

Dory Mayer – a true stalwart of the international legal community

It is my honor and my pleasure to say “thank you” to Dory Mayer on behalf of the DAJV. During our LL.M. Fair 2014 in Cologne, Dory informed us that she will step down from her position as the Assistant Dean for the Office of Graduate Programs at Georgetown University Law Center (GULC). Although, I am pretty sure, that “stepping down” means that she will focus her energy on new projects.

I am always amazed that, whenever I talk with other Georgetown Alumni, regardless of their age, they all know Dory. She has truly shaped generations of lawyers interested in the international legal community. Furthermore, she has reached out and she has touched so many more. On several occasions, asked about the LL.M. program at Georgetown, she replied “what do you want?”. First, potential candidates might have been puzzled by this question. However, there is an idea behind it. Dory has always been very honest with potential candidates. Although, representing a great school – admittedly I am an Alumnus myself – she would advise everyone the way they needed it. She would always point out both sides of a medal. Students should think about what they want today and tomorrow in order to decide upon a specific school, a specific degree and/or the whole adventure of studying in the US. She has been in charge of the “Foundations Summer Program” which is open to other law schools as well. Therefore, many LL.M.s from around the globe started their US journey by saying “hi” to her.

During my time on campus, Dory was the first to greet us and the last to say goodbye, by calling upon us on graduation. She has been patient, caring and I have always had the feeling that Dory is not doing her “job”, but fulfilling her calling. Her office is a museum with gifts from countless countries and cultures.

Among many positive attributes, I admire her for her calmness. Whenever students got excited and/or nervous about something, she always had a good way of calming everyone down. At the end of the day, there has been no “mission impossible” for her. Furthermore, I admire her for teasing students to think for themselves. She always said that everyone needs to be a good lawyer for himself. A decision is not “the right one”, just because everyone is saying so, but because you truly believe it by yourself. Last but not least, Dory has always been open-minded. She would never hold it against someone, if a person would switch his mind. As a matter of the fact, she encouraged students to switch their minds, to try something new, something different and something you cannot even think of today. In a nutshell: Dory trained students to become better lawyers. There is not more to ask from someone working at any law school.

In 2007, Dory hosted the DAJV’s first Annual Conference on German and American Law outside of Germany in Washington, D.C., at GULC. She was instrumental in making this event a huge success which is still fondly remembered by those who attended. In supporting the DAJV’s goals she helped to establish a tradition that we carry on to this very day. Caryn Voland, who was also involved with our Annual Conference in 2007, will be her successor.

Auf ein Wiedersehen: Dear Dory, you are always welcome among friends!

On behalf of the DAJV,
Stefan Peintinger, LL.M. (Georgetown)



Can you spot Dory? That’s right; she is the nice smiling lady standing on the left side in the first row.