Monroeville, Alabama
12 May 1997

Dear Gowran:

There are so many things to thank you for: first of all, the inscription on the first Legal Milestone — I am honored that you accepted the task and am moved by your words. (Why have you frittered your life away being one of our most respected lawyers and judges when you could have been a poet?)

Then, thank you for your remarks at the milestone dedication. They went straight to my heart: as we both know, were it not for my father and Alice there'd have been no stone! I shall never forget your generosity in recognizing their contribution to the profession, something not always shown by younger lawyers to their elders. (I could go on forever about the decline of the profession but shan't because I know we both feel the same way!)

And then, I am thankful for the friendship between our families that can now be said to be generations old! I can't remember when the Houstons and the Conners were not neighbors, and I am rarely in

Eufaula when I don't see your beautiful mother.

Lastly, thank you for you. So long as you are around, there will be one voice of reason, sanity and Christian principle.

With my love to you and Marthur,

Nelle

HARPER LEE
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MONTGOMERY, AL 361
PM
13 MAY
1997

JUSTICE J. GORMAN HOUSTON, JR.
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA
JUDICIAL BUILDING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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