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Ms. Sharon Breitweiser
P.O. Box 271
Laramie, WY 82073

Dear Sharon,

Surely we were political adversaries on abortion legislation in 1991 and before. No doubt about that. But that doesn't mean that I ever thought you were a bad person, or that you should think I am.

My legal assistant, my paralegal, and my investigator are all pro-choice. We have worked together for many years, with mutual respect. Lawyers I have worked with and against over the years are pro-choice, and that hasn't interfered with our relationships. I think even the lawyers on the other side of the Unseen Hands case – Rob Shively and Kate Fox – would say positive things about me, even though we totally disagreed on the abortion issue at the time.

I just want you to know that I take very seriously the obligation of a United States District Judge to honor the people of Wyoming and the people of the United States by faithfully applying the precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Tenth Circuit on all issues of federal constitutional and statutory law, and by faithfully applying the precedent of the Wyoming Supreme Court on all issues of substantive state law. That is the essence of the rule of law, and every judge is every bit as bound by the rule of law as is every citizen.

As a practical matter, it is unlikely that any case involving the abortion issue would ever come before the United States District Court in Wyoming. If it did, I can promise you that I would set aside any personal political opinions I have held in the past, and would listen carefully to the evidence and faithfully apply the law to the issues presented. In any event, on such a controversial subject, the losing party would appeal to the Tenth Circuit, and perhaps on to the United States Supreme Court, and nobody would remember what the trial judge did anyhow. Trial judges simply don't make substantive constitutional law. But they do have the capacity to provide every citizen – no matter who they are -- with a fair and just tribunal for the settlement of disputes. And that's what I am committed to do.

Yours sincerely,



RICHARD HONAKER