



January 2009

Tribute to Judge Sanders

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Recommended Citation

Phyllis Macon, *Tribute to Judge Sanders*, 62 SMU L. REV. 1711 (2009)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr/vol62/iss5/16>

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TRIBUTE TO JUDGE SANDERS

Phyllis Macon

LOOKING back to May 4, 1979, the day Judge Sanders took his oath of office, I began a journey no one could ever have ever prepared me for. In addition to his wife, Jan, the four children, May and Ha-Ha, Sister and Brother, I would have the opportunity to know many of the Judge's special friends up to that time and to hear of many others as we sat around the lunch table. One "special" lady, who had gone to high school with the Judge, appeared at our office on several occasions some years ago. Not only would she observe courtroom hearings, leaving notes on the Judge's bench during recesses such as "are these real lawyers," but she mailed me a postcard (11 x 14 inches, which I still have) accusing me that I had taken her job as Judge's secretary. There were also "Fred, the body man," "Robert, who followed Judge around the block, falling to his knees at the street corner, wanting to borrow some money," and "Clarence, the young black fellow, who would call Judge on Father's Day, just to thank him for being the only dad he knew," just to name a few.

However, to make these individuals and others have special memories, Judge hired 57 of the best law clerks who fast became a very important part of my life. Not many days go by that I don't hear from at least one of them and we have the privilege of reminiscing about some favorite Judge story. Truly, the Judge had the perfect gift of selecting not only talented clerks but such caring individuals who have in turn devoted much to humanity because of him. We can all agree that our year or years with Judge Sanders will always be the best jobs ever!!!

