



ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF ANNA WILLIAMS SHAVERS

January 26, 2022

The members and staff of the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) mourn the recent passing of Anna Williams Shavers, the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law at the University of Nebraska College of Law.

Professor Shavers was affiliated with ACUS for nearly nine years—first as a liaison from the American Bar Association’s Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice (2013–17) and then as a public member (2017–present). “She served ACUS with great distinction and contributed important expertise and insights to its work,” said Mathew Lee Wiener, ACUS’s Acting Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director.” “And she always did so,” added Mr. Wiener, “with her characteristic humility, graciousness, and kindness.” ACUS is pleased to share the following tributes from its members and staff.

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Statements by ACUS Members and Staff on the Passing of Professor Anna Williams Shavers

From Reeve T. Bull, ACUS Research Director

I’m deeply saddened to hear about Dean Shavers’ passing. Anna was one of the most kind, insightful, and gracious people I’ve ever had the privilege of working with. I first got to know Anna during her time chairing the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. Anna appointed me to my first leadership position in the Section, co-chairing one of the committees. To be honest, I was a little reluctant at first, not feeling as if I had much to contribute, but Anna’s reassuring approach and infectious enthusiasm for the Section and administrative law made it an easy decision. Since then, I’ve had the honor of continuing to work with Anna in both the ABA and Administrative Conference. Anna’s contributions to both institutions have been enormous and will be impossible to replace. We all will miss Anna’s extraordinary insight, her unending enthusiasm, her great sense of humor, and her unfailing kindness.

From Cary Coglianese, ACUS Public Member

Professor Shavers' insight, knowledge, and leadership made the field of administrative law better and wiser. She inspired us by her great example and cheerful nature. Her contributions to deliberations always elevated them. She will be dearly missed.

From Neil R. Eisner, ACUS Senior Fellow

Anna was a good person, well liked and respected by all. She will be missed.

From Cynthia R. Farina, ACUS Senior Fellow

For many years, regulatory law was largely a male field, particularly in academia. Anna was a constant source of inspiration, grace, and good humor to young women entering the field through law teaching, government, or private practice. She was kind and strong and dedicated and savvy—one of our foremothers. We were lucky to have had her.

From William Funk, Liaison Representative to ACUS

I've known Anna for over 30 years, since we offered her a position at Lewis & Clark, but she chose Nebraska instead. I may even have been instrumental in her joining the Adlaw Section. In any case, over all those many years, she was a warm, understanding, and wonderful person. Of her many accomplishments, you would have to have heard from others, because she was never one to blow her own horn. Her passing comes all too soon, and we will miss her.

From Jeremy S. Graboyes, ACUS Director of Public and Interagency Programs

Dean Shavers was an incredibly kind person and so giving of her knowledge and experience. I recall her deep sense of purpose, her powerful compassion for others, and her talent for fostering meaningful dialogue.

From Renée M. Landers, ACUS Public Member

Anna Shavers embodied the spirit of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. Her death leaves a hole in the heart of the Section as well as a vacancy on the Council where her leadership always embraced the representation of diverse voices and advocated for policy positions reflecting that those voices had been heard. As many others have observed, Anna leaves a legacy of effort to do the often invisible and unglamorous

work essential to advance the Section's business—serving as Secretary for three years and as Chair of the Publications Committee as well as numerous other roles. What Anna liked about being involved in the Section also demonstrates what we have lost during the pandemic. Anna loved the travel to participate in Section activities—to Washington, D.C., for the conferences and Council meetings, and to the resort locations where the mid-year and spring Council meetings sometimes took place. This dedication to travel was all the more impressive because journeying from Lincoln, Nebraska, necessarily involved multiple flights—first to Omaha and then onward. The meeting schedule sometimes meant that she had to spend another night at the meeting location before commencing the return trip was possible. She turned what could have been a burden into a guilty pleasure—trying to find spa time whenever possible! As travel to more exotic locations became less sustainable and was curtailed during the pandemic, like all other organizations, we have lost some of that sense of personal connection that was a hallmark of the Section. That we did not have the opportunity through the Section or ACUS meetings to be with Anna in person recently makes the experience of her loss even more poignant. In addition to the satisfaction she took in her many contributions to the fields of immigration law and administrative law, Anna was also so proud of her daughter and often coordinated her travel to connect with her daughter. I want to express my thanks to Anna's daughter for sharing so much of her mother with us to make our profession more attuned with its stated values and to make the world a better place.

