

REMARKS OF TOD ACKERLY, AUGUST 8, 2006

My name is Tod Ackerly. I would like to second everything my colleagues have said and add a few words about the gift that Robert gave to all of us.

I am the only lawyer up here who is not a real estate lawyer. I am a securities lawyer, and Robert helped me with the real estate aspects of financial transactions. When Robert and I began working together, his technical competence and complete reliability became rapidly apparent, and I learned that I could trust him to get the job done on his own.

But I soon learned that there was more to him than that.

Once, for example, I was explaining that he was going to have to handle a meeting by himself -- and that the lawyer on the other side had a reputation of being particularly hard to deal with. He looked over at me with that smile of his and said, "Don't forget, Tod, I grew up as a little Chinese kid on the streets of New York. I can handle it."

And handle it he did. No problem.

He was always a gentleman, but he could be tough when he had to be.

What impressed me the most, however, was Robert's self-composure. He had a lot on his plate, but if he was worried about how he was going to handle it all, it never showed. He was always cheery, and somehow everything got done, well and on time.

In short, he was the epitome of grace under pressure. I am sure that everyone in this room has been there. I know I have. And keeping your cool can be difficult.

His grace, especially on such a consistent basis, requires more than competence, more than toughness. It requires a special strength of character.

It was only slowly that I learned the source of his strength. It came from three people.

The first was his wife. Kathy, your love and support, as I am sure you know, were central to his life and to his ability to achieve all that he was able to achieve.

The other two were his parents, whom he mentioned often in our conversations -- with great affection and great respect. Mr. and Mrs. Wone, you clearly set an example that enabled him to win the affection and to win the respect of all those with whom he came in contact.

We will miss him deeply, but we are grateful for the gift he left us -- an example of how to set a high professional standard, how to accept the pressures such a standard entails, and then how to meet that standard with grace and equanimity.

When one speaks about one person setting an example for another, it is usually the older person who has set the example for the younger. In Robert's case, it is the reverse. He left us all with the example of how to be a class act, both as a lawyer and as a human being.

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