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Byron R. White

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Reflections on Judge Rubin

*Byron R. White**

Although it is difficult in a few words to comment on the career of a man as accomplished and as complete as Alvin Rubin, I am happy to offer some observations about this remarkable judge, who performed his many roles honestly and faithfully, and whose legacy of professional ability and personal dignity will not soon be forgotten.

Judge Rubin was a jurist in the truest sense of the word. As both a district and appellate judge, he possessed all of the finest qualities that any member of the judiciary could hope to exhibit: extraordinary knowledge of almost any body of the law, a clear sense of judgment and fairness, and the ability to communicate his decisions in a lucid and perceptive style. He enjoyed—and deserved—a reputation among his fellow judges on the Fifth Circuit as an exceptionally able member of that court. During my years as the Circuit Justice for the Fifth Circuit, it was a pleasure to work with Judge Rubin and to benefit from his observations and suggestions.

Others more qualified than I can attest to his 24 years as a successful attorney practicing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There is little question, however, that his contributions as a passionate advocate and a trusted counsel have not been forgotten by the many clients who turned to him for advice. More importantly, Alvin Rubin never lost sight of the fact that the legal profession is an honorable undertaking whose members have an obligation to serve the needs of their communities as well as the parochial concerns of their clients. His history of involvement in a myriad of civic, religious and social causes bears out his conviction to this belief.

Alvin Rubin's remarkable record as a legal scholar also needs little amplification. His books, articles and hundreds of opinions bear a permanent testament to his mastery in explaining and expanding the law. The accomplishments of the thousands of law students fortunate enough to have learned from him as a teacher and to have profited from his insights are a continuing tribute to Judge Rubin's understanding that scholarship means more than knowledge, but includes the responsibility to impart one's wisdom and experience.

Judge Rubin's countless contributions to the law were a clear reflection of his life-long passion for his profession. I was fortunate to

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* Justice, Supreme Court of the United States.

associate with him during our tenures on the bench. His passing marks the end of a glorious career, one that should be an inspiration to all who would practice law, teach, or judge.