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Roger D. Groot: A Dedication

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Scott E. Sundby*

HELP WANTED: PROFESSOR GROOT REPLACEMENT NEEDED

Qualifications must include encyclopedic knowledge of criminal law, criminal procedure, death penalty law, and the law of evidence dating back to the thirteenth-century. Thorough comprehension of forensics and mental health issues an absolute prerequisite. Complete mastery of litigation skills based on personal experience is essential, both trial and postconviction. Must be one of the three people on the globe who actually understands the topics of double jeopardy and habeas corpus. In addition, applicant must possess ability to communicate complex ideas in an effective manner. These communication skills must be such that they inspire confidence among seasoned lawyers and judges while at the same time reaching those who are still learning the law.

Applicant must possess fiery passion for justice and a belief in the role of defense attorneys as the voice for those at their most vulnerable. Ability to become justifiably indignant over arrogant prosecutors and overbearing judges indispensable. Only those with endless patience and a bountiful sense of humor even in the darkest of times need apply. Crew cut mandatory; suspenders and flamboyant tie optional.

To give even a cursory description of Roger Groot's many talents is to make the point: Roger is a one-of-a-kind individual. From my first contact with Roger fourteen years ago, I have been continually amazed that one person simultaneously has been able to be such an outstanding lawyer, teacher, and scholar. That Roger so generously gave of his time and skills as Director of VC3 is a priceless gift for which the Washington & Lee community, the lawyers of Virginia, and their clients will forever be grateful. Thank you Roger, and I take great comfort in knowing that while you have stepped down as Director of VC3, you will continue to use your unique talents as a powerful voice for justice, always willing to give of your time to others whether as a mentor, lawyer, or friend.

* Sydney and Frances Lewis Professor of Law, Washington & Lee University School of Law.

