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# A Tribute to Douglas K. Amdahl

Charlton Dietz

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## A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS K. AMDAHL

CHARLTON DIETZ†

Leaders in the legal profession have certain common attributes: competence in the law, skill to communicate clearly, a vision with respect to the improvement of the justice system, ability to inform the public and respect from professional colleagues. Chief Justice Amdahl possesses all of these characteristics, and with abundance. But there is more that distinguishes him.

The Chief remembers his roots. His hometown, Mabel, Minnesota, is renowned because he has been proud to recognize his rural heritage. And William Mitchell College of Law is proudly identified as the source of his legal education.

Notwithstanding the demands of his judicial responsibilities, first on the Hennepin County District Court and then as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, he has maintained an active and sustained association with William Mitchell. He has been in all the positions—from student to administrator, as an instructor, officer and trustee, and as an esteemed alumnus. His dedication and contributions have richly endowed the institution, its faculty, students and alumni.

His commitment to the future of William Mitchell is, in part, I am sure, based upon his sense of obligation to provide motivated students the same opportunity that was afforded to him in getting a quality legal education. William Mitchell has provided that unique experience.

By his example, Chief Justice Amdahl has caused many of us to do more than we otherwise would be inclined to do. He has shown the way for others to follow. That truly is the mark of an outstanding leader. We salute him!

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† Senior Vice President Legal Affairs and General Counsel for 3M; William Mitchell class of 1957.

