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Dores McCree

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DORES McCREE

*Theodore J. St. Antoine**

Dores McCree had an unusual combination of great qualities. She was totally dedicated to her role as a career advisor to students at the Law School and relentlessly persistent in pursuing opportunities for them among her large, nationwide group of lawyer friends. Yet she could be very hard-headed and realistic in appraising the qualifications of an individual candidate for a particular position. "John or Mary," she would say in that warm, disarming, and totally persuasive voice of hers, "I just don't think that job is the right fit for you. Let's find something better."

One moment Dores would be striding confidently forward in her mission of advancing student interests. Another time her endearing sense of humility would come to the fore and she would be afflicted with doubts. Every once in a while she would muse, "I'm not sure I'm the right person for this work. I'm not a lawyer. How can I help a young man or woman decide what to do in the law?" One would remind her that she was immersed in a family of leading lawyers, knew dozens of others throughout the country, and, most important, had a rare, magical skill for sizing people up. She would nod and say quietly, "Well, maybe I'll try it a little longer . . ." And the next moment she would again be moving ahead full-throttle.

Dores McCree was a wondrous mix of tough-minded perception, compassion, zeal, and genuine sweetness. It was an honor to have known her.

* James E. & Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Michigan Law School. A.B. 1951, Fordham; J.D., 1954, University of Michigan Law School.