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Judge Webb

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JUDGE WEBB

LINDA HAUKE DAHL

After serving as Judge Webb's administrative assistant for fifteen years (and as secretary during his term as United States Attorney for seven years), I can say without hesitation that Judge Webb loves his work. He always has: he loved being in private practice; he loved serving as United States Attorney; and he now loves being a judge. He is a tireless worker. His love for his work, I believe, shows whether he is working on an order, arguing a viewpoint with his law clerks, participating in an oral argument in court, presiding over a jury trial, heading the successful drive to build a major addition to the federal courthouse, or working with his staff and others. His enthusiasm is remarkable, and sometimes tiring! There is never a question about how to do something in our chambers; the only option to Judge Webb is to do the best he (and his staff) can.

Judges are often unavailable to the public. This is not true with Judge Webb. The door to Judge Webb's office is always open to his staff, to other court employees, and to the public. Judge Webb thinks of himself as a public servant whose job is to do just that, serve the public. I believe he realizes this goal.

Judge Webb's love of, and loyalty to, his family are obvious and admirable. He has not forgotten—in fact, he is very proud of—his “roots.” I have often heard him talk of his parents (his father owned a service station and his mother was a teacher), and his pride is evident. The same is true of his own family—his wife, children, and grandchildren. He is so proud of all of them; his family is number one in his life—well, sometimes it ties with his work. The importance of his family carries through to his staff. Judge Webb is always sensitive to his staff's family needs and generously allows us necessary time from work to be with our families. He believes that if we need and take time for family, we will be better, more productive employees.

Just as his own family is important to him, Judge Webb considers his staff and other court employees as his “court family.” Since we work together so closely, he is sensitive to how the court operates. Judge Webb asks for, and receives, comments and suggestions on how our court can operate more efficiently.

I consider myself fortunate to work for someone who respects me and my position, asks for my opinion and listens to it, challenges me in my

work, and is—to his credit—frank and candid with me and expects the same in return. Judge Webb believes that people work at a higher level when treated in this manner. After working with Judge Webb for twenty-one years, I have seen that his belief is usually correct.