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## Dedication

Edward G. Rendell

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# Dedication

*Gov. Edward G. Rendell\**

I got to know Ralph really well after he became the Chief Justice the same year that I became Governor. I remember the first time I went to his chambers and I sat across the desk from him. I was seeking his help with the medical malpractice crisis in the courts. His enthusiasm was palpable; I felt like I was talking to myself—although he was a little bit smarter and a little bit more high-energy than even I was. Any suggestion I made to Ralph about our need to move quickly—I said, “We’ve got to get this done in twelve months.”—was met with, “No, we can get it done in six months.” We were talking about shaping a new rule of civil procedure in the Supreme Court—a process that had previously taken at least two and a half to four years. Well, I thought that we’d never get it done in six months, and I was right. We—Ralph—got it done in four months.

Ralph Cappy was a leader, a born leader. He was a born motivator. More than that, Ralph was a doer. It was unbelievable the things he got accomplished and the way he did them—by reaching out to everyone and bringing them together, giving them a sense of mission and a sense of the importance of the challenge. One memory of Ralph I will carry forever is how he relished taking on those challenges—how if it was a good idea, he wanted to take it and run with it.

Our First Lady<sup>1</sup> shared with him her ideas about the need for civics education in our schools and asked him to get involved with her initiative, PennCORD (Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy). He literally exploded with enthusiasm for the idea and then couldn’t do enough, from appearing at teacher training sessions to speaking at student summits about the importance of participation in our democracy. There wasn’t one request she made to the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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\* Governor of Pennsylvania.

1. *Editor’s Note: The First Lady of Pennsylvania is Hon. Marjorie (“Midge”) O. Rendell, a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Duquesne Law Review wishes to thank Judge Rendell for assisting her husband in crafting this dedication.*

to help move this agenda forward that he ever turned down. As I said, he was a doer.

One does not usually find the words “energy” and “justice” in the same sentence. But that was what made Ralph Cappy so unique. “Justice” to him was not a title, or even a quality; it was a means to an end—he used his title—and the law, for that matter—to do things for people, to make a difference. While Ralph’s intellect and his jurisprudence were widely recognized, what made Ralph unique was his ability to get things done and improve the lot of those around him. And isn’t that really what “justice” is all about? Ralph Cappy thought so. Although I came to know Ralph fairly late in his life, I feel that Midge and I knew him well. We can only imagine how well the Pittsburgh community knew him and loved him. We applaud *Duquesne Law Review* for dedicating this issue of its publication to him and to his work. It is a fitting tribute to one of Pennsylvania’s best and most important sons.