

IN MEMORIAL

\* COURT SITTING EN BANC

OF

\* FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE RANDY EARL COLLINS

\* CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

**Under the Auspices of the  
Shreveport Bar Association**

May It Please This Honorable Court,

I count it my personal honor, professional privilege, and judicial duty to present these formal arguments in support of this memorial for Shreveport City Court Judge **Randy Earl Collins**.

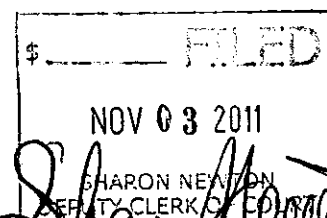
To the family of the Honorable Judge Collins; Shreveport Bar Association President, Julie Lafargue; Young Lawyers Section President, Karelia Stewart; and Ceremony Chairperson Brian Carnie, I express my sincere appreciation and these words of comfort on this solemn occasion.

The premise of my arguments is found in Psalm 23, Verse 4: ***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.***

I submit the following reflections of his life: Judge Collins was born on February 11, 1965, and reared along with his two brothers, Clifford and Lawrence Collins, by his mother Geraldine Collins in Logansport, Louisiana. Upon graduating from Logansport Rosenwald High School, Judge Collins studied at Grambling State University until his 1978 graduation, Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. After entering the Southern University School of Law, Judge Collins obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in May, 1981. Thereafter, Judge Collins practiced law throughout the Shreveport - Northwest Louisiana area for over fifteen years until his election to the Shreveport City Court.

Judge Collins was married to Brenda Joyce Rhodes for 23 years. He was a faithful member and served as Deacon at the New Greenwood Baptist Church in Greenwood, Louisiana. He was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Prince Hall Mason and Shriner.

I proffer the following reasons in support of this Memorial:



Number One: Judge Collins was concerned about helping people through the legal profession.

I first met Judge Collins when he was just a **little** boy at Legal Services. I was the Director of Legal Services and Judge Collins was a staff attorney.

People who had the opportunity to be in his presence readily realized and acknowledged that there was nothing **little** about the physical stature of Judge Collins. Most significantly, those who had the opportunity to learn about him as a person, certainly understood Judge Collins had a tremendously big heart and gentle personality. He genuinely cared and wanted to help people regardless of their lot in life.

Number Two: Judge Collins was persistent and determined to serve our community.

Early in his legal career, then Attorney Collins demonstrated his determination to serve our community through his legal representation of poor people. I specifically recall Attorney Collins believing that he could do more to help others and expressed his desire to be a judge in order to better serve our community.

Persistent and determined he was. Judge Collins was my opponent in October, 1992, when I was elected nineteen years ago to my current Judgeship. In election defeat, Judge Collins was not deterred but ran for office two more times until he was successfully elected to the Shreveport City Court in 1997 where he thereafter served honorably for thirteen years.

While serving on the Shreveport City Court, Judge Collins garnered numerous individual supporters and community loyalists. He was admired and favored by many. As former Caddo Parish Commissioner David Wyndon affectionately described him, Judge Collins was a "people's Judge".

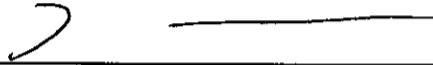
Number Three: Judge Collins fought a courageous and good fight.

As a member of the legal profession and especially while serving as an elected Judge in our diverse city, it is not always easy; Attorneys and Judges face various professional and judicial challenges. And so did Judge Collins who ultimately fought a courageous and good fight even during times of judicial controversy and lengthy personal illness.

On Saturday, July 23, 3011, Judge Randy Earl Collins departed this earthly life. This once "little boy" with a tremendously big heart, who cared about people, was persistent and determined to serve our community; this "people's Judge" had fought a courageous and good fight.

Wherefore, our community, legal profession, and Judiciary is better because this "people Judge" lived, practiced, and served among us. As I respectfully move this Honorable Court to accept this petition in memory of the Honorable Judge Randy Earl Collins, I pray *Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil: for thou art with us; thy rod and thy staff they shall comfort us.*

Respectfully submitted on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2011, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

  
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LEON L. EMANUEL, III  
District Judge  
First Judicial District Court