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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have had the good fortune to try cases in front Judge Richard Knepper for 20 years. It started when he was on the Common Pleas Bench and has continued through his time on the Court of Appeals.

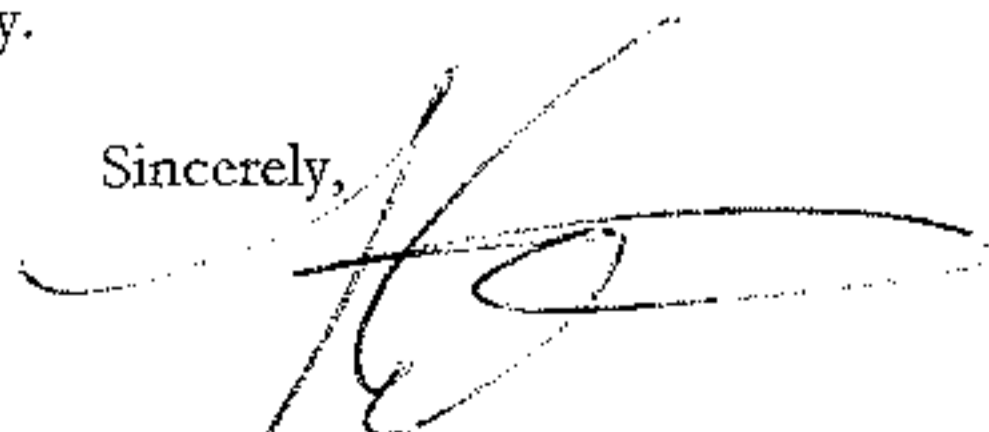
I have been impressed at the speed with which he grasps issues, his steady demeanor in handling even fairly explosive situations and his unfailing sense of humor which helps keep counsel from engaging in conduct that is too extreme.

While his knowledge of the Rules of Evidence and Procedure is excellent, it truly is his demeanor that makes him among the best. He works hard to find the right answer in difficult cases and does so while being serious but not heavy-handed.

I have also had the pleasure to have him mediate several cases in which I have been involved. He is able to point out the weaknesses in each parties' position without belittling their views. He works to have the settlement viewed not as a loss on both sides but as one in which each side has won. That is not an easy task, but it is one he manages very effectively.

I would not hesitate to use Judge Knepper as an arbitrator or a mediator. I say that not because I won everything I tried in front of him – I did not, not because I succeeded on all my appeals – I did not. Nor do I do it because the settlements were always the ones I had envisioned at the start. I did not. But I will take a person of integrity every time and Judge Knepper is a man of integrity.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Kerger

RMK:bam