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## A Tribute to Grace "Betty" W. Taylor

Martina Pelley

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**Martina Pelley\***

November 15, 1971, stands out vividly in my memory. On that day I came to interview for a job at the College of Law. Walking up a flight of stairs to reach the second floor, I ran smack into a brick wall. There were no doors which opened, no hallway to travel; the only way to go was back the way I came. That is also the day I met Betty Taylor. For the next 32 years at various times I have called her boss, mentor and most importantly, friend.

As I think of her, pictures and sounds pop into my head. I remember boxes and boxes of keypunch cards, one of the first signs at the law school of her fascination with all things computer. I can hear her voice filled with excitement when she returned from a conference on automation or one of the many board meetings dealing with automation and the library, or automation and the law. I remember how incredible it sounded when she told of the day we would actually be paying for our groceries by swiping a card through a machine. I remember the first time I heard her use the phrase, "paperless office," or her description of the little, round disks we now call CDs. I remember these things and many, many more.

I know Betty Taylor as an innovative and flexible person. As Director of the Law Library (it wasn't even the Legal Information Center back then) she agreed to a flex-work-week pilot program which later became a permanent scheduling option. When very few areas on campus were willing to even consider the possibilities, she was willing to try it. As a member of her staff in the seventies, I am grateful for her implementation. It permitted several of us to complete our schooling which we would otherwise have been unable to do.

Dear friend, wonderful boss, and exceptional woman: that is what Betty Taylor means to me.

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\* Coordinator, Administrative Services.