



Hannah Rose Arterian
09/09/1949 – 04/08/2022

Hannah Arterian, the legal academic and administrator who held the Deanship at Syracuse University's College of Law for thirteen years, died on April 8 in Los Angeles. She was 72.

While Dean of Syracuse's College of Law, Arterian campaigned to institute many changes at the college. Her most notable professional legacy was the construction of Dineen Hall, where the College of Law is currently housed. Through tireless fundraising and dogged research with colleagues of other law school structures across the country, Arterian's vision of the legal academic space was realized in the building's completion in 2014.

Hannah Rose Arterian was born on September 9, 1949 in Manhattan to Jacques and Celeste (Nienstedt) Arterian, and grew up in Prince's Bay on Staten Island. Her mother was of German and English descent, her father a child of Armenian and Assyrian immigrants. Jacques was an accountant in Manhattan, and Celeste taught math and several foreign languages at Staten Island's Tottenville High School. Throughout her childhood with her parents and sister Susan, Arterian was encouraged to read books, play and enjoy classical music, and stoke whatever curiosities she had. Her senior year of high school, she was voted most likely to succeed. She is survived by her sister Susan Arterian, her son William Furnish, her daughters Susannah, Diana, and Cordelia Arterian, as well as her three granddaughters Marnie and Celeste Arterian, and Helena Muñoz Furnish.

Arterian attended Elmira College, then an all-women's school, and earned her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature in 1970. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated *magna cum laude*. (Elmira College conferred an honorary doctorate to Arterian in 2009.) After college, Arterian attended University of Iowa College of Law. As her former colleague and friend Robert Bartels stated, "She was a role model and a pioneer, really—first as a student." While at Iowa, in 1972-73, Arterian was the first woman to hold an editorial position on the *Iowa Law Review* as one of its Notes & Comment Editors. She was also a member of the Order of the Coif. Her professor Arthur Bonfield described her as "a

spectacular law student.” After earning her Juris Doctor with high distinction, Arterian worked for the New York City law firm Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, practicing corporate tax law.



Iowa Law Review Editorial Staff, 1972-73

At Bonfield’s suggestion, Arterian pursued teaching law, and returned to University of Iowa’s law school as a visiting professor, then joined the faculty in 1978. She was one of the first women to teach at the Iowa’s College of Law. Arterian went on to hold teaching positions at Arizona State University and University of Houston’s law schools, before returning to ASU in 1985. Arterian became the first woman to serve as the college’s Associate Dean in 1992. When Arterian began at ASU in 1979, she was the only woman on the College of Law’s faculty, only the second to hold a faculty position in living memory. Richard Morgan, who joined ASU College of Law’s faculty in 1980 and was Dean of ASU’s College of Law during Arterian’s tenure as Associate Dean, stated, “She came into legal education when diversity had become an important goal, but one that was largely unachieved. The conversation about diversity was really just beginning.” Morgan went on to say, “She was always a strong advocate for diversity—in hiring, in admissions, and in all of its senses. Hannah sought to strengthen the faculty and student body by looking beyond the traditional networks and methods that law schools had long used in hiring and admissions decisions.” Arterian was a popular professor, who taught courses on labor relations, employment law, employment discrimination, and wrote in the area of Title VII—particularly the dilemmas for pregnant women employed in chemically toxic work environments. While at ASU, Arterian served on a series of important committees, and developed the college’s moot court program. In the decade she served as Associate Dean, she proved herself to be a talented administrator and able crisis manager.

In 2002, Arterian was hired as the eleventh Dean of Syracuse University's College of Law, and was only the second woman appointed to the position. When Arterian stepped down in 2015, women had held the post for fourteen years since 1895, and Arterian's tenure accounted for thirteen of them. Arterian had the aim to fundraise \$1 million in her first year, an unmet amount in the college's history. She succeeded, and continued to lay the groundwork for financial success and opportunities for the school. She cultivated a diverse and accomplished faculty, developed relationships with alumni across the globe, and recruited many of the college's board of advisors, with the long-term goal of increasing the quality of the college's legal education and constructing a new building.

