

MEMORIAL FOR
ELIZABETH LAWRENCE GIBSON
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
NOVEMBER 14, 2024
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

GOOD AFTERNOON YOUR HONORS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Family, Friends, and fellow members of the bar,

Elizabeth Lawrence Gibson was born on July 10, 1970, in Arlington Heights, Illinois and grew up here in Shreveport. She was a very happy, active, and athletic child, loving lots of sports, including her favorite, ballet, through which she was named Dancer of the Year in her senior year of high school.

After graduating from Magnet High School, Elizabeth earned her Bachelor of Science at LSU in 1992 and her Juris Doctor at Loyola New Orleans in 1995. Upon graduation, Elizabeth spent a year as Law Clerk to the Honorable Chief Judge Eugene W. Bryson, Jr. She then worked in various positions until I had the honor of hiring her as a Staff Attorney with the Caddo Parish District Public Defender Office where she began on March 1, 2021.

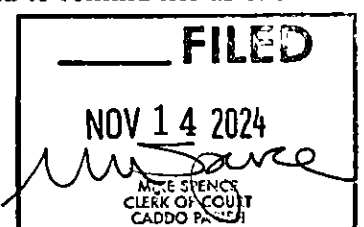
Elizabeth was quickly promoted to a Senior Staff Attorney/Section Chief position. She often expressed that, in public defense, she had found her true calling as an attorney. Elizabeth found public defense work to be most rewarding because she was really helping people who truly, desperately needed her help. She loved being a public defender and told me how much she loved her job each and every time we spoke.

Elizabeth genuinely cared about her clients and worked diligently to represent them to the best of her ability. In addition, she was a real team player and was always willing to come forward to help other attorneys in the office with their cases and clients. It really was an honor to have her as a member of the Caddo Parish District Public Defender Office.

I asked some of her friends to contribute to this memorial and here is what some of them said of Elizabeth.

Honorable Judge Eugene W. Bryson, Jr. related this:

“[I] remember Elizabeth as an outstanding law clerk. She was extremely competent in knowing the law and conscientious in applying it to the legal issues at hand. Her outstanding quality was that she was a self-starter. When you gave Elizabeth an assignment, you never worried about its completion. You never had to remind her as she



always acted in an expeditious manner. In all her work, she reflected the highest standards of professionalism.”

Fellow Public Defender Katie Evans Ferguson conveyed the following:

“My friendship with Elizabeth grew out of our similarities in both being working mothers, both being female Section Chiefs, and both being passionate about our work and our children.”

And Court Reporter, Christina Wallace, who had become dear friends with Elizabeth said this:


“It is hard to explain or convey how much Elizabeth’s friendship meant to me and how much her friendship impacted my life in such a short time. Months after her passing, Madi Crusan, one of Elizabeth’s coworkers, delivered a hat to me that Elizabeth had asked her to make. It was as though Elizabeth was right there for that moment and still giving even after her death. When someone like Elizabeth impacts your life, that impact doesn’t end when they pass away because their warmth and love continue on.”

As I previously mentioned, Elizabeth loved being a public defender, but there were two things she loved even more than that. Those are her beloved children Hannah Johnson and William Gibson. Elizabeth was a devoted mother to them and was extremely proud of her children and all their accomplishments. She would often share with me how much joy she gained from their successes and expressed that they were the greatest treasures and accomplishments in her own life.

Elizabeth passed away on January 30, 2024, after a brief illness. All who knew Elizabeth will miss her dearly and treasure the time we had with her in our lives. However, our loss cannot compare with that of her precious children, her mother, Betty Schmitt Lawrence, her brothers, and her extended family. I also just learned that Elizabeth’s father recently joined her in afterlife. I ask that you keep them all in your thoughts and prayers as time moves on without Elizabeth.

I am honored to offer this memorial in memory of Elizabeth Lawrence Gibson, and move that it be filed and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, and that copies be presented to Elizabeth’s family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recordation as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted on this 14th day of November 2024, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.



Michelle M. AndrePont
Caddo Parish District Public Defender
Bar Roll #21444