

I would now like to share a few of my own thoughts about Robert, my close friend and colleague.

When I first met Robert in the fall of 2002, he immediately put me at ease with his welcoming and comforting smile, introducing himself and then guiding us into a conversation about a project on which he would be supervising me. But Robert did not simply see himself as a supervisor -- he was a mentor. Robert's mentorship was invaluable to me as he allowed me to grow as an attorney and develop my own skills and style. He took much of his own time to review my work and provide guidance and support. One fond memory I will always have of Robert involved the first time that I lead a lease negotiation. Robert spent several hours with me the day prior to the negotiation helping me prepare and develop negotiation strategies. He then took an entire day out of his busy schedule to drive with me to the client's offices and be fully present during the entire negotiation. It showed how much he valued his role as a mentor that he could put aside the demands of his own work to provide the support that engendered confidence in the junior attorneys with whom he worked.

Robert also became a very close friend. He was the person that I turned to first at Covington with a question or concern, whether legal or not, knowing that his response would always be thoughtful and without judgment. Sometimes Robert and I just simply talked -- many times about our lives outside of work. During these talks, it was so easy to see his true love and devotion for Kathy and his family. I remember how he beamed with love as he discussed the details of his beautifully orchestrated engagement to Kathy and the plans for their wedding. He had so much pride about his brother Andrew's decision to attend law school because he felt that it was something that they could share. He showed so much excitement about his parent's move to Virginia and how it would allow them to be closer together in their daily lives.

Robert was selfless in sharing his time and energies with everyone he knew. He had an amazing capacity to interact with several people on different topics at one time without ever making a client, colleague or friend feel slighted. Robert's practice required his attention to many client matters on a daily basis, and was often very demanding. Nevertheless, on many occasions when I witnessed someone asking him for help -- whoever it was -- client, friend, colleague, Covington's pro bono coordinator or acquaintance -- he instantly stopped what he was doing and directed his full attention to understand the person's concerns. He listened, and then stepped into action, either directly addressing the problem himself or finding someone who could help. His first question was always, "How can I help?" Everyone was somebody important to Robert. And through it all he remained calm, cool-tempered and focused -- always

with a smile. These attributes contributed to his brilliance as an attorney and, more importantly, made him an exceptional friend.

Robert touched so many lives with his kind and generous spirit. He was a daily blessing to us all, and I thank God, Kathy and his family for sharing Robert with us. I will deeply miss Robert's extraordinary friendship and his invaluable guidance.