In addition, Arterian worked hard to give her personal touch to the college's community—from directly calling students on the phone who struggled emotionally with the transition to law school, to sending handwritten thank you notes to alumni who gave their first gift. “Hannah formed a connection with everybody,” said Alexandra Epsilanty, former Assistant Dean of Advancement and close colleague of Arterian. “It didn't matter where they came from. She cared about people's stories and their experiences. People mattered to her.” Arterian introduced an expanded orientation program for incoming students, which included alumni from all over the United States as well as formal ceremonies, to welcome and usher new students into the college. She hired cohorts of young faculty in order for them to forge community, and consistently gave platforms to her faculty and staff to further their careers. One of Arterian's major projects was the College of Law's alumni association, as well as reinvigorating alumni connections to the school. She worked with colleagues to forge strong relationships with Korean alumni by attending annual meetings and alumni events in Seoul. These visits included visiting the Korean Constitutional Court, and discussing U.S. and Korean Supreme Court decisions with justices of the Korean Supreme Court. These international connections were also cultivated through Arterian's work with colleagues to further develop the Law in London Program, which was integral, she felt, for students to have a global legal experience. There are many other programs (Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism; the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics and Media; Veterans Legal Clinic; Securities, Arbitration and Consumer Law Clinic; Elder Law Clinic; D.C. Externship Program) that were all created, expanded, and/or fostered under Arterian's leadership. Dineen Hall, the current home of law school, was made possible through years of fundraising and dialogue Arterian led with College of Law faculty and administrators over several years. With her colleagues, Arterian raised \$40 million to construct one of the nation's premier law facilities. It is ranked as one of the most architecturally attractive law schools in the world. “She is part of the DNA of that place. She was a visionary,” Epsilanty said. “Dineen Hall and the education of the next generation of legal minds are part of her legacy. She fought tooth and nail for the law school. It was like one of her kids. She cared about the law because she cared about civil society.”

During her tenure at ASU and Syracuse University College of Law, Arterian worked with the American Bar Association to perform site inspections of law schools throughout the country and assess the qualifications of nominees to the federal judiciary, served on committees for the ABA, as well as the American Association of Law Schools. She was also a co-editor, with Jeremy Paul, of the SSRN *Journal on Legal Education*. During his 2007 campaign, Arterian aided in the vetting process of

then-Vice Presidential nominee Joseph Biden, a 1968 Syracuse College of Law alumnus. Upon his election, Biden invited Arterian to President Obama's inauguration in 2008, which Arterian witnessed from the inaugural platform. In 2009, Arterian joined AccessLex Institute (formerly Access Group), a nonprofit comprised of representatives of accredited law schools with the mission of education financing and debt management for law graduates, as well as investigating loan options and loan policy advocacy. After becoming a member of its Executive Committee in 2011, Arterian was elected as the Chair of the AccessLex Board of Directors in 2014.

Beyond these remarkable successes of her career, Arterian gave as much energy, passion, and fierce advocacy toward her four children. "She was a trail blazer and a role model among the faculty," Richard Morgan stated. "The second way she was a role model was she was a mother. She balanced the satisfactions of being a mother and a law professor. And she was doing this back in 1980, with a largely male faculty. She bore a heavy burden for the example she set." While it is not necessarily conventional to this medium, her children must be listed as among her life's accomplishments. Arterian's son William attended Dartmouth College, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia. After law school at University of Arizona, William clerked for the Arizona Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Houston, and then worked at the New York law firm Latham & Watkins. He is now a partner at Phoenix-based Osborn Maledon, P.A. Arterian's first daughter Susannah attended Mount Holyoke College and Northeastern University School of Law. After law school, she worked as a Supervising Attorney for the NUSL Domestic Violence Clinic, then as a public defender in child welfare cases. Susannah is now an Assistant General Counsel to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, supporting behavioral health and substance use disorder initiatives. Her second daughter Diana graduated *cum laude* from University of Southern California, then earned her MFA at California Institute of the Arts, and her PhD at USC. She is a professor of literature and creative writing at Merrimack College. Diana is an essayist, critic, translator, and scholar, and the author of a poetry collection that earned a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*. She has had publications in the *New York Times Book Review*, *NPR*, the Poetry Foundation website, and others. Her youngest daughter Cordelia also attended USC, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa—like her mother and grandmother before her—and graduated *magna cum laude*. Corey is currently a Data Operations Manager at Fandango, where she serves as the lead for the Young Professionals' Network employee resource group. Corey is also a trained Violence Prevention Specialist volunteer for the non-profit Peace Over Violence.

All four children, like Arterian, earned undergraduate degrees in English Literature. Her boundless curiosity and love of books, stories, and people are bequeathed to them from her. Her fierce ethics, care for the vulnerable, and drive to help others is her legacy through them. She raised her children as a single parent, and managed to maintain the necessary stamina to be a remarkable, attentive, and loving parent, as well as pursue a challenging and rewarding career. In addition, the gardens she cultivated on her properties in Arizona and Central New York often slowed traffic. From roses to bulbs to wild flowers, her gardens were an extension of her love of beauty, and one she hoped to share with those in

her community. While she is no longer among the living, these are the remarkably wide variety of legacies she leaves among and for everyone.

Her celebration of life events will take place in Syracuse, New York and Phoenix, Arizona. The Syracuse services will be held in the Melanie Gray Ceremonial Auditorium of Dineen Hall, Syracuse University College of Law, 950 Irving Avenue, on Sunday, May 8 at 2PM. Phoenix services will be at the Changing Hands Newton at 300 W. Camelback Road, on Saturday, May 28 at 3PM. In lieu of flowers, please instead donate to the organizations Arterian held dear: the Fresh Air Fund, Humane Society Legislative Fund, or to your own alma mater or institution of learning.