

The Honorable Mary M. Schroeder*

“Unselfish” is the best word to describe Procter Hug’s years of service as Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit. They were tumultuous years, marked by a growth in caseload that was staggering in the border districts, an unprecedented number of vacancies in the Court of Appeals, and a multitude of proposals to divide the Circuit in bewilderingly different configurations.

Yet, as Chief, he steadfastly responded to each crisis, often with a spark of humor that confounded those who tried to disagree with him. He held the Circuit together and led the Court of Appeals by gently encouraging its judges to meet the needs of a growing system, despite a diminishing number of active judges. He oversaw the varying needs of the districts with innovative use of available resources, all the while advocating on the national scene for the additional resources necessary to administer justice fairly in the West.

Throughout his years of service on our Court, Procter, always true to his own conscience, has expressed views with which his colleagues sometimes disagreed. Yet, I have never heard an unkind word about the man. Procter has demonstrated that he is always willing to listen, but never shy with a response. On behalf of all his colleagues, I extend to him and to Barbara deep affection, gratitude, and admiration.

The Honorable James R. Browning†

During his twenty-five years of outstanding service to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Hug has been a great Judge, a great leader, and a great Chief Judge.

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