



## **Bill Becker: Legal Legend, Forever UA Family**

*Lauri S. Thorpe*

Associate Dean and Professor of Law William “Bill” C. Becker entered my School of Law Dean’s Office world in 1983 as our Products Liability adjunct professor. Bill eventually retired from B. F. Goodrich Company and joined our faculty full time. Bill was my colleague, boss, mentor, and friend. He eventually was a father figure to me before cancer robbed us of his spectacular life and service to UA on July 14, 2003.

Bill Becker was a legal legend who had a heart of gold sprinkled with bits of Kingsfield on the outer shell. He challenged and supported me. He pushed my critical thinking and analytical skills to new levels.

Toward the end of his seventy-three years on this planet, Bill received chemo treatments before coming to the School of Law. Bill loved my Labradors and West Point's hot mincemeat pie, so on chemo days, with hospital permission, I often showed up with warm pie and my newest puppy. Bill, his lovely wife, Judy, and I enjoyed pie while my puppy snoozed on his lap. Bill and I also spent many a weekend on his porch shooting the breeze and solving the problems of the world. When Bill's family asked me to play flute at his funeral and again when Judy died a few years later, it was a sweet honor to send them off with the music they loved.