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Tribute to Professor Linda Eads

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TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR LINDA EADS

*Dean Jennifer M. Collins**

IT is my great honor to introduce this tribute issue to the extraordinary Linda Eads. Professor Eads received her B.A. in International Studies with Honors from American University and her J.D. with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining the SMU Dedman School of Law faculty, Professor Eads served as a trial attorney with the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Professor Eads joined the faculty at SMU in 1986 and taught Evidence, Legal Ethics, Constitutional Law, and Women and the Law. She has published articles in the *California Law Review*, the *Washington University Law Quarterly*, and the *Texas Journal of Women and Law*. She also has coauthored a student guide titled *Questions & Answers: Constitutional Law* and written a chapter for the recent book *The Four Freedoms: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Evolution of an American Idea*. She also worked tirelessly on behalf of the entire university community, serving in the provost's office for many years as Associate Provost responsible for faculty affairs and as the Director of the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program. She also served on various committees and task forces, including the Educational Programs Committee, the Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee, and the Community Engagement Council.

From January 1999 to September 2000, Professor Eads was on leave from the university in order to assume the important post of Deputy Attorney General for Litigation for the State of Texas. In this position, she directed the state's civil litigation and supervised more than three hundred lawyers in the ten civil litigation divisions in the Texas Attorney General's Office.

For three years, Professor Eads chaired the Texas State Bar's committee that studied possible changes in the disciplinary rules that govern lawyer behavior. She was asked to chair this committee by the Texas Supreme Court. In 2007, Professor Eads received the State Bar's President's Award—the highest award given by the State Bar of Texas—for her superlative work in chairing this committee.

This is just one of the many awards Professor Eads has received over the course of her illustrious career. Professor Eads is a member of the American Law Institute and is recognized as one of Texas's top women lawyers. At Southern Methodist University, she received the University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award, the University Golden Mustang

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Teaching Award, the law school's Don Smart Teaching Award (four times), and the law school's Don Smart Directed Research Award (three times). At the United States Department of Justice, she received the United States Attorney General's Special Commendation Award and several Outstanding Attorney Awards.

Equally important, she has earned the devotion of her students. One alumnus reported to me, "I could only dream as being as tough a litigator as [Professor Eads] is." Another complimented her "super sharp intelligence, leadership, and great sense of humor." Finally, a former student wrote, "In my opinion, she was the single biggest factor in my academic and career successes. She holds an absolute special place in my heart." We are so grateful that Professor Eads inspired hundreds of SMU Law students for more than thirty years, and I hope you will enjoy this tribute issue celebrating her remarkable legacy.