

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN E. BURGER

*Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. **

Chief Justice Burger's retirement stirred a deep sense of loss in his colleagues that an association each of us cherished was coming to an end. His zest for life and the extreme kindness and compassion he showed to each of us and our families throughout his seventeen years as Chief Justice had enriched our relationship beyond measure.

The many noteworthy opinions authored by him reflected his conviction that it is wrong to live life without some deep abiding social commitment, and explains how thoroughly he devoted his professional life to pursuit of the elusive goals of freedom. The impact of those opinions will be lasting upon the solutions to the problem areas fundamental in our constitutional democracy.

Equally noteworthy, and momentous in its impact on the developing rule of law, have been his extraordinary contributions to improving the administration of justice, not just in the state and federal courts but in other important aspects of the pursuit of justice — prosecution, correction, and professional standards of practice. His name is indelibly engraved in the pantheon of the greatest scholars who have shaped our system of justice into a truly fair, just and efficient system.

It is with great reluctance that his colleagues have reconciled themselves to his retirement, and we did so with our assurance of the great regard and affection in which we hold him.

* Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court.