

**DEDICATION: A TRIBUTE TO
PROFESSOR MARY THERESE WOLF
LAW CLINIC DIRECTOR**

JOANNE ORR*
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Over the course of her distinguished career in legal education, Professor Mary Therese Wolf became the heart and soul of the Law Clinic at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. When Mary Wolf arrived at the law school in 1984, as a visiting assistant professor in the Civil Practice Clinic,¹ live-client clinical legal education was in its infancy. By 1987, while continuing to teach in the Civil Practice Clinic, Professor Wolf was appointed Director of Clinical Programs. Over her tenure as Director, Professor Wolf oversaw expansion of the Law Clinic to include creation of the Disability, Criminal Defense, and Wrongful Conviction Clinics.

Professor Wolf was the law school's first full-time, real-client, clinician. She came to the school well-equipped for the task. Awarded the Juris Doctorate in 1974 from the University of Iowa College of Law, with distinction, Mary Wolf served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert Downing of the Illinois Appellate Court immediately after law school. Her professional career thereafter included work with the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration. When she applied for the newly-created visiting faculty position at the law school, Mary Wolf was working as a managing attorney of a local legal service office covering six counties in northern Illinois and representing low-income clients with a range of civil problems.

Mary Wolf led the efforts at the law school to expand clinical opportunities to better serve our students, our state, and the concept of equal access to justice for all. This focus resulted in the creation of a number of new course offerings, including Law and Poverty, multiple health law externship placements, and the Advanced Clinical Experience course. One of Professor Wolf's long-held goals—that of crafting a multi-disciplinary approach to client representation—resulted in the approval of a JD/MSW: Doctor of Jurisprudence/Master of Social Work dual degree in 2007.

In addition to teaching and advocating in the Civil Practice Clinic, Mary Wolf's course load regularly included Interviewing and Counseling, Law and Poverty, and Professional Responsibility. She also supervised numerous externships and is credited with elevating the externship opportunities as a whole. In 2010, she was appointed the Director of Externships. Professor Wolf created the Desk Book for the Civil Practice Clinic, numerous simulated materials teaching lawyering skills, and The Jay Jones Case video, which became the basis

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1. Ronald W. Polston, *History of the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis*, 28 IND. L. REV. 161, 177 (1995).

of a 1993 American Association of Law Schools presentation. In a teaching exchange program in Spring 2001, Professor Wolf took her talents to the TC Beirne School of Law in Queensland, Australia. She also traveled to Europe for several summers as the resident faculty for the Law School's European Program.

Professor Wolf's service interests were tied to the needs of the under-served. Professor Wolf's contributions to the legal community included membership on the Indiana Supreme Court Pro Bono Commission, and participation in the Juvenile Justice Project and the Domestic Violence Protective Order Pro Bono Project. She also impacted the national landscape of the clinical legal education movement by her years of service within the Clinical Legal Education section of the American Association of Law Schools. Her investment in the legacy of clinical legal education included participation on American Bar Association Site Inspection Teams for accredited law schools from 1995 to 2000. In addition, her service to the broader community needs included membership on several non-profit boards. She also found time to change lives as a long-term literacy tutor and was equally willing to devote her energies to law school committee service and faculty matters of governance. Administratively, as the Director of Clinical Programs, she oversaw compliance with grant application and reporting requirements, handled budgetary matters, liaised with local service providers, answered public inquiries, and numerous other mundane tasks necessary to the operation of a vital law firm operating in a law school setting.

Perhaps Mary Wolf's greatest satisfaction as a clinical educator was in the daily supervision of students certified to practice law on behalf of clients in the Civil Practice Clinic. Mary and her students served as co-counsel to low-income clients referred from Indiana Legal Services in matters of general civil litigation, including family law, landlord-tenant law, and consumer law litigation. The Civil Practice Clinic includes an intensive classroom component in which the substantive law serves as the vehicle for problem-solving and skills-based learning. Within this live-client clinical model, Mary and student co-counsels provided much needed access to the legal system to thousands of real-world clients, benefitting clients, students, and the pursuit of justice for all.

For many years, Professor Wolf's homemade cheesecake was a coveted item at the annual Women's Caucus Auction. Her Thai noodles were to die for and her gazpacho could not be beat. Mary Therese Wolf was not only an exemplary teacher and lawyer, she was a law school colleague in the truest sense of the word.