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## Memorial Dedication to Judge Richard Gadbois

Richard J. Ward Jr.

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## MEMORIAL DEDICATION TO JUDGE RICHARD GADBOIS

*Richard J. Ward, Jr.\**

“Take care, my friend. I’ll speak with you soon.” This sign-off was the verbal signature of Judge Richard Gadbois to his friends, associates, and professional acquaintances at the end of a meeting or a telephone call. That sign-off will be heard no more, Judge Gadbois’s voice was silenced on October 9, 1996, by his untimely death.

My friend, Dick Gadbois, was a judge’s judge. Although there was a time, as a seminarian, that he may have had thoughts of becoming a prince of the church—and probably would have been had he remained in the seminary—he became instead a prototypical judge whose hobby was studying Canon Law. After honing his skills in the superior court, he was appointed to the federal district bench in 1982. The challenges there suited him perfectly, and he thrived for the next fourteen years. The more challenging the case, the more he relished it. Tax, securities, criminal, First Amendment, and intellectual property cases all were received and dispatched with skill, enthusiasm, and intelligence. He was particularly proud of never having been reversed by the Federal Circuit in any of the numerous intellectual property cases he handled.

He loved the turn of a phrase. Oral argument was spirited and there was always an overtone of receptivity, polished with a certain amount of humor and levity. Rarely was there ever any display of temper.

During the time I knew him, one of his continuing passions was tennis, and until he became too ill, he played three or four times a week, often early in the morning. Never what one would call a very good player, he loved the competition and carried a special little glow with him to the bench whenever he and his part-

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\* Special Master, United States District Court, Central District of California, 1993-1996. Mr. Ward was a lawyer representative from the Central District of California to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from 1991 to 1993. Mr. Ward has practiced for thirty years, specializing in intellectual property with emphasis in telecommunications and electromechanics.

ner would win their doubles match that morning.

I mourn his passing. Dick Gadbois was an outstanding jurist, a good friend, and a wonderful human being. I bid farewell to him with those same familiar words "Take care, my friend. I will see you again soon, and I'll be packing my tennis racquet."