

## **Memorial: Curtis G. Robbins (1958–2000)**

¶1 Curt Robbins graduated from Columbia University in 1980 with a B.A. degree in economics. He attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Law from 1980 to 1982, but withdrew to pursue his interest in aviculture. Curt worked with the National Aviary in Pittsburgh from 1982 to 1994, serving in a variety of positions, including aviary keeper and assistant director/financial officer. As he described it, he spent many years feeding, cleaning up after, caring for, learning, and teaching about birds, turtles, and plants. Subsequent to this he spent a year in Brazil as an exchange student, and also traveled to Nova Scotia, South America, and Costa Rica (all in the interest of birding) before traveling to the Pacific Northwest.

¶2 After a decade in the zoo profession, Curt returned to graduate school and earned an M.L.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science in 1993. He was a health information specialist in the Health Science Library of Allegheny General Hospital from 1994 to 1996. Then, in 1996, he moved from Pittsburgh to Seattle and became a reference librarian at Bogle & Gates PLLC, where he was employed from November 1996 until the firm's dissolution in early 1999. Curt became the head librarian for Williams, Kastner & Gibbs in Seattle in February 1999.

¶3 Curt made the transition from medical librarian to law librarian easily, in part because of his earlier exposure to legal materials but also because he was an eager learner. His patrons quickly discovered his facility with online services and new technologies. Curt demonstrated these skills in his quick and careful implementation of new library services.

¶4 All of those who had worked with Curt have remarked that his standard of excellence challenged those around him to a higher plain. He was very serious about his work and brought to it a breadth and depth of knowledge that everyone came to rely on. In the Bogle library, there was a *Jeopardy* calendar with daily questions, which he was not allowed to answer until everyone else had had a chance to guess. He generally knew the answer! And, he was meticulous—down to organizing used Post-it flags!

¶5 His patience, intelligence, good humor, and kindness were legion among all of use who knew him. He could make an afternoon staffing a booth at an ALA conference a delightful interlude of conversation instead of drudgery.

¶6 Curt always said he had come late to law librarianship but that it had been worth the wait. He thought that it was the perfect profession for him. Those of us who were honored to have worked with Curt and who got to see him develop his already considerable skills think so, too.

¶17 The entire Seattle law library community, especially the Law Librarians of Puget Sound, will miss Curt Robbins.—*Brenna A. Louzin,<sup>1</sup> Bridget E. Dacres,<sup>2</sup> Jan Lawrence,<sup>3</sup> and Amy Padfield<sup>4</sup>*

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