

# A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PROCTER HUG, JR.

Foreword by Carl Tobias\*

It is a distinct honor and a great privilege to introduce this tribute to Procter Hug, Jr., Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and dedicated public servant. Judge Hug's enormous generosity of spirit permeates the eminent jurist's professional endeavors and his personal interactions, as these tributes from a broad spectrum of perspectives so trenchantly attest.

Procter Hug grew up in Washoe County where he attended public schools. Judge Hug graduated from the University of Nevada where he was president of the student body. Judge Hug then served as an Ensign in the United States Navy, after which he graduated from the Stanford Law School. Judge Hug was a partner with the Reno law firm of Woodburn, Forman, Wedge, Blakey and Hug. President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Hug to the Ninth Circuit in 1977.

The Nevada Law Journal is fortunate to be publishing numerous tributes written by distinguished individuals who have known Judge Hug well, both professionally and personally. There are pieces contributed by four of Judge Hug's colleagues who serve on the Ninth Circuit, the senior United States Senator who represents Nevada, and several legal scholars.

This tribute includes views proffered by one of Judge Hug's predecessors, and his successor, as chief judge of the Ninth Circuit. Senior Circuit Judge James R. Browning, who led the court for a decade and a half, unabashedly praises Judge Hug. Judge Mary M. Schroeder, the court's present Chief Judge, describes the unselfish manner in which Judge Hug led the Ninth Circuit. She shows how Judge Hug addressed effectively and with good humor crises produced by docket growth, unprecedented vacancies in the Court of Appeals, and multiple proposals to split the Ninth Circuit. Senior Circuit Judge Melvin Brunetti, who has known Judge Hug for over a half century, elaborates on the problems that the jurist confronted as Chief Judge and the efficacious manner in which he resolved the difficulties. Judge Brunetti concomitantly shows how Judge Hug's personal attributes of compassion, humor, and diligence helped him respond to these complications and served Judge Hug so well as a member of the court for a quarter century. Circuit Judge Barry G. Silverman, who was appointed to the court in 1998, provides humorous perspectives on Judge Hug's life before his appointment to the Ninth Circuit.

United States Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.) characterizes Judge Hug's service while the court's Chief Judge as unparalleled in the history of Nevada,

---

\* Professor of Law, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I wish to thank Peggy Sanner for valuable suggestions, Genny Schloss for processing this piece, and Jim Rogers for generous, continuing support. Errors that remain are mine.

although the jurist's unassuming nature would never lead anyone to know about his achievements. Senator Reid, therefore, recounts the story of Judge Hug's accomplishments, detailing the many ways in which the jurist excelled. The senator specifically credits the continued existence of the Ninth Circuit to the judge's tireless efforts and persuasiveness, while Senator Reid asserts that the jurist proves how someone in public life can be universally respected and liked.

Several legal scholars contributed pieces. Professor Arthur D. Hellman, who teaches at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, describes how Judge Hug's leadership qualities were substantially responsible for the Ninth Circuit's success in opposing efforts that would have divided the court. Professor Hellman shows how Judge Hug's collaborative approach, receptivity to new ideas, legal analytic abilities, and humor skillfully enabled the Ninth Circuit to resist being split during a tumultuous period for the court. Professor Charles R. Calleros of the Arizona State University College of Law, who served as a law clerk for Judge Hug, affords perceptive insights on the jurist as the consummate professional and valued personal friend. Professor Calleros describes Judge Hug's painstaking, humble approach to appeals that he must resolve and the care and compassion the judge brings to his personal interactions with other people. Professor Thomas E. Baker of the Florida International University School of Law pays tribute to Judge Hug with his historical reflections on civil rights and civil liberties after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Finally, I am privileged to contribute several vignettes that demonstrate Judge Hug's good judgment.

The Nevada Law Journal is publishing this tribute as a way of honoring Judge Hug and of emphasizing the great respect that we have for him as a jurist and a person. Judge Hug exemplifies the very finest qualities of a dedicated public servant. The jurist is the consummate professional in his activities as an appellate judge of the federal court responsible for the West and as the warm personal friend of all who are privileged to know him.

---