

August 8, 2006 Remarks by Edward S. West

Good morning, my name is Ed West. I am a Covington & Burling colleague and friend of Robert's for nearly six years. I have been asked to speak very briefly about the pleasure and privilege of working with him on a daily basis. But first, my fellow eulogists and I want to thank you so much for sharing your strength, love, and support with Kathy, Aimee, William, Andrew, Jing and Mike, John, and Lucy during these most difficult of days and in the weeks, months, and years ahead. Since we each have our own special memories of Robert, any one of you could easily be here in my stead sharing your recollections of him. As your stand-in today, I hope that my brief remarks will trigger your own fond remembrance of Robert and bring a small smile to your face in the midst of this unbearable sorrow.

As anyone who has ever worked with Robert undoubtedly knows, one of his quiet yet impressive strengths was his unceasing willingness to apply his expertise to our clients' urgent and most critical projects and to provide his insightful advice and guidance, often with little or no advance notice. *Nothing* was ever too burdensome for Robert. As he graciously accepted yet another last-minute assignment, you could *hear* the cheerful "can-do" attitude in his voice or if he was talking to you over the phone, *visualize* in your mind's eye, his trademark smile. Sometimes, there would be dozens or hundreds of documents to be analyzed, drafted, or negotiated, but no matter how difficult the request, he never failed to rise to the occasion with his ever-present smile and innate good cheer. I vividly remember one of my first opportunities to work with Robert near the start of his real estate career with Covington -- it was for our client UBS Warburg's publicly reported acquisition of Enron's energy trading operations. When UBS Warburg's instructions finally arrived very early one cold Saturday morning in early 2002, I called Robert around 6 or 7AM as we had planned and explained our somewhat daunting task. As always, and despite the early hour, he was ready, willing, and able to start work that moment. As we allocated the work between us during that conversation, I kiddingly mentioned to Robert for the first time one of my favorite mottos - - "*the difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer.*" Whether or not he had already heard this well-worn aphorism a thousand times, I remember Robert chuckling appreciatively in that special way of his as I said it. Every time after that, when we would start work on a new project together, if a client's deadline or scope of work seemed a bit daunting, Robert would wryly ask me with that bemused smile of his and an arched eyebrow: "Ed, is this one *merely* difficult, or is it impossible?"

In one sense, we who are gathered here today by our common bond with Robert do not have an impossible or even difficult task set before us by his cruel and random fate. Instead, it is an easy task, one borne out of our affection and love for him, and well within our collective grasp. Using our mind's eye and strength of heart, I ask each of you to remember now and forever Robert's kind and gentle nature, his thoughtfulness and care for others, his intellect, his wry sense of humor, his charm and graciousness, his beautiful smile, his eternal love for Kathy and their combined families and his wide circle of friends, and so many other special qualities that made him the uniquely wonderful human being that he was. In this way, Robert can, and will, live on within all of us in perpetuity.

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