Anne Barlow Gallagher is a nearly perfect example of an attorney imbued with a selfless spirit and a committed dedication to improving the lives of others. Sadly, the 38-year-old Gallagher died April 1, 2004 after a 14-week battle with lung cancer (although she was a lifelong non-smoker).

In her “Personal Statement” on her application to the University of Maryland School of Law in 1991, Gallagher wrote, “I have always enjoyed working for the benefit of others . . . It is extensive contact with children and their families that has taken me to an interest in law. I want to have a broader impact on their lives. As an advocate, I want to intervene earlier in the cycle to make the legal and political system work for disadvantaged persons and their individualized needs.” These words are a distillation of the principles that Gallagher exercised throughout her life. Even through her battle with the cancer that claimed her life, she remained true to what was written on her application many years ago.

After graduating in 1987 from Bard College in New York, Gallagher taught home and hospital-bound children through the Baltimore City Public Schools. These were children in special circumstances who, either for health or emotional reasons, could not attend school. She also taught in the Walter P. Carter Center, a state psychiatric hospital for nine-to-twelve-year-old in-patient children. It was in working with these children that Gallagher decided she wanted to have a broader impact as a legal advocate.

During law school, Gallagher found a home in the University of Maryland Clinical Law Program as a student lawyer and child advocate. It’s where, upon her graduation in 1994, she was honored with the Clinical Award for Outstanding Advocacy. Gallagher provided legal advocacy for foster children in Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases and in later years provided advice to pro se litigants in domestic matters throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland. For many years, she also held office hours at Maryland courthouses to provide legal counseling and information to more than a thousand individuals. On April 7, 2004, Gallagher was posthumously awarded the 2004 Children’s Choice Founders Day Award “as a reminder of a life spent in the service of others.”

Gallagher was also an active member and volunteer in the Key School community of Annapolis, Md., where her two children attend school. She enjoyed creative art projects and was an accomplished weaver.

Gallagher is remembered by friends for her compassion, devotion, gentle spirit, kindness, humility, integrity, sense of humor, and her remarkable humanity. Gallagher is also fondly remembered by her professors, fellow lawyers, and colleagues, but most of all, she is remembered for always asking “What more can we do to see that children are well represented?”

In 2004, the law school established the Anne Barlow Gallagher Prize for Service to Children and Youth. The prize is awarded annually to a student who best emulates the qualities that made Gallagher an outstanding advocate on behalf of children and youth: persistence, sensitivity, compassion, intelligence, and creativity. Additionally, Gallagher’s husband, Peter Holland (’92), is in the process of creating a scholarship in his wife’s name. It is hoped that the prize and the scholarship will inspire and encourage a new generation of dedicated lawyers to practice law with Anne Barlow Gallagher’s same selfless spirit.

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