

CHIEF JUSTICE MOORE AND HIS LAW CLERKS

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Those of us who had the privilege of serving as law clerks for Chief Justice Moore developed the same feelings of respect and affection for him which are normally reserved only for one's parents. To say that "The Chief" was a fine judge is undoubtedly true. To say that Chief Justice Moore was a superb chief justice is surely the case. But for those who worked and learned from him, it was his role as our legal mentor which we treasure more than all else.

To those who knew "Mr. Chief Justice," and certainly for those who worked with him, nothing describes his persona better than a simple love of people. The Chief told me on countless occasions that a life in the law is ultimately the ability to serve people who truly need one's help. It is that ability to care for people in the most difficult circumstances which makes the true professional lawyer something more than just another commercial worker.

I have countless memories of my service as clerk for Chief Justice Moore between 1976 and 1978. I will recount just a few. On a regular basis, persons from all walks of life would come to the court to argue cases, present motions, or visit with one of the justices. The Chief missed no opportunity when business was completed to offer what he lovingly called the "Cook's tour" of the court facilities, which had recently undergone a major renovation. He took great pride in taking people into individual justices' offices, court chambers, and libraries, as well as the courtroom itself. Of course, the Chief rarely mentioned his instrumental role as Chief Justice in undertaking the renovation of the court's quarters and the expansion which was necessary to accommodate the newly formed Iowa Court of Appeals. At the conclusion of every tour, the Chief made a very special point of telling his guests this was "their court" system and he knew they shared his own very special pride in it.

On occasion dissatisfied litigants, upset with a written appellate decision, insisted on complaining directly to the Chief Justice. Some were so unruly that court personnel often wondered if security should be called to quiet them. But the Chief would come out and take them back to his office to talk. Almost miraculously, they would leave and be heard to say that they now understood why the decision had been reached.

Another trait the Chief clearly demonstrated to all of his clerks was a

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boundless interest in the whole educational process. He often said that whatever any person learned in law school, or even studied afterwards, was only as valuable as the continuing effort to keep current and up to date. His years as an adjunct professor at Drake University Law School underscored this belief. His efforts to develop continuing legal education requirements for Iowa lawyers testify to his lifelong interest in continuing education.

The Chief's ability to work with other people to build a consensus literally had to be seen to be believed. His innate belief that most disputes were capable of resolution and that all issues needed to be examined from several directions was on display daily in his role as Chief Justice. I doubt that there has ever been anyone more skillful in reaching collective agreements than the Chief was and remained until his last day on the bench.

Chief Justice Moore had a unique ability to motivate many people, including several generations of lawyers, in a very beneficial way. What he did was simple. He appealed to your sense of pride and his need for your help to complete a project that only you could do. All of us certainly have seen other methods of motivation; but, to this day, I have never seen anything like his ability to obtain the maximum loyalty and effort from those who served him.

One final note—I believe the Chief would have disclaimed any interest in a memorial issue and, frankly, would have been embarrassed by the accolades and affection which Drake University and the members of the bar are showing in the pages of this issue of the *Drake Law Review*. Nonetheless, no graduate of our law school, member of our bar, or jurist is more deserving. Those of us who knew him can truly say he was one of a kind.