

United States District Court

Northern District of Indiana

204 South Main Street

124 Robert A. Grant Courthouse

South Bend, Indiana 46601

Chambers of Allen Sharp
Judge

May 19, 2005

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George Dolen
17325 Brandel
South Bend, IN 46635

Re: Jo Ann "Jody" Doyle Dolen

Dear Mr. Dolen:

I realize that this note comes a significant time after the death of Jody Dolen on November 17, 2003. I was away teaching a class at Milligan College in Tennessee and apparently did not catch the published obituary. Some way or other it got by my office people and myself here, and I regret that very deeply. However, I couldn't let this moment pass without sharing with you and hopefully with her family my enormously great respect for her over the years that she worked in this building.

Jody was a lovely woman in every way, and I was keenly fond of her. As a matter of fact, after Steve Ludwig left my office to become Chief Deputy Clerk of the court, I gave very serious consideration to having her come in to take his place. By that time, Jody's physical condition was such that I had to determine that she was not physically up to the task, although otherwise totally qualified. I was also teaching a night class at Valparaiso University Law School and would see her when she was going to court reporting school. I knew something of her physical and medical problems by that time, and had so much respect for the effort she was putting forward to become a court reporter.

I can remember vividly the last time I saw Jody on the street here by this building, and she was walking with a cane. I can't describe how sad that made me. Jody had so much talent and so much going for her that it's difficult to understand the great imposition of these very serious medical problems and conditions. My own faith tells me that she is in a better state without those great disabilities now.

I simply wanted you and her family to know at this somewhat belated time how great my personal and professional respect for her really was. This is a most inadequate means of my trying to express that respect which is very deep and very real. I pray that you and her family will understand this. God bless you all.

Very truly yours,



Allen Sharp