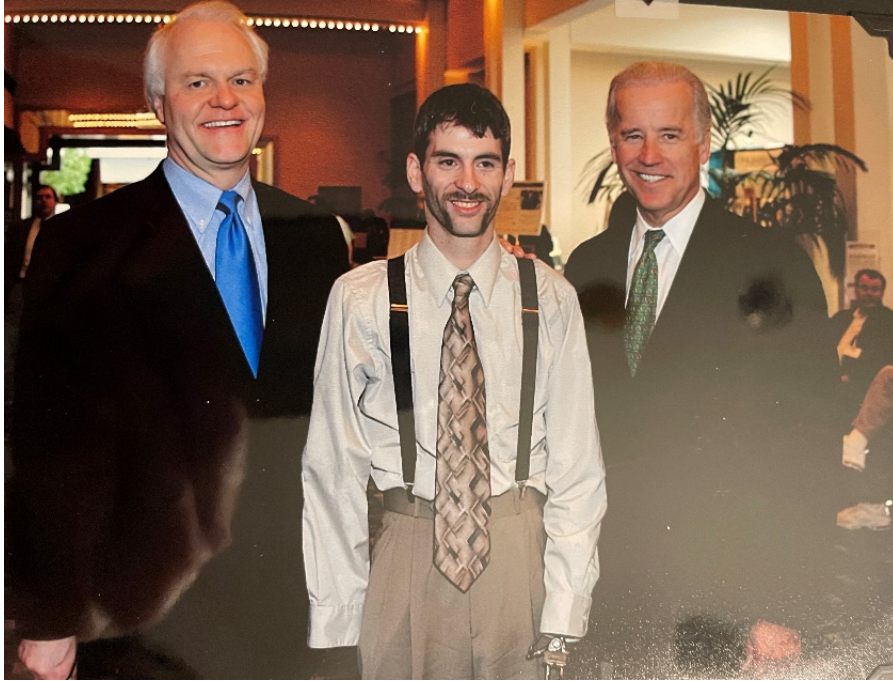


**Bill's Introduction of Steven Sharp who spoke for a minute
before Biden**



Bill Manning, Steven Sharp & Senator Joseph Biden

Author and Poet, and our past Inaugural Poet, Maya Angelou, created a new and important phrase. She said it is important for us not only to have heroes but sheroes. It is always wonderful when a poet creates a new word and by doing so brings into our vernacular a new concept. In this instance, it is the concept of sheroes and in so doing elevates the idea of heroes and sheroes.

It is very important for all of us to have heroes and sheroes. People that we can look up to, admire, and assist us in forming our ideals. One of my many heroes is Nelson Mandela. In my view, he is the greatest lawyer who has ever lived. This is exemplified so well in his autobiography, "The Long Walk to Freedom."

What's most important is not the identity of our heroes and sheroes, but that we have them. When we look to find them, we find the qualities of sacrifice, thinking of others, giving more than they take. Some heroes and sheroes on an international stage who have taught us various qualities are: Nelson Mandela, who has taught us about forgiveness and love, Princess Diana, who taught us what it is to be vulnerable and human, Mother Theresa who taught us the importance of an inner-life and being able to look to outward misery with compassion, the Dalai Lama who teaches us so much about compassion but truly teaches us about the importance of an inner-life, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton, the Berrigan Brothers, Dorothy Day, and the list goes on and on and on. Heroes and sheroes come to us from the political arena, the

world of literature, the world of civil disobedience, the worlds of science and industry.

We, as plaintiff's lawyers, have a very special opportunity. We have the privilege to stand in the shoes of those who are injured or who have lost a loved one and attempt to articulate their suffering. It is through that process of attempting to stand in the shoes and to walk a few steps on the path of the individuals we are representing that we discover a little about who they are. It is so often that we discover courage and an extraordinary ability to overcome that arises from people who seemingly live ordinary lives. It is these people who we represent and interact with that become, over a period of time, our heroes and sheroes.

It was my distinct privilege, with my partner, David McKenna, with the incredible support of my partners such as Kathleen Flynn Peterson, to represent Steven Sharp. I will not tell you the details of Steven's story because it was told so beautifully by Bill Mishler in "A Measure of Endurance: The Unlikely Triumph of Steven Sharp." Bill, a Scandinavian studies professor at the University of Minnesota, decided to write a book

about a seemingly ordinary person, and in the course of doing so discovered an extraordinary hero.

It was Bill's first book and his ability was recognized by the most distinguished Knopf Publishing Co. His very experienced editor said, "Bill writes like a poet."

It is Bill's words that describe Steven so well: "Ten minutes after we had begun our conversation, I knew I wanted to write his story, not primarily because of the dreadful ordeal he had undergone or the remarkable recovery he had accomplished, but rather because of the qualities of courage, humor, and resilience he presently manifested."

It was my privilege for five years as a result of an act of generosity from my partner, Leo Feeney, who asked me to represent Steven Sharp, that I had the privilege to come to know Steven. It is with great joy that I introduce to you my friend, and most of all my hero, Steven Sharp.