



DANIEL J. MOORE

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL J. MOORE 1929 - 1992

*Honorable Stephen A. Stripp**

On March 19, 1992, Daniel J. Moore died at the age of sixty-three. His life was filled with accomplishment and distinguished service, culminating in his tenure as a United States Bankruptcy Judge.

Judge Moore graduated from Holy Cross College in 1951 with an economics degree. After serving in the army during the Korean War, he graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1957. He practiced law with the firms of Crummy, Gibbons & O'Neill and Moore & McLaughlin. He was a partner in O'Neill, Moore & McEnroe until his appointment to the bench in 1987.

Judge Moore was also a certified public accountant. He taught Accounting for Lawyers as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law for many years.

In addition to his service to the legal community, Judge Moore gave of his time and talents to Millburn Township, where he lived for 32 years. He was a member of the Millburn Township Charter Commission. He was also a Recreation Commissioner and founded the Millburn Junior Football League. In 1985, he was elected to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame for his contributions to amateur football.

In 1988, he was honored as an outstanding alumnus of Seton Hall University School of Law.

While this is an impressive list of accomplishments, it doesn't tell us much about the sort of person Dan Moore was. He was a man of great warmth and generosity. When I asked Catherine Davidson, his secretary of many years, for an example, she told me the following story. There was a blind man who ran a small concession stand in the Rodino Federal Building where Dan worked. The blind man was a person of modest means. When Dan learned that the man was retiring, he arranged a party in the man's honor. He solicited donations from as many people as he could find, turned them over to the gentleman, and (unbe-

* The author is a United States Bankruptcy Judge and served on the bench with Judge Moore from 1987-1992. In addition, his first position after law school was as an associate of Judge Moore's firm, Nolan, Lynes, Bell & Moore.

knownst to anyone else) paid for the retirement party out of his own pocket. That was typical of Dan Moore. It was also typical that no one except those closest to Dan knew how unusually generous he was, because he was just as modest. When his secretary put Dan's name on the flyer as sponsor for the retirement party, Dan immediately made her remove it. Self-aggrandizement was no part of what Dan had in mind for that party.

Dan was well-known for his fantastic sense of humor. In fact, he was one of the funniest people I have ever known, and his wit was lightning-fast. When his secretary informed Dan that she had become engaged, he immediately sent her fiance a sympathy card. His sense of humor was reflected in his car license plate, which read "DENIED." When we spoke on the phone, Dan would say "denied" instead of hello. I cherished those calls, knowing that there was at least one good laugh in store for me at some point. Laughter is a healing balm which is much needed in our line of work, and Dan provided large doses of it to his colleagues and all those who appeared in his courtroom.

Dan's use of the word "denied" in these contexts was, of course, a mock suggestion that he was a tough judge who was more likely to deny than to grant relief to a litigant or lawyer. He was, in reality, patient, understanding and compassionate to those who appeared in his court. The only people Dan was truly tough on were those in whom Dan saw evidence of greed, dishonesty or arrogance.

Dan was proud of his Irish heritage. In 1963, he was honored by the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Essex County as "Young Irishman of the Year." This year, his staff gave him a kelly green judicial robe as a gift for Saint Patrick's Day. Dan wore it on the bench that day, which was two days before his death. As was his custom for years, he also personally presented a green carnation to each of the women in the clerk's office on Saint Patrick's Day — a joyful and touching gesture which was so typical of Dan. I'm sure he would have appreciated the Irish bagpiper at his funeral and the Irish tenor who gave a moving rendition of "Danny Boy" at the end of the service. I should also note that hundreds of people packed the church for Dan's funeral, a testament to the affection which everyone had for him.

Dan was very devoted to his wife, Florence, and their five children. Florence has borne a heavy cross of debilitating illness for many years, and Dan helped her carry it with great love and

loyalty. Their quiet courage and strength of will in the face of such adversity have been an inspiration to many.

No one I have ever known worked harder or gave more to others than Dan Moore. He succeeded in living the values which embody the highest in human nature, and therein lies the crown of his considerable legacy to us.

Dan was a person of deep faith in God. I thank that God for blessing us with Dan. He will be sorely missed.