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Roger D. Groot: A Dedication

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Professor William S. Geimer*

I welcome the opportunity to comment on Roger Groot's contribution to VC3. It allows me to emphasize that the contribution was not at all limited to his tenure as director. For more than a decade before that, I was in almost daily personal contact with him about the program—about ways to make it benefit lawyers, educate students, and advance the cause of justice for the least among us. Roger provided me with counsel and friendship on many other matters from the day I came out of the Sand Hills of North Carolina to W&L in 1980 until the day I left 21 years later. The only reason his invaluable behind-the-scenes help with the program stands out a bit more is that VC3 is the thing I have valued most in my entire professional life. I probably would have moved to Canada anyway—eventually—but leaving VC3 was the hardest part. It was immeasurably comforting to know that Roger had agreed to take over.

Now, lest this love feast get out of hand, let me be quick to note that Roger and I differed on many things. Our approaches in the classroom differed. Our approach to VC3 differed. We didn't socialize a great deal. He had no use for golf. I could never appreciate the joy of sitting in the dark in a cold rain, matching wits with a wild turkey. But what we did was directed toward a common goal in which we both believed passionately and each of us knew that about the other. There is no one for whom I have greater personal and professional respect. Thanks again for the opportunity to tell him so.

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