

A TRIBUTE TO CHAR LEMAIRE

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The recent announcement of Traveling Coaches co-founder, Char LeMaire elicited many emotions. My first thought was, “what do you mean retire, we’re probably fairly close in age!” The next was that Char literally helped change the landscape of legal software training and she needed a tribute...or should it be a friendly roast?

I’ve asked a few people in the industry to help me give Char a proper sendoff. It’s certain that Gina, Brie, Joe and everyone at Traveling Coaches will miss her greatly. But so will the rest of us. She may have been considered a competitor, but I also greatly admired her.

So grab a glass of your favorite beverage, conjure your own Char encounters and picture our own *‘hip shaking momma’* as you read these thoughts.



FROM STACIE OSTE, PARKER POE

Where: ILTA Conference 2010
Scene: The Traveling Coaches Suite @ the Aria

Traveling Coaches had an open house and I’m there surrounded by all the “beautiful people” they employ. Feeling pretty insecure about myself. I had seen Char as a presenter and was a fan, but I hadn’t really had a personal conversation with her. I had a glass of wine and I’m working the room. Managed to get next to Char and started chatting about personal stuff. She was great! Immediately put me at ease (the wine didn’t hurt) and we were off and running.



We were sharing dental horror stories and Char recalled an episode that ended with one of her front teeth popping out! I don’t remember any other details, but I know I laughed my a\$# off. She made that evening fun, enjoyable and a little less

intimidating. And here's my favorite part: She told me I was funnier than the Jan McInnis, the comedienne ILTA had hired that year. WOW – what a compliment and anyone who tells me that is a forever friend.

Thanks for all the laughs Char – you'll be missed.



FROM MICHELLE SPENCER, BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP

Char's energy and exuberance for improving training in law firms is something that has inspired me and others for many years. I'm not saying how many, but it's more than just a few!



A visit to Austin by Char was one of those occasions that I eagerly awaited, because I knew it was going to be a fun and educational time. I always came away with something to take back and try. Char truly is the voice of law firm trainers everywhere. She exemplifies the term thought leader in every way, and I will miss her voice greatly. Personally, she convinced me that it was not only okay to be an advocate for our users, but a duty. It is not one that I take lightly, and I will continue to proudly carry that torch in her honor.



FROM TONY HARTSFIELD, BRYAN CAVE

I first met Char at an ILTA roadshow in my city. The topic was on the latest MS Office release. She commanded the room-capacity audience with wit, charm, and stories from the trenches of law firm training. I kept thinking, "Who is this crazy lady, and how did she get to be so good at this?"



Since then I've seen how hard she works on her craft, and admire her abilities. I've even had the privilege of co-presenting with her at an ILTA conference. (Of course, I played the straight man.)

Char is a leading voice for training in the legal environment. I'm a better professional because of her.



FROM JEFFREY ROACH, ENCORETECH

Dear Ms. LeMaire,

Thank you so much for submitting your recent Request for Retirement. In reviewing your impressive list of accomplishments over the last 35 years, it's clear that your request is well-earned and well-deserved. That said, we cannot approve your request at this time, as we feel you are still vital to our long-term success.

Please consider applying again in ten years or so.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Roach | Headmaster
The Ministry of Training



FROM ROBYN PASCALE, COZEN O'CONNOR

There are very few speakers where you would drop everything to hear them present a topic; but Char would be one of those people. She can engage you with any tech topic, between her knowledge; her body language and her sense of humor.

No matter what the subject is about, when you're laughing, you're engaged; and when you're engaged, you're retaining the information. She's one smart lady and have enjoyed getting to know her over the years. Wishing her the very best of luck in any new passion she plans to pursue.



FROM PEGGY WECHSLER, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (ILTA)

Char is an educator at heart. She has provided so much value to ILTA members, and the legal community in general, for many years through numerous presentations at local meetings, roadshows, webinars, events and our annual conference. She is one of our most requested speakers, and her expertise and style will be hard to replace.

Personally, I'll miss Char on the dance floor at ILTA's annual conferences! She has some great moves!



FROM SHERRY KAPPEL, LITERA



"One of my fondest memories working with Char occurred a decade or so ago when I spent several days with her and the Traveling Coaches consulting team. Our goal might have been to skill-up on application configuration, but the lessons -- as they always are with Char in the room! -- went far beyond that.

During our multi-day event, Char taught me what meant to constantly create, to never forget how important the user was and to cherish every single learning opportunity one gets in work or in life. (She also taught me -- demonstrated, actually! -- that Dallas does shopping like nowhere else on Earth but that story is for another day...) These lessons certainly weren't on the 'plan', rather they were in the manner in which Char conducts herself always: the consummate learning leader -- and learner -- herself.



Thank you for all your lessons, Char. You are certain to touch many more with your lessons and I, for one, am jealous! All the best to you as you define 'retirement' for Char -- then please, do come back to teach us all how it's done? :-)"



**FROM MARITTA TERRELL, LLOYD GOSSELINK
ROCHELLE & TOWNSEND**

Char is totally awesome, and will be missed so much.

I've learned so much from her in just the past 15 years...and she's a wonderful person too...all the very best to her!



CLOSING REMARKS AND MEMORY FROM DONNA PAYNE, PAYNEGROUP

Many thanks to all of the people who wanted to be a part of this tribute, and to those who didn't have the opportunity based on the short timeline. Char is special and we are all better for knowing her.

For me, I will always picture Char on the dance floor and know that even with a broken leg and wearing a cast, she still has better dance moves than me.

Char is a star who deserves and commands attention. She gives 100% to everything she does and she makes us smile and sometimes laugh out loud.

Char should be proud of her accomplishments. Oh, and if you are ever looking for work, I'm sure many of us would be willing to sign up for dance lessons from you.

