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Remarks at Memorial Service of Peter M. Cicchino

REMARKS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE OF PETER M. CICCHINO*

FRANKIE L. WINCHESTER

As most of you know, I was Peter Cicchino's secretary during the two years that he taught at Washington College of Law. When Peter asked me if I would speak at his memorial service, I asked him what he would like for me to tell you. Peter said, "Tell them that I really loved my students." And he went on to say that what he most wanted for his students was for them to be successful, not only in the academic and professional realms, but to also be a success in their personal lives as well. In the time that Peter and I worked together, I came to know and appreciate just how very much he loved his students.

Peter and I developed a really wonderful friendship. In thinking back over the foundation of that friendship, I believe one of the most important factors was that Peter and I are both dreamers. Or as Peter told me once: "You know, we are both subversives."

One of the truly amazing things about Peter was that when he saw a problem, he felt not only the desire to fix it, but he believed that he could change—all by himself, if he had to—he could change things for the better. There was no sense of futility in any of his efforts. And that is what I mean by being subversive: changing our society, from the bottom up, if you have to.

I loved the way Peter seemed to question everything. He definitely faced life with a questioning attitude, yet I would never call him a skeptic. Peter held very deep beliefs about many things. And if you ever argued with Peter, you can attest to the accuracy of that statement. Peter believed that one person could make a difference, that you *could* change society from below. And he never backed away from a problem because he was just one person and the odds were against him. When Peter confronted injustice, instead of shrugging

* Given August 30, 2000.

his shoulders and saying "But what can *I* do about it?" he answered that question—What can I *do* about it?—with a plan for action. I think that is the most important of the many, many things I learned from Peter.

And that is the way I would like all of us to remember Peter. May we *all* be subversives in the spirit of Peter Cicchino.

Thank you.