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Tribute to Professor Linda Eads

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TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR LINDA EADS

*Rebecca A. Gregory**

MOST people do not know that, quite some years ago, Linda Eads and I traded places. I had an interest in teaching, and Linda wanted to spend some time in the courtroom and use the skills she had developed earlier in her career as a trial lawyer. The stars aligned, and we received approval from our respective offices allowing the exchange to take place. Linda was sworn in as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and I took over her classes. Surprisingly, we had not previously known each other personally, but we each had an interest in experiencing what the other did. It did not take long for me to realize what a beloved and respected professor Linda had become during her long teaching tenure. She touched the lives of the thousands of students she mentored and maintained friendships with many of them after graduation. I had big shoes to fill. We had agreed to trade places for one year, but before the year was completed, Linda was approached by then-Texas Attorney General John Cornyn who asked her to take charge of the Civil Division of his office. While there, she supervised the hundreds of lawyers who worked for Attorney General Cornyn in that division and became a trusted and important member of his management team. Her advice, common sense, good judgment, and impeccable ethical standards contributed to the successful tenure of Attorney General Cornyn. Due to her decision to work in Austin, I continued to teach another two years before returning to my full-time duties at the U.S. Attorney's Office.

We worked together again when Linda had the honor of being asked to chair a special committee established to recommend revisions to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Due to my career as a government lawyer, I was also asked to sit on the committee. As with everything else she undertook, Linda did an outstanding job chairing the committee. Always prepared and immensely knowledgeable, she dedicated her time and talent to steering the committee in its quest to improve the critical rules which govern the ethics of legal practice.

Fate had caused our lives to intertwine in unpredictable ways. I came to see Linda, not just as someone I deeply respected, but also a treasured and delightful friend.

She will always be missed but will remain in the fiber of her students, friends, and colleagues.

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