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**MEMORIAL FOR
THOMAS CLAYTON SIMMONS
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OCTOBER 24, 2003
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

Thomas Clayton Simmons was born January 1, 1964 in Bossier City, Louisiana, and passed away at the young age of 39 on February 7, 2003. Clay was a lifelong resident of Bossier City, Louisiana, where he graduated from Airline High School in 1982. Clay attended undergraduate school at LSU and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in History in 1987. Clay then enrolled in law school at Mississippi College School of Law where he graduated in 1990.

After graduating from law school, Clay began his legal career at the law office of Roland McKneely. He later opened his own private law practice where he continued to practice until 1998. During that time he was also employed by the City of Bossier City as an Assistant City Attorney from 1995 through 1998. As Assistant City Attorney, he prosecuted misdemeanor and traffic offenses in Bossier City Court, and also represented the Police and Fire Civil Service Board in Bossier City. After leaving the employment of the City, he went to work for the law firm of Abrams & Lafargue from 1998 through 2000, where he practiced in various areas of civil litigation. In January 2001, Clay joined the law firm of Southerland & Simmons where he continued to practice until his death in February 2003. At Southerland & Simmons he practiced extensively in many areas of law, including civil litigation, domestic law, criminal law and real estate. While employed at Southerland & Simmons, Clay was also employed by the Indigent Defender Board for Bossier Parish. Clay also served as the attorney for the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Board for several years. Clay was a member of the Bossier Parish Bar Association, Shreveport Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, and Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association.

Clay was an energetic and talented attorney who truly cared about those he represented, no matter what their station in life might be. His contributions to the legal

profession and the community were significant for someone with such a brief career. After reviewing his accomplishments, it is apparent that Clay would have had a stellar career and would have continued to be an asset to the legal profession and the community.


In his personal life, Clay was an avid hunter and fisherman. He particularly enjoyed hunting with his wife and children at the family ranch in Southwest Texas. Clay also enjoyed team roping and served as the President of the Louisiana Team Pinning Association in 1997. Clay's love of animals included raising Beefmaster cattle. Clay was a member of Cypress Baptist Church from 1996 until death.

Two of the most important jobs that any man can have is that of husband and father. Clay was a master at both. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Madora, and adored his three children, Taylor, Clayton and Travis. Clay loved spending time with his family. Clay's passion for the outdoors, and particularly hunting, was passed on to his children. One of Clay's proudest moments, which he shared with me before he died, was watching his daughter, Taylor, kill an 8-point buck.

Clay is also survived by his parents, Eddie and Rebecca Simmons, his brother, Scott Simmons, and numerous other family members. Clay was a devoted friend to many, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

On behalf of the Shreveport Bar Association, we submit this memorial to the memory of Thomas Clayton Simmons, and move that it be inscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that appropriate copies be presented to his family.

Respectfully submitted on this 24th day of October, 2003, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana


James D. Hall