

**MEMORIAL FOR  
CLAIRE ELLEN PORTER SHARP**  
**Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony**  
**Held by the First Judicial District Court on November 9, 2023**  
**Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association**

May It Please The Court:

Claire Ellen Porter Sharp was born on October 16, 1946 in Shreveport, Louisiana and went to her final rest on March 1, 2023. She was the daughter of Mary Ellen Rodgers Porter and Riley Kennedy Porter of Shreveport.

Claire graduated from C.E. Byrd High School in 1964. She continued her education at Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSU-S) focusing her studies on art and graphic design. After obtaining a degree from LSU-S in 1981, she attended Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University where she was awarded her Juris Doctorate.

Claire loved little sayings and quotes. There is a Chinese Proverb that I feel Claire would have appreciated and which I believe sums up a lot about Claire. "The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man (or woman) perfected without trials." Claire was a gem made brilliant by her willingness to take on challenges and to face hardships with determination. She made life beautiful and created joy in the face of all that came her way.

As a law student, she rose at 4am each morning and commuted an hour to and from law school daily. She would catch a bus from the rural area where she lived and raised her four children, just to get to campus in Baton Rouge. Her daughter Rebecca recalled her mother staying up all night typing away preparing for her law school classes. "I do not know when she slept," Rebecca recounted.

Claire's hard work paid off. Claire's career and family took her all over the State of Louisiana. In her career as a lawyer, she served as Senior Legal Council at both Calcasieu Marine Bank and Whitney National Bank. She was an associate for a time with Blanchard, Walker, O'quin and Roberts and at one point worked for The State of Louisiana, Mental Health Advocacy Service.

Claire loved serving clients with disabilities and she very often served them in a pro bono capacity. Little did she know that her experience with these special clients would be a great help to her when her own father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Claire played an



instrumental role in his care offering assistance with great patience under very difficult circumstances, all the while maintaining a private law practice. Yes, the gem that was Claire Sharp was further formed under significant pressure, and grew more brilliant in our lives.

Claire eventually purchased a building at the corner of Youree and Arthur, in Shreveport, a building which she loved and which we shared for a few years. Claire treated her clients with great care and respect, and many of these clients became her good friends. She was a great listener and absolutely loved to engage in conversation with anyone about anything. Everyone was her friend, and she never let a court case render her discourteous or unkind. These qualities made her stand out in her profession and in the lives of everyone she knew.

What you may not know about Claire is that she was actually quite the Renaissance woman. She ran for State Senate. She was a licensed pilot. She loved to read books and enjoyed discussing them.

Claire actually moved to Honduras for six months, establishing residency there in order to meet legal requirements to adopt her son, Filo. She worked with the Friends of the Americas Foundation to get Filo the medical care he needed, even going into the jungles of Nicaragua to take the final step of meeting with Filo's biological parents. This process was definitely not an easy undertaking, but her determination and desire to help this lovely child, who is now her son, became one of her most rewarding life decisions. This courageous act served her well, making this gem of a woman even more kind and more compassionate, if that was even possible.

A trip to Paris with her sister Mary ignited a desire to paint beautiful scenery. In the last decade or so of her life, Claire rededicated herself to her talent as an artist, taking additional classes to improve. Claire had several showings of her art in town and was a featured artist at Centenary College. She won awards for her exhibits.

In light of all I have mentioned of the brilliant life of Claire Sharp, if Claire were here today, she would tell you that her greatest contributions to this world were her four beautiful children- Angela, Trey, Rebecca and Filo. She gushed with pride showing photos of her son Trey's last flight as a F-15 pilot for the Air National Guard and was overjoyed when Filo got his teaching certificate. Angela was the first to give her grandchildren and she loved being a grandmother! Rebecca was always there when Claire needed her, and Claire knew it. Claire loved her children very much.

In closing, Claire Sharp will be remembered as a woman that made you feel better about yourself and your circumstance despite anything through which she herself may have been going. This quality was her gift to her clients, colleagues, friends and family. She had a positive attitude and always gave people the benefit of the doubt. Many of us who knew her well can still hear Claire's positive view on life as expressed in one of her favorite sayings, often stated whimsically, "After all, tomorrow is another day. Let's try again tomorrow." We will do so Claire, in your honor.

I am honored to offer this memorial in memory of Claire Sharp, and move that it be filed and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted,



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