In Memoriam: Donald J. Dunn, 1945–2008

Donald J. Dunn, dean and professor of law at the University of La Verne College of Law, died on January 5, 2008, at his home in Orange County, of complications related to cancer. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, son, Kevin, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Don Dunn was nationally recognized as a law librarian and legal research expert. In 1969, he began his 38-year career in librarianship at the University of Texas at Austin’s Tarlton Law Library. In 1973, he joined the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts. He spent three decades there, serving as law librarian, interim dean, associate dean, and dean of Western New England College School of Law. In 2003, Don moved to Southern California, joining the University of La Verne as dean and professor of law at the College of Law. An experienced administrator, Don led the College of Law through its successful accreditation by the American Bar Association.

Don Dunn held leadership positions in the American Association of Law Libraries, the Association of American Law Schools, and the American Bar Association. Don was a prolific writer with more than 60 books, articles, and papers to his credit. He was the co-author of Fundamentals of Legal Research and Legal Research Illustrated, 8th ed. (2002), recognized in 2006 by the American Association of Law Schools Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section as one of the most influential texts in legal research. Don co-edited the quarterly Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law. He served on many American Bar Association site evaluation teams. He served as president of Scribes, the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects and on the editorial board for Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing.

Readers of Perspectives benefited from Don’s annotated bibliographies of legal research and writing resources that appeared in every issue of the first 15 volumes of Perspectives. During his tenure on the editorial board, Don also contributed several stand-alone articles that focused attention on methods for teaching legal research. The Perspectives editorial board and readers are grateful for Don’s passion for law librarianship, dedication to teaching and scholarship related to legal research and writing, and his many contributions to the national legal community.