From Jeffrey S. Lubbers, Special Counsel to ACUS and Former ACUS Research Director

I'm really saddened by the news of Anna Shavers' passing. I had the pleasure to work with Anna on many matters for the ABA Administrative Law Section, and she was unfailingly diligent, generous, knowledgeable, funny, and an all-around pleasure to work with.

From Randolph J. May, ACUS Senior Fellow

I had the good fortune to have known Anna Shavers for a very long time, and her passing is such sad news. While our paths crossed in other contexts, most of my work with Anna (and socializing too!) was through the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. When I chaired the Ad Law Section in 2004–2005, and then the Nominating Committee the following year, I made a concerted effort to get Anna more deeply involved in our activities and Section leadership than she previously had been. I'm really glad I did. Anna subsequently became chair and our delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, among other positions. Aside from her contributions to administrative law and other professional contributions, Anna was kind, gentle, and caring, and she will be sorely missed.

From Shawne C. McGibbon, ACUS General Counsel

What a terrible loss to the administrative law community and, well, humankind. You only had to meet Anna once to feel her warmth, grace, and humility. My first encounter with her came in 2011 after I was elected to serve on the Council of the ABA Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice Section. She served the Section in various capacities with dedication and distinction, and she did the same throughout her 9-year affiliation with ACUS. My admiration for her grew year after year. In my experience, she rarely invoked the word “no,” and she repeatedly stepped up to share her gifts and exceptional talents with every organization she served. There was no “ask” too great or too small when it came to her administrative law family. We lost an angel on earth and a stalwart voice in the field of administrative law.

Aaron L. Nielson, ACUS Public Member

Anna was devoted to trying to improve administrative law through meaningful discussion and careful, detailed analysis. She will be greatly missed.

John M. Vittone, ACUS Senior Fellow

All the reactions to Anna’s passing have been heartfelt and warm and so true. Anna was a warm and gracious person who was a joy to be with and talk with. She had a smile for all and was a joyful presence at all of our meetings. You always wanted to say hello to her. Did anyone ever have a bad meeting with her? I can’t imagine that to be so. Also her insights and advice to our discussions were invaluable. Always on point and stated in clear and concise terms. Her advice will be missed, but Anna as a friend and associate will be missed more. God bless her.

Christopher J. Walker, ACUS Public Members

Over the weekend, the field of administrative law and the legal profession lost a critical voice and leader, with the passing of Anna Shavers. Professor Shavers was a pioneer of scholarly efforts to synthesize the fields of administrative law and immigration law. She was also an inspiring leader in the American Bar Association Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, serving on the Section’s governing council for more than a half-dozen years including as Section Chair in 2014-15. At the time of her passing, she was serving as the Section’s Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, representing the Section’s interests in that ABA legislative body. Her impact on the fields of administrative law and immigration as well as on the legal profession was profound and indisputable. But for those of us who were fortunate to know her well, Anna’s personal impact on our lives was arguably more profound. She had an extraordinary ability to connect with and inspire people. I will miss the

signature Shavers move of the unexpected email or phone call to congratulate and thank me for a new article, for my remarks at a conference, or for my role in organizing an event in the field. This was her reputation in the field—to praise, encourage, and thank others for their contributions to the field and to her life. May we all strive to emulate that Shavers signature move in our own professional and personal lives.