

The AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities (PBPSO) announces Professor Marjorie McDiarmid as the 2022 PBPSO Lifetime Achievement Award winner. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors those who have significantly advanced pro bono and public service in the law school setting over the course of their career.

Professor McDiarmid recently completed thirty-five years of service as the Clinic Director at the West Virginia University College of Law (WVU). During the span of her exemplary and legendary career, Professor McDiarmid has impacted the West Virginia legal community as a clinic director, as an innovative scholar, and as a leader in public service. She is admired for her awareness and commitment to the needs of the poor. Some of Professor McDiarmid's visionary leadership and innovative work include:

- ✚ Overseeing the growth of clinical education at WVU from 1 clinic to 9 clinics. Almost every member of each graduating class today has taken a clinical class and has had the direct – and sensitizing – experience of representing poor clients.
- ✚ She wrote the oft-cited “What’s Going On Down in the Basement: In-House Clinics Expand Their Beachhead”, 35 New York Law School Law Review 239 (1991), a seminal work in the field of experiential legal education.
- ✚ She designed and programmed an early computerized management system for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.
- ✚ She chaired the Standing Committee on Technology of the Clinical Legal Education section of the AALS.
- ✚ Creating and maintaining a website that helps clients in West Virginia find a legal services lawyer --<http://www.wvlegalservices.org/>.
- ✚ Service on a number of state bodies whose work has an impact on the poor: Judicial Commission on Alimony Guidelines (Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) and Child Support Enforcement Commission (Governor’s appointment) and the Technology Committee, West Virginia Symposium on Legal Services to the Poor

The scope of Professor McDiarmid’s impact on the individual attorneys who have elected to pursue social justice work in West Virginia is extraordinary. Many of the Legal Aid of West Virginia’s current roster of 70 staff attorneys had Professor McDiarmid as a professor or as a clinical supervisor.

Several of her WVU colleagues joined in nominating Professor McDiarmid noting her *fruitful* lifetime in public service:

“Marjorie McDiarmid has been the ever-present, ever-faithful driving force behind the expansion of the clinic to what it is today. By expanding our clinic and by imbuing it with a fierce sense of dedication to its low-income clients, she has guaranteed that our graduates leave the College with an understanding of the needs of the impoverished community in which they will practice – and their continuing obligation to work for equal justice for the poor. Professor McDiarmid has practiced in almost all of West Virginia’s 55 counties, bringing her abilities and her students to rural “lawyer deserts.”

Professor McDiarmid will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award during the virtual 2022 AALS Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022.