



1996

Dedication

Davis W. Jeremy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jeremy, Davis W. (1996) "Dedication," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 72 : No. 4 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol72/iss4/1>

This Comment is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Law Review by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.

DEDICATION

DEAN W. JEREMY DAVIS

I can think of no task that I could enjoy more and fear more than what I am about to do right now. It falls upon me to introduce this dedication volume of the North Dakota Law Review. What I fear is that I will not be able to convey adequately the qualities of Beryl Levine—my student, my colleague, my friend and my mentor. What I enjoy is the reminiscence that this effort calls back to mind—Beryl as an exceptional student; as a new admittee to the bar and a beginning lawyer; as a skilled attorney; as Supreme Court Justice; as recipient of the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award of the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession.

My association with Justice Beryl Levine spans the 25 years between the Fall of 1971 when she first enrolled at the School of Law and I entered the law-teaching profession, and the Fall of 1996 as I write this. Among my first memories of Beryl Levine is when, as a brand-new law teacher, I sought to demonstrate an arcane legal principle with what some would consider an obscene gesture. Just as I was making the point, I looked up to note that Beryl had brought her nine-year-old daughter to class that day. But things got better as time went on.

Levine's law school efforts are well known: Beryl was an older than average student before we knew that terminology. She commuted 160 miles round-trip each day to attend class, missing but a half-dozen evening meals with her five children aged four to thirteen during her entire three years of law school. She was a hard-working and thorough student, doggedly asking questions and challenging her teachers while easily "out-brillianting" us (if the others won't admit it, I certainly will); and graduating first in her class.

After she joined the Vogel law firm in Fargo, Beryl and I kept in touch. She had a successful career and was known as a tough, fair advocate. She tended to develop her practice in family and juvenile law since that was where the people who needed her help needed it the most. There were probably very mixed feelings around the firm and in the community when, in 1985, Governor George Sinner appointed Beryl Levine to the North Dakota Supreme Court. There was rejoicing among her many friends at the law school, because we knew that Justice Levine would take to the Court her intelligence, her thoroughness, her inquisitiveness, and her compassion.

North Dakota was well served by Justice Levine. She was an active judge on a hot bench. It was often not pleasant for the underprepared lawyer to address that North Dakota Supreme Court or to face the direct questioning of Justice Levine. Her inquiries were always attempts to clarify in her mind the equities of the case.

I was saddened when Beryl announced her retirement. Her career on the Court was too short. It was even sadder when she and Leo moved West, depriving us of their company for periods of time much too long. But she remains very much present, in the doctrinal developments she has shaped, in her abiding belief that law and legal institutions have an important role in self-governance, and in her example of how much one committed person can matter.

Beryl Levine is a wonderful person, a loyal and inspiring friend. Knowing her as I do, I believe that she would want it understood that her accomplished husband, Dr. Leonard Levine, and her talented children share implicitly in the dedication of this volume for the loving support and appreciation they have always provided Beryl in her extraordinarily creative career.