

Dear Classmate,

We come to you at a time of loss and sadness as our friend, colleague, and classmate, Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, tragically passed away on October 8. Her accomplishments since graduation were remarkable, and included becoming Pepperdine's first Article III Judge, serving as a Federal District Court Judge in the Central District of California.

While many around the country know of her, those of us who knew her personally during our law school years were blessed by her kind and magnanimous spirit. She truly and instinctively put the needs of others well before her own. The profession has lost a treasure, and we lost a friend.

We lost Beverly far too soon, but her unexpected death has also stirred in us a call to action. While active and involved in the lives of so many in our community, Beverly stayed particularly close to our alma mater, serving most recently as the co-chair of the Pepperdine Law Board of Visitors. Because of this, her husband and our classmate, Daniel O'Connell (J.D. '90), her family, and her closest friends were moved to start a scholarship at the law school in her memory. That scholarship will be known and remembered as **The Honorable Beverly Reid O'Connell Memorial Endowed Scholarship**.

We invite you to join us in honoring our friend Beverly by contributing to this scholarship. It is our hope that the Class of 1990 will come together in this effort and give of our resources so that this scholarship will become the sort of lasting commemoration worthy of Beverly's memory. With this gesture, we can simultaneously benefit the students' lives this scholarship will assist and signify to Beverly's family, friends, and colleagues how much we honor her memory.

Please visit impact.pepperdine.edu and select the O'Connell page to contribute, or you may return the form below with your gift. Enclosed, please also find an article written by Pepperdine Law on Beverly's passing and the establishment of this scholarship.

We value your friendship and reflected recently on our time together over twenty-five years ago. As we grieve the loss of our dear friend, let us come together now and honor her and our shared memories.

With gratitude and humility,



Charles Eskridge, Esq.
Class of 1990



Kathy Freberg, Esq.
Class of 1990



Susan Simmons Krueger, Esq.
Class of 1990

Pepperdine University | 24255 Pacific Coast Highway | Malibu, CA 90263-4579 | Impact.pepperdine.edu

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- \$100 \$600
 \$300 Other \$ _____

- My check to Pepperdine University is enclosed.
 I'd like to make a one-time credit card gift. Charge my card:

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Newsroom

Pepperdine Law Establishes Memorial Scholarship

The Honorable Beverly Reid O'Connell Memorial Scholarship

3 min read

In recognition of Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell (JD '90) and her remarkable achievements in the legal profession, Pepperdine Law has established The Honorable Beverly Reid O'Connell Memorial Scholarship.

From Pepperdine University School of Law:

The Honorable Beverly Reid O'Connell Memorial Scholarship will carry on the great legacy of one of our most treasured alumni. A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine School of Law, Judge O'Connell continued to hold the school near and dear to her heart throughout her life, and she will be greatly missed by her alma mater. We are honored that her family has chosen to celebrate her life through this scholarship, and we invite you to join us in honoring one of the School of Law's brightest stars.

About Judge O'Connell

Not only did Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell have a tremendous impact on the lives of the staff, faculty, students, and fellow alumni of Pepperdine Law, she was a giant in the Los Angeles legal community.

Following law school, Judge O'Connell practiced law for five years at the law firm of Morrison & Foerster. She then joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California as a US attorney in the criminal division. Judge O'Connell worked in that capacity until she was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2005.

After serving in the US Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, Judge O'Connell was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 2012, Judge O'Connell became Pepperdine Law's first article III judge after she was appointed by President Barack Obama. As then Dean Deanell Reece Tacha, former Chief Judge of the 10th Circuit, said, "Judge O'Connell's appointment is an important new milestone in the history of this school."

The School of Law had great personal as well as professional meaning for Judge O'Connell, who met her husband, Daniel O'Connell (JD '90), in the Pepperdine law library during her 2L spring break. The two married shortly after commencement, and both went on to prestigious careers as public servants in the state of California. They have both been actively involved as alumni, serving in any capacity asked of them. As Pepperdine Professor Derek Muller (who worked with Judge O'Connell on the federal externship and clerkship programs) put it, "She was the kind of alumna schools dream about having."

Over the years, Judge O'Connell stayed connected with her alma mater by serving on the Board of Visitors, hiring and mentoring Pepperdine students, teaching classes and legal education courses for alumni, and speaking to recently admitted students. Judge O'Connell traveled to Uganda with Pepperdine's Sudreau Global Justice Program in 2015 to participate in the first-ever plea bargaining conference in the country's history.

One of Judge O'Connell's favorite Pepperdine events was the swearing-in of recent graduates to the California and Federal Bar. She would often preside over the ceremonies with her close friends on the federal and state bench, Judge Andre Birotte, Jr. (JD '91), and Justice Tricia Bigelow (JD '86). In 2015, in recognition of her many career accomplishments and tremendous devotion to Pepperdine and its students, Judge O'Connell received the Pepperdine University School of Law Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

Judge O'Connell passed away on October 8, 2017 at the age of 52. When news of her passing became public, the Pepperdine flag flew at half-staff to honor her as the entire Pepperdine community mourned her loss.

Join Judge O'Connell's Legacy

Given Judge O'Connell's most impressive record of achievement in the legal profession, as well as her great passion and support for her alma mater, her family invites you to participate in her legacy by giving to the Honorable Beverly Reid O'Connell Memorial Scholarship. Open to all law students for consideration, the scholarship will be given to one or more students each year who embody the characteristics that Judge O'Connell personified.

If you are able to give online, please visit <http://impact.pepperdine.edu/o'connell>

Gifts can also be mailed to the Pepperdine Fund, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90263-4579. Please insert the official name of the scholarship in the memo line.

We also encourage you to use the website to write messages and share photos to honor Judge O'Connell's memory. If you would like to send a private message or photo for Pepperdine to forward along to her family, please e-mail Alumni Director Jessie Fahy at jessie.fahy@pepperdine.edu

Thank you for honoring Judge O'Connell.