

Memories of Leslie Altman
Jane Harper-Alport
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Leslie was a remarkable and committed lawyer who championed the advancement of women lawyers and service to the bar in everything she did. She was incredibly bright, passionate, sharp-witted, and tenacious about every cause she believed in. I began as a lawyer editor in ABA Publishing in 2004, and that fall one of the periodicals assigned to my portfolio as a managing editor was *Perspectives*, the quarterly magazine of the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession, for which Leslie had already served as chair of the editorial board for three years. She continued as chair for the next two years and after sitting out a year she returned to serve as a board member for three more years. Quite a tenure, and it was hard to know that, as she stepped aside, her need to pull back was undoubtedly driven by her health issues. But she never complained and was optimistic after she went into remission following her first cancer diagnosis and treatment.

I was honored to know and work with her during her years on the *Perspectives* board, both long distance by phone and e-mail and in person at the ABA Midyear and Annual Meetings. She was always involved, responsive, and committed to the Commission's mission of advancing the role of women in the profession and of publishing a magazine that is both engaging and edgy in content that meets high quality standards of professional legal journalism while strongly advocating for women lawyers. Leslie helped set and maintain that tone, always professionally guarding the "voice" of *Perspectives* and the independence of its editorial board. But if a writer's draft manuscript was a bit too political or bordered on being an advocacy piece in places, Leslie asked for edits and was careful to say that "Advocacy is an important part of the Commission's work. When it comes to *Perspectives*, though, I personally think that we should strike a more neutral journalistic tone." So typical of Leslie: she personified careful and focused judgment in all endeavors, and always modeled the height of integrity.

I will always have great respect for Leslie and the inspiring memories I have of her. I so appreciated her leadership of the *Perspectives* editorial board that, when she was reappointed after being off the board for a year following her five years as chair, I wrote to her enthusiastically about how thrilled I was that she was returning and how wonderful it would be to have her with the board at their next meeting. In her lively wry fashion, she wrote back, "Be careful what you wish for. Just kidding. See you soon."

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