1995

Memorial for Chief Judge Anne Simonett

David L. Lillehaug

Follow this and additional works at: http://open.mitchellhamline.edu/wmlr

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://open.mitchellhamline.edu/wmlr/vol21/iss2/1
David L. Lillehaug†

Hank, H.J., Claire, the Simonetts and the Sheas have asked me to welcome you to and tell you about this memorial service today.

Anne’s death at this time in her life and career can only be understood through faith. The support and good will conveyed to this family by your presence is of tremendous aid to them as they reaffirm their faith today.

The family has striven to formulate an order of service that properly reflects Anne’s tastes of dignity and simplicity and that includes different periods of her 42 years. You will first hear from Martha Simonett, who will remember her sister’s life from Little Falls to her last days. Professor Phebe Haugen shared time with Anne teaching at the William Mitchell College of Law. Her remarks will include one of Hank’s and Anne’s favorite prayers.

No commemoration of Anne Simonett could be right without fine music. One of Anne’s last gifts to us is the presence today of her best friend from college, Betsy Steward of New York, whose vocal talents have been heard in the Metropolitan and Santa Fe Opera Houses.

It was a close call in Anne’s career, but music came in second to the law, and today we will hear from two judges. Her mentor at Faegre & Benson was James Loken, who now sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. One of her favorite colleagues on the Hennepin County District Court bench was Edward Toussaint. It’s difficult to understand the joy that Anne and Hank felt when Judge Toussaint was chosen to succeed her as Chief Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The person who chose both Judge Toussaint and Anne was Governor Arne Carlson. He saw in her a variety of special qualities, including an abiding commitment to public service. Governor, you honor us today, you honor this family and congregation of friends by your presence.

† U.S. Attorney, District of Minnesota.
And finally, Hank Shea will speak to his and Anne's children, H.J. and Claire. I am sure they know they could have no more loving a father.