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Tribute: Elizabeth Chitwood

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TRIBUTE

Elizabeth “Beth” Chitwood was one of the newest members of the Vanderbilt Law Review. Our community mourns her unexpected loss and is grateful for the time we were able to share with her. The following Tribute briefly highlights Beth’s contributions to the Vanderbilt Law community and the Vanderbilt Law Review.

Elizabeth Chitwood

On the first day of law school, Dean Pavlick informed us that we had fewer than one-thousand days until our law school graduation. This number simultaneously seemed both big and small. What we did not know on that first day was that we would only have 377 days with one of our fellow students, Elizabeth “Beth” Chitwood.

Beth came to school that day with a bright orange flower accessory in her hair. I do not know what everyone thought about her flower on that first day, but I am certain that everyone remembered it. We would quickly learn that Beth wore a flower in her hair every day; it was her “brand.” As a music major in undergrad, Beth aspired to practice music and copyright law, so having a brand suited her. Before long, however, we learned so much more about the girl behind the flower.

Beth was extremely intelligent, always having a quick answer when cold-called in class. She was one of the fastest readers I have ever encountered. She was also incredibly generous, never failing to point a classmate struggling with a legal concept in the right direction. Beth’s law school talents were recognized with her selection to the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, a great honor that I know she cherished.

Beyond her intelligence, Beth was a thoughtful colleague and a fierce friend. If you passed her in the hallway she would ask about your day, genuinely wanting an answer. One of her favorite days in Civil Procedure was when Professor Wuerth asked the class to bring in baked goods to share—Beth always wanted to treat others to her baking talents. Her kindness towards friends truly knew no bounds. My 1L year, I walked to school from my apartment, but after a purse-snatching took place right outside my building Beth insisted on picking me up and taking me home every single day.

Those 377 days went by in the blink of an eye, but they are 377 days that everyone at Vanderbilt Law School and all of those on the *Vanderbilt Law Review* are better for. The Law Review will miss the inevitable spark Beth would have brought to the group. Her Note, which undoubtedly would have involved music copyright law, will now go unwritten. Most of all, her absence in the law school building and from all of our lives will be deeply felt.

Beth taught us many things about law and about life, not the least being that sometimes the most fearless thing you can do is proudly wear a bright orange flower in your hair. As we finish our less-than-one-thousand-day journey, we will carry Beth's spirit with us. She will forever be our fellow Class of 2018 member, *Vanderbilt Law Review* colleague, and, most importantly, our friend.

*Jessica L. Haushalter**

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