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## Talbot D'Alemberte

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## TALBOT D'ALEMBERTE

BOB GRAHAM\*

**S**ANDY D'Alemberte is in the finest tradition of a citizen serving his State. He has been friend and colleague and valued advisor throughout our careers. His contemporaries in the academic community will miss him. The students at Florida State University College of Law will miss him more.

Sandy has that rare combination of enthusiasm and thoroughness which colors every project he tackles. His triumphs are many. When he won Florida's landmark cameras in the courtroom ruling, he had simply capped an unswerving dedication to freedom of expression and first amendment rights with a very public victory. It was based on deeply held beliefs. That substance, that unshakable faith in his convictions, makes Sandy a strong role model for young people just beginning to study or practice law. It makes him a friend to be consulted and trusted by those in public service and private practice alike.

Sandy and I were elected freshman members to the Florida House of Representatives in 1966. This was a distinguished class in several regards. The over eighty freshman members represented the full impact of the reapportionment on the Florida Legislature. Among those elected to the Legislature for the first time were many who would go on to serve the state as judges, in executive offices, in the Congress and in professional and academic positions. Sandy was voted by the Capitol Press Corps as the outstanding freshman in the 1967 Florida House of Representatives.

On all of the important issues which had accumulated during a period of legislative passivity—education funding reform, environmental protection, constitutional revision—Sandy was an activist. It was an era properly described as the Golden Era of the Florida Legislature.

Sandy's fingerprints are most indelible on the judicial article of the Florida Constitution. This reform institutionalized Sandy's concept of justice through an open, fair and orderly process of judicial administration. Traditional reform would not have happened but for Sandy's intellectual power, the respect of his colleagues and his tenacity.

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\* Member, 1988-present, United States Senate; Governor of the State of Florida, 1980-1986.

His distinctions and honors as a scholar are as impressive as can be found in the legal profession. But it is his personal absorption in his work which sets him apart. Sandy D'Alemberte has a real respect for and love of the law. He is able to articulate that passion in courtroom arguments and classroom lectures. He makes successful cases and he makes successful students. All of us who have the good fortune to be associated with Sandy wish him well. He is a truly distinguished Floridian and a good friend.