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Carolyn Turchin

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## IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

*Carolyn Turchin\**

I am honored to have been invited to participate in this tribute to Bill Landers. Bill was my dear friend for more than a decade.

I knew Bill in both a professional and personal capacity. When I joined the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, more than twelve years ago, Bill was already an experienced trial attorney. During the years that we worked together in that office, I had an opportunity to work with Bill and to observe him as a lawyer and, in particular, as a criminal prosecutor. In all respects, he impressed me enormously.

Bill was an extremely diligent and bright attorney. In addition to possessing brilliant trial skills, Bill served for some time as the Chief of the Criminal Complaints Section of the United States Attorney's Office. As the Chief of Complaints, he was responsible for supervising investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal agencies. Because of the requirements of federal law, many of these cases had to be presented to a federal grand jury within ten days after referral to the United States Attorney's Office. Despite whatever time limitation may have existed, Bill never authorized presentation of a case to the grand jury that was not fairly and completely analyzed. He always made sure the cases were investigated fairly.

Bill possessed a tremendous amount of integrity. He never made a decision concerning any matter based on improper considerations. He had common sense, good sound judgment and consistently made appropriate and correct decisions both as to what could be done and, more importantly, what *should* be done. In part, this was a result of his exceptional ability to isolate and resolve particularly elusive issues that for others would be hidden mines waiting to detonate at some other and inappropriate time. His sense of judgment was enhanced by his ability to see the whole picture. Bill never fixated on one particular aspect of the problem to the exclusion of other significant considerations. As a result, his decisions were well balanced and reflected an appropriate accommodation of relevant competing interests.

Bill's demeanor and style were very productive in situations requiring conflict and dispute resolution. He possessed a moderating style that

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\* United States Magistrate Judge, Central District of California.

helped to move any discussion of a problem to a logical and appropriate conclusion. He ensured that anyone who disagreed with him or who had a different opinion received a fair opportunity to present that opinion.

Bill possessed extraordinary administrative abilities. He left Los Angeles for Washington, D.C., in 1983 and served as Special Counsel to Stephen Trott at the Department of Justice. Following Judge Trott's appointment to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Bill was Associate Counsel to the White House in 1988 and 1989. He joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia in 1989 where he served as Chief of the Public Corruption Section. He was working in the Appellate Section of that office at the time of his death.

To all of Bill's accomplishments, both professional and personal, he brought a warmth and generosity which, in my experience, were unparalleled. In both the professional and personal arenas, no one was more generous with his time, his skill or his experience. In addition to his professional accomplishments, he was a son, brother, uncle and friend whose skills were enhanced by his immense charm, broad-ranging interests and a mischievous sense of humor. It was inspirational to watch Bill marshal his skills to deal with the experience of a terminal illness. I am confident that each of us who was close to him felt that he gave us the opportunity to celebrate his life with him before he died.

Bill was, in all senses, a dedicated public servant.