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## Dedication

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## DEDICATION

DEAN W. JEREMY DAVIS

From Cavalier, North Dakota, to the University of North Dakota as a varsity football player (where I believe he also served as the “warden” for student athletes living in the dormitory located in the stadium), Rod Webb went on to law school and then the successful practice of law in Grafton. Before his appointment by President Reagan as United States Attorney in 1981, Rod served as a state’s attorney, an assistant attorney general, and a municipal judge. Webb’s outstanding service as United States Attorney was followed by his appointment in 1987, again by President Reagan, to the federal bench. He had been Chief Judge of the United States District Court until he took senior status in December 2001.

I would like to reflect upon only two of the many accomplishments and achievements of Judge Webb, but they are huge and have had a significant impact on this law school and on the process of litigation in the federal courts.

Judge Webb has been a national leader in the use of modern technology in the courtroom. Through his concerted efforts, the Quentin N. Burdick United States Courthouse in Fargo is equipped with state-of-the-art electronics. Judge Webb was one of the first, if not the first, federal judge to encourage and permit live video testimony of direct and cross-examination in federal civil trials in “real-time.” This was terrific for the law school since our goal has been to use this technology to teach, and Judge Webb has been generous in helping us accomplish that goal. It is not uncommon for Judge Webb to broadcast parts of an interesting trial from his courtroom in Fargo to the law school in Grand Forks so that our students can see how what they are learning in law school actually works. It was in large part because of Judge Webb’s pursuit of high-tech solutions and his encouragement that the School of Law was named one of the “most wired” law schools in the United States.

The other thing I want to mention about Rod Webb is something that has an even more direct and important impact on the School of Law. Understanding the critical need for our school to be able to hire and retain top-rate faculty, Rod and Betty made a significant gift to the school several years ago with the intent to reward and recognize faculty accomplishment and achievement. The Rodney and Betty Webb Endowment provides

funds for faculty achievement awards and, more importantly, a named professorship that supplements a faculty member's salary.

Finally, I would like to thank Rod and Betty for the highest compliment they have paid us—entrusting several of their children to us to educate as the next generation of Webb lawyers.

It is fitting that the *North Dakota Law Review* has dedicated this issue to Rodney Webb. Rod and his family have done much for the University of North Dakota and its School of Law. Rod Webb has had an extraordinary career, but in addition to all those great things we can read about in his biography or can see from his efforts to improve the federal judiciary, there is also the fact that he is a sensitive and caring person. If you have ever had the opportunity to observe Judge Webb in a naturalization hearing as he welcomes applicants into United States citizenship, you know what I mean.