

LEADER PROFILE

GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE & SUCCEED



Like many in the profession, JOAN S. HOWLAND fortuitously stumbled into law librarianship. While a graduate student at the University of Texas, she had a casual conversation with the legendary director of the Tarlton Law Library, Roy Merksy, at the suggestion of her advisor. “During that conversation, I happened to mention that I had California roots,” recalls Howland. “Although I had not expressed even a remote interest in law libraries, without my knowledge that afternoon Professor Merksy contacted the equally renowned J. Myron Jacobstein at the Stanford Law Library. Two weeks later I was on a plane to Palo Alto to start a job at Stanford in technical services.” When, by her own admission, it soon became obvious that cataloging was not her forte, Howland was moved to the reference desk despite not having completed her MLS and knowing very little about the law. “Professor Jacobstein and the amazingly patient Head of Public Services, Adrienne Adan, kept me from drowning and instilled in me a confidence that ‘if you roll up your sleeves and work hard you can learn anything.’ They soon steered me into law school and the rest is history.”

Joan S. Howland’s extensive service to the profession and legal education is well documented. She is recognized for her work in legal

person's professional and personal goals and priorities, one's specific situation, and one's personality. The best career advice I could give anyone, however, is what my mother told me as she pushed me out of the nest, which is: "never pass up an opportunity to work with smart people." I have benefited beyond measure by taking advantage of serving on committees, working