

Denver Law Review

Volume 12 | Issue 4

Article 4

July 2021

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May Lahey

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Recommended Citation

May Lahey, Samuel L. Carpenter, 12 Dicta 88 (1934-1935).

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SAMUEL L. CARPENTER

By JUDGE MAY LAHEY, *Municipal Court of Los Angeles*

The former Denver jurist, who recently passed away in Los Angeles, was greatly beloved and esteemed in that city, as he was during the time he was a resident of Colorado. At the request of numerous friends there is printed below a beautiful tribute delivered by Municipal Judge, Miss May Lahey, of Los Angeles.

“It is not easy for any of Judge Carpenter’s friends to speak about him today—our hearts are too full. Yet it is fitting that some member of the Bar should pause for a few minutes to pay tribute to this man who has graced and enriched our profession by the dignity and beauty of his life.

“Judge Carpenter earned his title of ‘Judge’ in Denver, Colorado, where his memory is held in respect as one of the outstanding judges in the history of that State. After he came to California to engage in the practice of law, we Californians retained the title of ‘Judge’ for him—I think perhaps because he demonstrated in his daily life those qualities that he would like to consider the attributes of all judges. He was kind, fair and just; he was modest, unassuming, and understanding; he had the simplicity and guilelessness of a child, coupled with the wisdom of a sage; he was a man of integrity, of courage and of unstained honor. You could pour out your heart to this man and know that he would understand all your foolish foibles and qualms and weaknesses. And by a strange alchemy when you were in his presence you became stronger and bigger, more dignified and more serene—that alchemy was the beauty and purity of his own soul.

“In his professional life he was a scholar and a gentleman—a gentleman in the true sense of that word, gentle in his manner, gentle in his bearing, gentle in his ways, at every hour of his life living up to the highest traditions of the American Bar.

"We members of the legal profession like to remember that it was a lawyer who elicited from the Master that matchless definition of the law of life. The lawyer, trying to tempt Jesus, asked him which is the great commandment in the law. Jesus said unto him: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Of all the people you and I know, the surprisingly good people who have gone through the trials and vicissitudes of life and have not become embittered, I know that there is not one who has come closer than Judge Carpenter to a compliance with the terms of these two most difficult mandates. Mr. Greer, his office associate through many years, tells me that never by word or deed has Judge Carpenter hurt another. This simple statement becomes tremendously significant when we consider that his life was spent in the contentious, nerve-racking atmosphere of litigation. He was not only passively good, he was constantly doing things to help others; he was never too busy to take time to counsel and advise you. I know that each one of you could tell of some assistance he has given you. For myself, his service to me has set his image in my heart as 'earth's best,' a king among mortals.

"Our sympathy goes out to the two sons whom he loved so dearly; we know the hours of loneliness that will be theirs, the longing for the old companionship and guidance, before that day will dawn when they will find comfort and consolation in the consciousness of the glorious heritage that is theirs.

"For the rest of us, perhaps time will hold some golden space where we shall unfold our scented store of memories, but until that time comes we shall lock our memories of our beloved Judge in our hearts, and because he has sweetened our lives with the precious gift of his friendship, we in turn shall pledge ourselves that from now on we shall tread just a little more softly and look upon our fellow wayfarers just a little more tenderly."