

Julia Clayton “Julie” Alexander Grinalds

The legal community mourns the death of Julia Clayton “Julie” Alexander Grinalds, who died on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, after a valiant battle against cancer. She was born to Mary Frances Malone Rains on November 3, 1947, in Nashville, Tennessee. Her father was William Sterling “Bud” Barrett, of Clarksville, Tennessee. Her adoptive parents were Mary Elizabeth “Pete” Polk Alexander, from Donelson, Tennessee, and Dave Almon Alexander, both living in Nashville, Tennessee, at the time of their deaths. She was preceded in death by both sets of parents, but is survived by Fannie Smith Barrett, her step-mother, who lives in Clarksville, Tennessee. She is survived by her husband, Richard Leigh Grinalds, their son, Jefferson Leigh Grinalds, and her husband’s children, whom she considered as her own, Elizabeth “Bess” Grinalds Arrington (married to James Arrington) of Senatobia, Mississippi, and Richard Southy Grinalds (married to Patricia Grinalds) of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Julie received her Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1969, and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1978. She graduated with a Juris Doctorate from the Nashville School of Law in 1982, graduating first in her class, and inducted into the Cooper’s Inn honorary organization for the law school. 1982 was a banner year for Julie, as she took the bar exam, changed occupations and moved to West Tennessee, all while pregnant, and then gave birth to Jeff the same year.

After moving to West Tennessee, she practiced law as an Assistant Attorney General for Gibson, Crockett, Haywood and Henry Counties in the child support division. She then went into private practice with special emphasis in child support enforcement and adoptions. In 2002, she again worked for the state of Tennessee as the Assistant General Counsel for the Department of Children's Services. She became the state director for the child support enforcement program within the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Thereafter, she was elected national President of the National Child Support Enforcement Association. In this position, she traveled and spoke to judicial groups throughout the United States. She also served on its Board in various capacities.

Locally, she was a member and past President of both the Jackson-Madison County Bar Association and the Lawyers' Association for Women, Anne Schneider Chapter. She was a charter member of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, and a past member of the Tennessee Bar Association, having served as President of the Family Law Section. She was a member of Jackson Business & Professional Women, a member of Grace United Methodist Church, and served as bake shop coordinator for the University School of Jackson's Holiday Mart for five years. In 1992, she received the Woman of Distinction award from the Reelfoot Girl Scout Council.

As a lawyer, she was a zealous advocate for children and women in Tennessee, and practiced law with great humanity. She was known for her acute legal mind and precise legal work. Julie enjoyed reading and cooking, and was known as a gracious hostess. In

describing her, her friends and colleagues use the words “honest,” “professional,” “hard worker,” “aggressive,” and “good friend.” All who knew Julie will miss her.

Those who wish to honor her with a memorial gift may direct it to Carl Perkins Child Abuse Prevention Center, PO Box 447, Jackson TN 38302, or the American Cancer Society, 2935 Hwy. 45 By-Pass, Jackson TN 38305.



Julie Grinalds – circa 1990

