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Memorial for

STEVEN DENNIS CARBY

Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony

Held by the First Judicial District Court

November 2, 2017

Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Steven Dennis Carby was born on July 30, 1966. He died on May 26, 2017. Steve graduated from McHenry High School in McHenry, Illinois, where he was a stand out on both the track and cross-country team. Steve attended the University of South Florida on a cross-country scholarship and obtained a B.S. in Finance. He then went on to graduate from Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. After graduating, Steve successfully passed the Michigan Bar Exam and the Louisiana Bar Exam.

Throughout his career, Steve was Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Shreveport, as well as a former Special Assistant District Attorney for the 1st Judicial Court in Caddo Parish. For the remainder of his practice, he primarily handled both criminal and personal injury matters. He was a proud member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Michigan State Bar Association, Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, American Association for Justice, and the Shreveport Bar Association. He was also a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys, and the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Steve was a man of the people and was beloved by his clients and friends. Steve represented the injured and the accused, and so often took upon their problems as his own. Steve always found the good in people and truly understood the hurdles in life that tripped people up. He often lamented that, but for a particular circumstance, most people could end up in the same lot. From that perspective, Steve took a special interest in helping his clients and being supportive of the other attorneys he worked with.

One such attorney wrote:

I spoke with Steve nearly every day for 5 years. He was constantly upbeat and seemed to always find the silver lining in the muck of the practice of law. Although we talked every day, he was treating for a life threatening illness for months and never mentioned it. Many times, I later learned, I was speaking with him while he was receiving chemotherapy. He never said a word, and I only found out later because of a slip in the mail at his office. Although he was suffering, he never let on; never expressed any sadness;

was always uplifting and encouraging me through my complaints of the day. I will truly miss Steve. He was always professional, cooperative, and looked to find the common ground with a smile on his face. We could all learn from his example.

Another attorney wrote:

My son was in serious trouble; serious trouble of his own making. Steve went to bat for him one more time. Just a few short months before his death Steve sat in room with my son and explained that he'd been given one more chance. He now had a serious record and probation but, he would walk out of jail that day. Steve told him when he walked out that he would begin writing a new chapter in the book of his life. What was written would be up to him and could only be written by him, not his family or his attorney. It was up to him to walk the straight and narrow and begin living a clean and productive life. Needless to say, my son was very distraught upon hearing of Steve's death. The reason? He knew Steve really cared about him. He understood that what Steve told him came from the heart and that he really wanted him to succeed. He wasn't just a case that would be closed.

Steve said, "I pride myself on providing the advocacy and guidance clients need in difficult and uncertain situations. My clients are people who have made a mistake or those who are in the wrong place at the wrong time. I stand on their side, up against criminal prosecutors or insurance companies. In both criminal and personal injury cases, my clients' lives are upside down. I take immediate steps to keep their lives on track and prepare their cases." Steve lived and practiced by these words.

Sticking to his Illinois roots, Steve was an avid Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears fan. His main hobby, outside of work, was golf. Until the end, he was a frequent player at Southern Trace Country Club, where he was a proud member. He also played in many club tournaments, even helping to sponsor many of the tournaments when he could.

Due to one of his children's hearing deficit, Steve became a vocal advocate for those who have had to live with similar conditions. Through this advocacy, Steve served as a long-time member on the Board of Directors for the Leonard and Betty Phillips Deaf Action Center of Louisiana. He was a proud supporter of those who had hearing disabilities and often raised funds and encouraged others to support this cause that he was so passionate about.

Steve was married to Kelly, and was the proud father of three children Blake, Bennett, and Sydney. His love and support for his children knew no bounds. He could often be found spending his weekends with the children. From school events to soccer games to track events, Steve was always extremely supportive of his children in all of their endeavors. Steve always felt that his children were his greatest contribution to this world. There was not a moment that you would see Steve more prideful than when he was discussing his children and their respective accomplishments. They truly held a special place in his heart.