

The seal of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a ship, flanked by two horses. Below the shield is a banner with the words "VIRTUE LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE". The shield is topped with a crest. The entire seal is surrounded by a rope-like border. The text "SEAL OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA" is written around the inner edge of the border, and the year "1895" is at the bottom.

# **Pennsylvania Superior Court Ceremonial Sessions**

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**Commissioned Judges  
Ninety-Three through One Hundred Twenty-One**

**Edited by The Honorable John T. Bender, PJE**

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This book is dedicated to my past, present and future colleagues who have enjoyed and will enjoy the privilege of service on the Pennsylvania Superior Court.



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## FOREWORD

This project began in 2002 when then President Judge Joseph A. Del Sole asked me, as chairman of the Archives Committee, to compile the induction ceremonies of the judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania dating back to 1895. During the process of gathering the induction ceremonies, it became obvious that once collected, we would need a method to preserve and to present the ceremonies. As progress was made, the project expanded to include photographs, other ceremonies, and in some cases, biographies of some of our Judges. By 2008, Volumes 1 and 2 of the Pennsylvania Superior Court Ceremonial Sessions were published. These volumes contained the first 92 judges of the Superior Court.

In 2020, President Judge Jack A. Panella, orchestrated a digital history of the Pennsylvania Court. Volumes 1 and 2 were uploaded onto this newly created historical page. Also by this time, another 29 judges had joined the Superior Court thus creating the need for Volume 3, which will also be accessible in the digital format and in print.

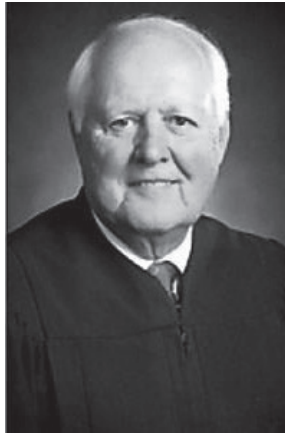
While we have attempted to be all inclusive, we were unable to find ceremonies for all the Judges in this volume. In cases where a ceremony could not be found, we have used other appropriate writings or a biography highlighting that particular Judge's career.

It has been a rewarding experience working on this project preserving history and learning of my colleagues past and present.

The Honorable John T. Bender, PJE  
87<sup>th</sup> Commissioned Judge of the  
Superior Court of Pennsylvania  
September 2021



## THE HONORABLE ROBERT E. COLVILLE



*Assumed Office: January 2, 2006*  
*County: Allegheny*

Judge Robert E. Colville was born in Pittsburgh in 1935. After graduating from North Catholic High School in 1953, Judge Colville joined the United States Marine Corps, and, upon discharge attended Duquesne University, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. From 1959 to 1963, he was Teacher and Head Coach of the North Catholic High School football team.

Judge Colville served the City of Pittsburgh for fifteen years as a Patrolman, Homicide Detective and Chief of Police. While serving as a Police Officer, Judge Colville enrolled in evening classes at Duquesne University School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1969. In 1976 he was elected District Attorney of Allegheny County, a position he held until 1997 when he was elected a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Judge Colville served as a Senior Judge for the Superior Court, being assigned to that position by the Supreme Court in March of 2006.

Judge Colville was a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He served on the Supreme Court's Criminal Procedural Rules Committee; Chaired the Allegheny

County Victim/Witness Services Committee and the Allegheny County Drug Initiative; and served on the Board of Trustees of Community College of Allegheny County. He was a member of the distinguished Duquesne University Century Club and received the “Outstanding Law Alumnus” Award from the Duquesne University Law Alumni Association.

Judge Colville had made his home in Pittsburgh with his wife Janet. Their family is comprised of six children and nine grandchildren.

## THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. DANIELS



*Assumed Office: April 11, 2007*  
*County: Philadelphia*

### BIOGRAPHY

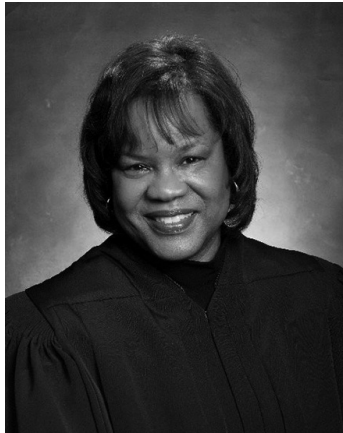
Judge Robert C. Daniels was a 1959 graduate of the College of the Liberal Arts of the Pennsylvania State University, following which he obtained a J.D. Degree from the Temple University School of Law. He has served as a Past Chairman and Member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as a Past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, as a Past President of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and as a Permanent Member of the Judicial Conference for the Third Circuit United States Court of Appeals. Judge Daniels was with the law firm of Sprague and Sprague and was formerly President of the Philadelphia Based law firm of Braverman Daniels Kaskey Ltd., which engaged in Civil Trial and Appellate Litigation. He had been admitted to Practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for both the third and fifth Circuits.

