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April 19, 2006 Section: Opinions Edition: Final Chaser Page: B8 Column:READER VOICES

Worthy to sit on high court

Randy Howe should not be arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court. He should be on the U.S. Supreme Court ("Attorney suited for success," Sunday).

I had Randy as a student in 1984. On our first day of class Randy shocked every student in the room, not because of his disability but because he had already prepared the first three weeks of material!

Randy and I became friends following that semester. When my husband and I had a child with disabilities, Randy became an adviser and mentor. We remain friends because he is at the top of my list of (1) brilliant minds, (2) wits, (3) sparkling conversationalists, (4) happy people.

It's a shame the Commission on Trial Court Appointments has rejected Randy for a judgeship. Its grounds were that he might be difficult for trial participants to understand. I addressed that issue in my letter of hearty endorsement for Randy's appointment to the bench.

Just because the rest of us are not as smart as Randy is no reason to keep him off the bench. The good people utilizing the courts of Arizona will just have to rise to the intellectual challenge.

-- Marianne M. Jennings, Mesa

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