professor Holder's influence was especially critical in the subspecialty of pediatrics and law. Her 1977 book, *Legal Issues in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, was an "absolute treasure trove," according to Goldner, for people working in children's hospitals at the time: "We now have in-house counsel in children's hospitals, nationwide networks of lawyers who devote much of their time to these questions, and generations of academics who write about these topics. So much of this really started with Angela."

Returning south and less than 200 miles from Rock Hill, Angela worked as Professor of the Practice of Medical Ethics and Humanities at the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and History of Medicine at Duke University Medical Center from 2001 until her retirement in 2007. In addition to her books, she wrote numerous articles on topics as diverse as medical errors, clinical research, bone marrow transplantation, and reproductive issues. She also wrote extensively on issues concerning pediatrics and adolescence, including her last publication in 2008, "Research with Adolescents: Parental Involvement Required?"

She is remembered for her energy, brilliance, and warmth, as well as for being a passionate advocate, humanitarian, and friend. Mark Hall, Professor of Law at Wake Forest University, comments about her final months: "She was her brassy, lovable self up until very close to the end."

Angela Holder was a leader in health law and assisted at its birth. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and the organizations that benefited from her wise counsel, but especially by *JLME*.