Judge Daniels has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Temple University School of Law, as a member of the Development Council of the Pennsylvania State University's College of the Liberal Arts, as a member of the Board of Visitors of the Terry Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, as a member of the Leadership Council of the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, as the founder and Trustee of the Robert C. Daniels Foundation, and was a former Trustee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Judge Daniels was the 1983 recipient of the Torch of Learning Award of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, was inducted into the Centurion Society of Duke University in 1984 was acknowledged as a member of the Centennial Society of the Temple University School of Law in 1995, and was admitted as a member of the Mount Nittany Society of the Pennsylvania State University in 2003 for his contributions as a member of the College of the Liberal Arts' Grand Destiny Campaign.

Judge Daniels was appointed by Governor Rendell to serve as his non-voting Representative to the Board of Trustees, effective 2005.

## THE HONORABLE CHERYL L. ALLEN



*Assumed Office: January 7, 2008*  
*County: Allegheny*

### INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Friday, December 28, 2007  
10:30 A.M.

Supreme Court Courtroom  
City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**PRESIDING:**

HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

**SPEAKERS:**

BISHOP JOSEPH GARLINGTON  
REVEREND ABBY ABILDNESS  
HONORABLE LIVINGSTONE JOHNSON  
DR. JOHN STAHL-WERT

ELDER MILTON E. RAIFORD  
PASTOR JEFFREY MARSHALL  
DEBORAH LESKO, ESQUIRE  
HONORABLE JUSTIN M. JOHNSON

COURT CRIER: All rise. The Honorable, the Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez, let all family, friends and colleagues of the Honorable Cheryl Lynn Allen come forth this day and participate in the special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

All men or persons having business to come before the Honorable, the Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania here holding this day, let them come forth and appear, and they shall be heard.

Let all come forth and join in this joyous event, the installation of Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Carey.

We gather here today in special session to welcome the Ninety-Sixth Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Cheryl Lynn Allen.

As we begin our ceremony today, I would call upon Bishop Joseph Garlington of the Covenant Church of Pittsburgh to please favor us with an invocation.

BISHOP GARLINGTON: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we are so grateful and appreciative of your presence with us, and we invite you to preside over these ceremonies and this incredible occasion.

We ask your blessing upon our friend, our sister, our Judge for this occasion, that you would honor her and those who participate in this sign together. We ask that you would show us your path, your way, your wisdom, that we would honor you, that we would understand what it is that we are about today and what you called us to do in this season of our life. We bless you, and we thank you for it in Jesus' name. Amen.

*(Response of Amen.)*



BISHOP GARLINGTON: Cheryl's asked me to give some comments, and I'd like to do that in light of what I think is one of those wonderful moments in someone's life.

There's a line from *The Man of La Mancha* to dream the impossible dream, and as Her Honor just begins to pursue the course of this event and looking forward to establishing something in her life that would move her beyond where she was and to see something that would cause her to believe that this is a new season in her life, but a season of great opportunity as well as a season of great challenge.

As I was thinking about what I would share this morning, I thought of a season in the life of a young king who lived about 900 years before Jesus was born, and he was an incredible young man about 35 years of age, and as he looked at his nation, it was fragmented. There were so many things that were taking place that needed to be adjusted and needed to be changed, and he thought maybe the first thing that I'll do is establish and reorganize the judicial system.

One of the things about the judicial system and the Old Testament is that God indicated from the very beginning that when a Judge sat before people and when you came before that Judge, you were really not just coming before a person, but you were coming before God. In fact, in the Old Testament, the term that's translated Judge in the Old Testament is Shaphat.

When Jehosaphat, the King, began to inaugurate his new system, there's something that he said that I would like to read to you and just remind you that the age-old system of judicial review, judicial precedent, the Courts that we are now part of really had their birth and their beginning in the Judeo-Christian system. Listen to this passage. And, as Elizabeth Taylor said to her twelfth husband, I won't keep you long.

Jehosaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out among the people to the sheep in the hill country. Turn them back to the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the appointed judges in the land, and each of the fortified systems of Judah. He told them to consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the Lord who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now fear the Lord beyond

you, judge carefully with the Lord, your God. There is no injustice or impartiality or bribery in Jerusalem.

