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MEMORIAL TO : FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GEORGE T. "TOM" ALLEN, JR. : CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

To all the judges, family, friends and fellow members of the Bar, it is an honor and a privilege to speak on behalf of Tom Allen.

George Thomas Allen, Jr. was born in Haynesville, Louisiana, on February 25, 1947, to George and Audra Allen. He died in Shreveport on July 15, 1994. He is survived by his wife, Nelda; his children, Mark, Matthew and Kevin; his parents, George and Audra; and his sister, Julie.

Tom attended elementary and high school in Haynesville. He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University in 1969 and his Masters of Education degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1973. He taught Louisiana History at Jonesboro-Hodge High School and coached eighth grade basketball from 1969 to 1973. He returned to LSU to obtain his law degree in 1977. At the time of his death, he was a senior partner in the firm of Mayer, Smith & Roberts with whom he had been associated since 1977. He was 47 years old at the time of his death. His life was short. His legacy is long.

Tom's legal legacy is that of a personal injury defense attorney. He was always thoroughly knowledgeable of the issues in a particular case and thoroughly prepared to present his client's case all the while insuring that the trier of fact was able to decide the case with benefit of all the relevant information. Tom also distinguished himself in his representation of the Caddo-Shreveport Sales and Use Tax Commission. As Tom would prepare to go to Court for a sales tax hearing, I would make a point to ask him which of my favorite lunching establishments was he trying to

close. He would gently but firmly remind me that the law required businesses to collect the sales tax and it was not their money in the first place, but rather was being held by them for the benefit of the people of Shreveport and the school children of Caddo Parish.

In a time when jokes about lawyers are in vogue, it is obvious the authors of those jokes never met Tom. He was the embodiment of what is noble and honorable about the legal profession. He lived his professional, family and religious life by a law that comes from a higher authority than any legislative body: Treat others as you would want to be treated. He was a zealous advocate for his client's position while treating the judiciary, his opposing attorney and opposing litigant with respect. He was faithful to the law without cheating on its spirit.

He also knew how to balance the rigors of work with the joys of family. During a firm meeting when I was still an impressionable, wet-behind-the-ears associate, the partners were suggesting that the associates needed to work more hours on the weekends. Tom, at the time was the senior associate and, therefore, worthy of my undenyng trust and devotion, spoke up and said, "I will give you all I've got during the week, but I insist on spending the weekends with my family." It is that kind of balanced, centered life that set Tom apart.

Tom epitomized what a lawyer and a leader should be. He led by the example of his work and the manner in which he conducted his life. He never had to tell you what he was about, you could see it for yourself. He believed that to maintain integrity and consistency leads to an abundant and fulfilling life that is best measured in quality and not quantity. He earned the respect of those who knew him and inspired others to follow his lead.

No where was this more evident than by the dignity and grace with which he lived his final years. Having, too, watched my mother die from the ravages of cancer, I was again inspired by the tenacity with which Tom fought his disease refusing to feel sorry for himself. Such depth of faith and character is what set Tom apart both as a lawyer and a person. Many people teach us how to live, Tom taught us how to die.

In an age where people are searching for artificial heros, be it in entertainment or sports, the real heros in life -- those whose example one should aspire to emulate -- are people like Tom who leave an indelible mark on those whose lives they touch. During the years of Tom's illness, whether I was in Court, in a deposition or around town, people would invariably ask how Tom was doing and always comment, "What a remarkable guy."

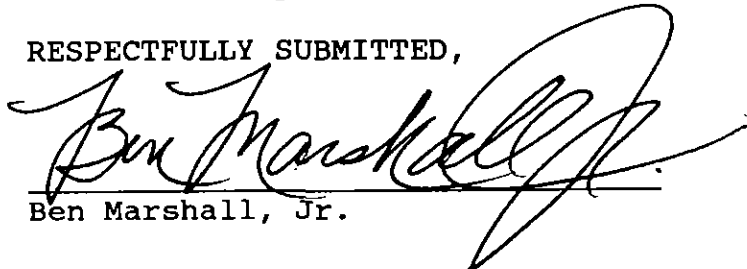
He was a remarkable guy and one whose guidance is greatly missed. And though furniture must be moved and files reassigned, Tom's portrait hangs in our office and his spirit lives in our hearts.

Though his legacy is rich and varied, he would most want to be remembered as a good son, a good brother, a good husband, a good father and a good person. From all of us who knew you, it was a job well done.

Your Honor, we would move that this memorial be duly recorded and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court and that copies thereof be delivered to Tom's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for recordation.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on this 3rd day of November, 1994.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Marshall, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Ben Marshall, Jr.