

## Nancy Sabol: A Tribute

Joanne Brant

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### Recommended Citation

Brant, Joanne () "Nancy Sabol: A Tribute," *Ohio Northern University Law Review*. Vol. 46: Iss. 3, Article 8.  
Available at: [https://digitalcommons.onu.edu/onu\\_law\\_review/vol46/iss3/8](https://digitalcommons.onu.edu/onu_law_review/vol46/iss3/8)

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## Nancy Sabol: A Tribute

JOANNE BRANT

Nancy Sabol joined the ONU faculty in 2001. She was recruited by then-Dean David Crago who had been Nancy's colleague at Jones Day, in Columbus. Dean Crago knew well what a treasure he had persuaded to join the law college.

Nancy was a force - someone with tremendous energy, an upbeat personality, and a gift for inspiring students to trust her, confide in her, and give her their best efforts. She was a star from the outset, and she matured into a sturdy sunbeam that so many relied upon to lift their sights and bring a smile into an otherwise stressful day. She was also, unequivocally, the corridor "den mother" to all her beloved law students. She never hesitated to administer "tough love" when required, but she knew that most students needed positive encouragement and faith in their abilities. She delivered those - unconditionally, and generously.

Nancy had one of the toughest teaching gigs possible - teaching, and re-teaching the students EVERYTHING that could be covered on the bar exam - and not just the Ohio Bar, but the many out-of-state bars that generations of ONU students have tackled and conquered. Most law professors stay in the comfort zone of their narrow specialities, and very few could move across the wide ambit of subjects that Nancy effortlessly juggled.

On top of this already challenging gig, Nancy readily accepted multiple administrative obligations, serving as the Title IX coordinator, consulting and advising innumerable students as needed, serving on many committees, always providing a student-focused perspective, and the ability to multitask at the highest level.

But Nancy's most valuable qualities were not her competence or versatility - impressive as those were - but her kindness, and her gift for friendship. Some extremely sharp folks are not equally blessed with emotional intelligence - or with the kindness and self-control to keep their acute minds from treating interactions as jousting matches - a struggle for dominance, and point-scoring. That was never Nancy's way. She was quick to notice when a colleague, or a student was off their game, and offer friendly comfort, and empathy. Nor did she share gossip - she could always be trusted with confidences. Those traits demonstrated her maturity, her

character, and warmth, which made common cause with her sharp mind to deliver a woman of exceptional gifts.

Our hearts go out to Nancy's family, which was always front and center in her heart. All her colleagues and students saw her pride in her family, and looked forward to hearing about Anne and Dan's latest travels and accomplishments. We will miss hearing about her travels, her passions, her well-known enthusiasm for the latest Bruce Springsteen production, and we will miss her steady, sturdy, empowering love for Ohio Northern and all its people.

Everything Nancy did, she did with integrity, with a good heart, and with zest. She always had time for everyone, young and old. She was, quite simply, one of life's treasures.