(Transcription)

Personal Statement

Education has done much to foster in man an awareness of his personal development and of his role in the social order. It is left to each individual to decide what he is to do with the learning of his youth. I am personally convinced that there are answers to man’s problems in this life. If such answers exist, each individual must do his part to find them.

It is our task to uplift the quality of American life. I am not speaking merely in terms of material wealth, but also in terms of uplifting the spirit of man by enhancing his freedom and dignity. This will be the final measure of a life of purpose – whether I have contributed to man’s freedom and dignity and have brought him closer to the nobility of the divine image in which he is created.

In the quest to enhance man’s freedom and dignity, there is no greater force than the force of law. It is the rule of law that has contributed most to our social order. Man has progressed because he choose order, as expressed in the rule of law, rather than chaos. Law has fostered the concept of justice, which while establishing order, liberated man’s spirit. Law has been and continues to be a vehicle in which man may move toward greater freedom and individual dignity. I would be very proud of being a part of so noble a profession, for whenever the Anglo-American system of law has prevailed man has made great progress.

* Leslie D. Smith, Jr.

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Quote under title of exhibit:

“Law has been and continues to be a vehicle in which man may move toward greater freedom and individual dignity. I would be very proud of being a part of so noble a profession …”

*From Leslie Smith’s Washington and Lee application personal statement.*