Memorial to Celebrate Former UNM Law Professor Ann Scales

Ann Scales, a longtime professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law before joining the law faculty at the University of Denver, will be celebrated at a Sept. 19 memorial service at the UNM School of Law. The public service will begin at 4 p.m. and be followed by a reception.

Scales died on June 24 at a Denver hospice, more than a week after suffering brain trauma in a fall at her home. She was 60.

Scales was among the founders of the field of feminist legal theory and remained a leader in the area throughout her career. As a student at Harvard Law School, she founded the Harvard Women’s Law Journal. She arrived at the UNM School of Law in 1980 after practicing with an all-female law firm in Los Angeles. That firm funded its race and sex discrimination cases by accepting divorce cases of Hollywood stars.

At UNM, Scales brought vibrancy to the classroom, believing that law school was an exciting time. “I believe that education is not something that has to be endured; it’s the best time in your life. So I try to participate in that by making it a happy, singing, dancing time – in my products liability class!” she said during a 2010 visit to Wake Forest University School of Law.

Through the years she continued representing clients, never asking for a fee. While still at UNM, she argued a case in which the New Mexico Supreme Court became the first high court of any state to hold that abortion funding is required by women’s interest in equality. She left the UNM law faculty in 1998.

Organizers are asking those planning to attend the memorial service to RSVP by Sept. 14 so they will know how much green chile stew — one of Scales’ favorites foods — to order for the reception. Click here to RSVP.

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