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Dedication

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DEDICATION

*Honorable Johanna L. Fitzpatrick**

It gives me great joy to have the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the Law School's Centennial Year. For me, my days at Catholic were much more than an educational experience, they have become a part of my family history. My husband Charles, Class of 1972, began our odyssey and my son Bill, Class of 1993, continued it. We all feel blessed from our experience.

My appreciation for the flexibility and open views of the Law School began before I ever set foot on the campus. In the early 1970s there were few women in law school, and for a young mother with a child at home, even fewer day care options. Dean Bamberger hardly batted an eye as he let me know that a first-year schedule could be arranged that would accommodate my child care needs. In those days, that was very special and it reflected the Law School's early commitment to encouraging the enrollment of women and minority students. I remember taking Bill with me to class on several occasions. In fact, on Tuesdays I had Property followed by Criminal Law with Father Granfield. After Property, someone asked my son if he thought he could sit through another class and he said, "I sat through that, I can sit through anything." Thus began another law school career.

My experiences at the law school shaped my career. Under the tutelage of people like Clinton Bamberger, Bill Kaplin, Florence Roisman, Ralph Rohner, and Roger Wolf, public service and commitment to the highest goals of the legal profession were the norm. I spent my last semester working at the legal clinic on North Capitol Street often representing indigent clients in Landlord-Tenant Court. It was a natural progression for me to follow those worthwhile days with a job at the Fairfax Legal Aid Society and from there to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the Circuit Court, and now the Court of Appeals. I look back on my legal career as a great gift I have enjoyed every day. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

* Judge Fitzpatrick is the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. After graduation from the Columbus School of Law in 1974, she was a staff attorney for the Fairfax Legal Aid Society. She later was appointed Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge and then Circuit Court Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Virginia until her current appointment to the Court of Appeals of Virginia in 1992.

