Just after 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 19, 1995, I was working in my office at the University of Oklahoma Law Center when Eugenia Sams, the office manager of the faculty support staff, rushed to my office door and said, "Someone has just bombed the federal courthouse!"

My immediate and horrifying thought was what might have happened to former colleagues and students who occupied the building as either judges or law clerks. However, a short time later I learned accurately, though no more comfortingly, that it was the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building across the street to the north that had been bombed. As time passed during the day, law faculty and students alike were to learn that many had died or were injured, including the children in the day care center, and that the Murrah building was irreparably damaged.

Initially my preoccupation in the days to follow, as with others throughout the city, state and nation, was with the magnitude of the death, personal injury and property damage that resulted from the senseless destruction of the Murrah building. Only later did my thoughts turn to the loss of the building itself and, more significantly, to the person it memorialized, the distinguished jurist Alfred P. Murrah. The irony of the event was most compelling—the lawless destruction of a building named in honor of a man who had devoted a lifetime to the rule of law and the administration of justice throughout the United States.

Judge Murrah graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1928 and practiced law in Seminole and Oklahoma City until he was appointed and sworn in as a United States District Judge for Oklahoma in 1937. Three years later he was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He then became its chief judge in 1959 and led the court for 11 years until his appointment as director of the Federal Judicial Center on May 1, 1970. Judge Murrah succeeded Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark, the first director, as the logical choice to lead the center, which he had been instrumental in establishing with Justice Clark in 1968. He retired in 1974 at the age of 70 but was still active in hearing cases and writing opinions until his death in Oklahoma City on October 30, 1975.

During Judge Murrah's active and busy judicial career, he not only wrote important opinions covering a wide variety of legal subjects, but he also managed a court with a growing volume of cases, developed new administrative and case-processing methods throughout the Tenth Circuit and served as an innovator in the fields of pre-trial procedure, complex and protracted litigation and sentencing. He then extended these efforts in judicial reform as a founder of educational seminars for judges and other members of the judicial family to improve the administration of justice.

The culmination of these activities is perhaps best exemplified in his directorship of the Federal Judicial Center created by Congress in 1967 "to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration" in the courts of the United States. In this role Judge Murrah was charged with supervising and promoting research on federal court organization, operations and history; promoting orientation and continuing education and training programs for federal judges, court employees and others, such as mediators and arbitrators; and developing recommendations concerning the operation and study of the federal courts.

With the foregoing list of impressive credentials, it is not surpris-
Judge Murrah was committed to the improvement of the administration of justice through the preparation of students for public service as lawyers, as judges or as public servants in other capacities.

ing that Judge Murrah was singled out to serve as chairman of the University of Oklahoma Law Center Commission. The commission was established on November 26, 1968, through action by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The final report of the commission was presented to the president of the University on November 26, 1969, and envisioned broad functions for the Law Center with the College of Law's program of professional training in law as its central focus.

Related programs recommended in the report included advanced graduate and professional degree programs, continuing legal education, research and public service, interdisciplinary studies and the expansion of a law library adequate to provide the necessary support services for carrying out all of the Law Center's functions. Many of the recommendations contained in the report are yet to be realized fully. At the same time, given the broadened vision that Judge Murrah had for an improved administration of justice, it seems unquestionable that much of the report reflected his wise counsel and leadership for a new approach to legal education, continuing legal education and research and public service.

My first contact with Judge Murrah came in the late 1950s while still a member of the law faculty at the University of North Dakota. I had just completed a study dealing with the use of court experts in patent litigation, which evolved out of research conducted while a graduate student at the Columbia University School of Law and which had just been published by the United States Senate Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights of the Committee on the Judiciary. Judge Murrah was planning a Seminar on Protracted

Cases to be held at the Stanford University School of Law, August 25-30, 1958, for United States district judges and other representatives of the bar. He asked me to participate and present a summary of my research on the use of court experts in complex litigation. Although the subject was controversial at the time—perhaps even now—Judge Murrah was not deterred by innovation or new insights into the administration of justice and how it might be improved. My assignment was challenging, but, more than that, it brought me into contact with a distinguished jurist who was to touch my life more profoundly than I ever could have imagined at that time.

Later, after joining the law faculty at the University of Oklahoma in 1959,
In pre-April 19, 1995, downtown Oklahoma City, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (lower left, southeast view) stands in tribute to a long and distinguished judicial career. The federal courthouse is to the right across the plaza.

my personal contacts with Judge Murrah were more frequent. The occasional meetings with him in his chambers in Oklahoma City, the pleasant conversations with him at lunch and the social activities where our paths crossed provided me with opportunities to gauge the depth of Judge Murrah's commitment to the administration of justice and its improvement. As I soon found out, it embraced not only the highly technical social, economic and individual rights issues associated with federal court litigation, such as defining issues, conducting discovery and managing experts, but it also extended to the less complex, but nonetheless difficult problems associated with single issue, single party, litigation in the courts of limited jurisdiction, the courts that Judge Murrah caringly referred to as "the courts of most impressions."

For him, the efficient, fair and impartial administration of justice in these courts was as important as in any other judicial proceeding, complex or otherwise. His influence on me and on the courts of limited jurisdiction in Oklahoma was great. It led me to reorganize the procedures for processing cases in the Municipal Criminal Court of Norman and, later, in 1969, to assist in the establishment of a municipal court system in Oklahoma under the newly adopted constitutional judicial article and legislative enactments reorganizing Oklahoma's judicial system.

This breadth of influence for an improved administration of justice throughout the legal system led Chief Justice Warren E. Burger to write the following for the United States Supreme Court on the occasion of Judge Murrah's death in 1975:

I speak for all members of the Supreme Court and all federal judges in expressing sadness at the death of Judge Alfred Murrah. For nearly forty years he has been one of the foremost figures in the American judiciary. He was a dynamic leader for judicial improvement. Few men will equal his contributions to the improvement of justice.

In a further, but what was then hoped to be a permanent memorial, the federal building in Oklahoma City completed in 1977 was named in honor of Judge Murrah. The dedicatory plaque retrieved from the rubble of the bombed-out building contains the following inscription:

THIS FEDERAL BUILDING COMPLETED IN 1977 IS NAMED IN HONOR OF ALFRED P. MURRAH 1904 1975 A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Later, on September 1, 1980, Judge Murrah also was honored with the establishment by the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma of the Alfred P. Murrah Professorship in Law, the Law Center's first endowed professorship in law. This professorship is intended to promote excellence in legal education through teaching, research and public service. In a broader dimension it serves as an ongoing memorial to Judge Murrah's commitment to the improvement of the administration of justice through the preparation of students for public service as lawyers, as judges or as public servants in other capacities. One of the greatest honors that could have been bestowed upon me in this lifetime is to hold the professorship honoring a distinguished jurist whom I came to know and respect in his lifetime and now revere in death for his contributions to an improved administration of justice. I can only hope that I and those who succeed me can meet the challenge of the honor that has been bestowed upon us.

The senseless destruction of the federal building that memorialized Judge Murrah precludes it from now standing as the symbol of law and order and the improvement of the administration of justice that were the guideposts for his distinguished judicial career. A memorial can be re-established in his name to honor those who tragically lost their lives or were injured, to serve as a lasting reminder of the price in denigrating behavior and human suffering that somehow must be paid in the pursuit of law and order, justice and democratic ideals. Such a memorial can testify to future generations that out of terrorism we can find law and order, out of injustice we can find justice, and out of anarchy we can find democracy.