Nance is particularly accomplished in developing, encouraging, bolstering and advocating for women. The ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law, which nominated her, received many supportive comments from colleagues, students and friends including:

“Upon joining the faculty, Cyndi immediately took me under her wing … I was appointed to the board of the AALS Section on Labor and Employment Law. I currently hold the position of Chair of the Section, and I owe the honor of serving in that role to Cyndi for making those initial connections for me.”

“There is no way on this earth that I would be an attorney today if it weren’t for Cyndi Nance. I never would have made it without her encouragement, guidance, support and leadership.”

“Cynthia Nance is a woman who gives her all to every student who walks through her classroom door.”

“Whether she is serving as the undergraduate advisor for her sorority or helping young people from underrepresented groups understand the value of a law degree, she is a dedicated advocate who thoroughly serves her profession, community and family.”

“After learning about Ms. Brent, perhaps the strongest recommendation I can make on Ms. Nance’s behalf is that she is Margaret Brent’s natural heir. Ms. Nance does not simply pave the way for other female lawyers; she actively mentors them and guides them along their legal career paths.”

“Her selfless giving, wisdom, drive and refusal to accept anything ‘less than’ is nothing short of remarkable. She has forged a path for me and other female attorneys, particularly those of color, which allows us to continue to break barriers such as she has.”

“She is driven in so many ways and by so many things, which have given her a level of kindness, empathy and determination that is both magnetic and inspiring. People are drawn to her because her work is personal as well as professional.”

In addition to her generosity with time and knowledge, she is also a philanthropist. She created the Dennis Shields Award scholarship at the University of Iowa College of Law in honor of a mentor who was instrumental in her decision to attend law school and endowed the Eual Dean and Fern Nance Social Justice Scholarship in her parents’ names at the University of Arkansas.

Speaking to a group of pre-law students from underrepresented groups in the legal profession, Nance reminded the students of the need to be GREAT: grounded, real, excellent, accountable and tough—all traits that are eminently recognizable to all who know her and that epitomize the qualities of a Margaret Brent recipient.