Memorial for Chief Judge Anne Simonett

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Honorable Richard B. Solum†

Anne Simonett was a friend of mine. I like to believe she was a good friend, although I had known her only since July 12, 1993, the day she became a colleague on the Hennepin County District Court. I am sure Anne was regarded as a friend of all of us, even though most of my colleagues knew her for a tragically short time. It was the extraordinarily special quality of Anne’s personality, capability and spirit which so universally attracted new acquaintances to her.

It is this quality which, notwithstanding the briefness of our friendships, underpinned our early and unanimous view that a permanent and living memorial to Anne should be placed in our courthouse. Accordingly, in the near future, a permanent memorial will be placed in the Hennepin County Government Center, and on an annual basis we will bring life to this memorial by naming an employee of the court who best exemplifies the incomparable spirit of Anne V. Simonett. Perhaps we will miss her less when her presence is affixed to our place of work.

† Judge, Minnesota District Court, 4th Judicial District. Judge Solum’s words were not part of the service.