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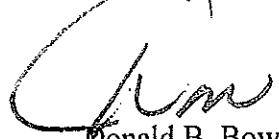
~~Rick Yugler President  
Oregon State Bar  
16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Road  
Tigard, OR 97281-1935~~

Dear Rick:

I am enclosing a copy of Clackamas County Presiding Judge Steven Maurers' comments at the service for Judge Patrick D. Gilroy who was the longest sitting circuit court judge in the State of Oregon.

It would be fitting to have Judge Maurers' eloquent comments published in the Oregon State Bar Bulletin, either in whole or in part.

By copy of this letter, with enclosure, I am notifying the editor of the Bulletin and of our request.

Sincerely,  
  
Donald B. Bowerman

DBB:ll  
cc: Honorable Steven L. Maurer  
~~Peter K. Glazer, esq.~~

For three decades Patrick Gilroy gave our Court and his colleagues, the best he had, every single day. Serving with dedication, dignity, integrity and distinction, he set standards for excellence that my generation of judges aspire to, and which will challenge and inspire future generations of Clackamas County Judges. My name is Steve Maurer and I have the privilege of serving as the Presiding Judge of the Clackamas County Circuit Court, the Court that Pat Gilroy was proud to call his own.

I am humbled and honored, to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of our Court, to in some small way offer solace and express to Pat's family that the vastness of their grief is shared by those of us who loved him, as part of his other family. Also to celebrate what Pat meant to us personally and what he means, and will continue to mean, to our Court as an enduring institution within our community.

I am one of a number of my colleagues who had the good fortune to try cases before Pat and later also serve as a colleague on the Bench. In reflecting on Pat's career, it occurs to me that I, and other trial lawyers of my generation in Clackamas County, have largely spent our legal careers in the shadow of Pat Gilroy, and certainly for me, without a single regret.

As a new lawyer coming to Clackamas County at a time when Pat had recently gone on the bench, and eager to make my way as a trial lawyer, I quickly learned that there could be no discussion of excellent trial advocacy without reference to Pat Gilroy. He was a fearless and exemplary trial lawyer.

Trying cases in his Court as a lawyer there was no mistaking his commanding presence, his quick grasp of legal issues and his fidelity to the law. It was clear to me early on that just as with the subject of trial advocacy, over time there would be no discussion of excellence as a trial judge without reference to Pat Gilroy. Time has demonstrated the accuracy of that assessment. And at least in Pat's case, the old

adage 'Law is the only game where the best players get to sit on the Bench,' rings true.

Our court has a long, rich history and tradition of outstanding jurists. Pat's accomplishments and many contributions have done much to enhance the stature of our Court and to build on those traditions. He was the bridge between two generations of judges, the steady hand, the constant, the glue of our Court. At once, a reflection of the best of our past and our guide to the brightness of our future. He has earned our respect, our admiration and our affection. He has earned his place among the legends of our Bench.

Even after his retirement we have been very lucky to have Pat maintain his close personal connection with our Court. He had a special reverence and an infectious enthusiasm for the history of our Bench and Courthouse. He was our greatest supporter and cheerleader as we undertook to upgrade the physical environment within our Courthouse in a way that would more effectively communicate the important values the Courthouse symbolizes within our community. Those values Pat committed himself to daily, throughout his professional career.

One of our proudest and fondest memories will be of Pat cutting the ceremonial ribbon marking the official reopening of the historic front entrance of our Courthouse, during our dedication ceremony this past summer. That entrance had been closed for over 14 years and Pat had long championed its reopening as an important symbol of the Courthouse history of providing open access to the administration of justice. We were all especially proud to be able to accomplish something that meant so much to Pat and to be able to have him share in that accomplishment.

It has been such a pleasure to have Pat return to sit with our Court as part of his judicial retirement pro tem service. It has been great to be able to show him the

changes in the Courthouse we have made, to see his appreciation of our efforts and to talk with him about our plans for future improvements.

When serving on those occasions his only concern was how he could best help our Court. At his urging we would try to find the most difficult cases we had coming up for trial and set them for a settlement conference before Pat. With his affinity to people, his sharp mind, his quick wit, his fundamental decency – he had a remarkable capacity for moving people from seemingly intractable positions, at virtual polar opposites, to a common ground that would resolve the dispute, and somehow, despite the magnitude of the concessions made, leave both parties feeling that a fair and just result had been achieved.

There is not time to adequately pay tribute to all of Pat's professional accomplishments, and for all of Pat's devotion to the law and our Court, there can be no discussion of Pat's life without recognizing that the center of his life was his family. You could not fail to see in everything he did, his adoration of Donna, his love for and pride in his children, the joy his grandchildren brought him. We, as his colleagues, were proud to just be a part of such a good man's life.

In closing I must remark upon my extraordinary personal good fortune in having had the opportunity to spend time with Pat at our Courthouse in the days before he and Donna left for vacation. It was a particularly pleasant time; we had just been able to make special arrangements with the State Court Administrator's Office for Pat to sit in our Court on two days every month. I had just had him sit down with our calendaring manager, Patti Holland, and they had mapped out a schedule for Pat for the whole coming year. We were both really enthused about this, talking about how we would select cases for him to try to settle on those days and were both pleased and excited about this opportunity to maintain Pat's close connection to our Court on such a regular basis.

We will now mark each of those days, and on those days we will feel his absence somewhat more sharply, than the days before and those after.

Pat is a treasured colleague, a mentor, a friend. His presence will long be felt in our Courthouse. His mark will remain on our Bench as long as those of us who have, for so many years, valued his counsel remain – and then beyond.

We will miss his warmth and wisdom. We will miss him. I will miss his liting and somewhat quirky greeting to me "*Hey kiddo.*" But we are a stronger Court, we are better judges and we are better people, for having had the honor of serving beside him.