Also, Jehosaphat appointed some of the Levites and heads of the Israelite families to settle disputes, and he gave them these orders. You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord in every case that comes before you from your people who live in the cities. Whether blood shed or concerns of the law commands to increase regulations, you are to warn them not to sign against the Lord. Otherwise, His wrath will come before you and your people. He established what one writer calls District Courts, and then he established the Appellate Courts.

There's something that I think becomes really clear to us as we're living in a really dangerous world and a dangerous age, and what is so desperately needed in our world today are Judges who will step up and represent not just themselves or their own personal interests, but an interest that's higher than theirs.

I commend Her Honor for who she is, for her task, for the wonderful things that we know about her in terms of her life and her commitment to justice, and I'm honored to be a part of this ceremony.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much Bishop.

Judge Allen, when you take the bench today, you will join a group of Judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication into the fair and efficient administration of justice for all the citizens of Pennsylvania is well-established.

Our colleagues warmly welcome you, and we know we will benefit from your legal scholarship, from your professional integrity and from your wonderful service to your community over the years. And as I said to Judge Daniels when he was sworn in with us last year, with over 7,800 new appeal filings last year in this Court, we're also very, very happy to have a woman.

Now as we begin our session, I would like to introduce the members of our bench who are here today. They have come in from various places because they wanted to be here to honor you and to welcome you to this Court. I am President Judge Kate Ford Elliott, Judge Joseph Hudock

is with us, Judge Correale Stevens, Judge John Musmanno, Judge Joan Orié Melvin, Judge John Bender, Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Robert Daniels, Judge Patrick Tamilia and Judge Robert Colville.

I also know that you have received word from other members of our Court who are unable to be here today, and I know that they all extend to you a very fond welcome and a very sincere congratulations.

I would like now to introduce someone who will be making remarks on behalf of Judge Allen, the Reverend Abby Abildness, who is the director of the Healing Tree International.

REVEREND ABILDNESS: It's my honor to be here today at this historical day, and I'd like to give an historical perspective as Honorable Judge Cheryl Allen comes into office here.

When I first heard her speak just a few months ago, I was struck by the fact that she wanted to uphold not just the law, but the spirit behind the law. The spirit that established the law that she wanted to uphold, the Constitution of the United States, according to how God had first ordained it and how William Penn had first established it.

And as we look back, we're standing in the courtroom looking at William Penn and William Pitt, and William Penn first in England was very disturbed by the injustices that he not only saw but he also experienced. As he was in prison as a prisoner of conscience in the Tower of London, he was very disturbed by injustices from the British Parliament. And as he was pondering this and trying to sort out how we could have a government that would judge righteously, he actually felt that he had an experience from God, that God came and spoke to him, and it was such an unusual experience that he went around and he preached to people saying that many can hear from God and that he had gotten direction for a kind of government that he wanted to plant.

And when he was released from the Tower of London, he was released with a land here, and he was all excited because he said now I can establish the kind of government that God intended, that would truly represent the heart of God for all the people, that all people would have equal value and equal right, all kinds of people.

And as you know, he came here, he was given the land from England, but he actually negotiated with the Indians and bought the land

from them to show honor to them, and this was the beginning of his establishing good will, a loving, diplomatic relationship with people of other nations.

And he is famous for a quote of how he wanted to establish this, what now is the state, and it's on the rotunda in the Harrisburg Capitol. There may be room for such a holy experiment, for the nations want a precedent. And my God will make it the seed of a nation. That an example may be set up to the nations. That we may do the thing that is truly wise and just.

And his first frame of government as he wrote the first law, the opening words were whereas the glory of Almighty God and the good of mankind is the reason and end of government and, therefore, government in itself is a valuable ordinance of God.

That he noted and felt that the only way that the government could run in a way that would truly bless the people would be if the people put themselves in the hand of God, and that's how he intended this to begin.

Historically, we've followed in the footsteps of decisions that have been made before us, and, interestingly, in the Pennsylvania Senate, on the walls right behind the President's bench is a quote, let every man take heed to how he buildeth their pond, that as decisions and as laws are set, that they would be paying heed to the foundations that were established and they would build upon them in a way that would be honorable to the first foundation, which we see even in this courtroom of when God gave the law to Moses, and we see that right up there is him sitting with The Ten Commandments.

Judge Allen sees the redemptive value of following after what William Penn first established in this Commonwealth. She sees, as what he saw, that there's a multicultural invitation to all mankind to be treated justly and fairly, and she would want to interpret the law with justice and with righteousness, that it would be according to the foundations that first were established.

And I would just like to bless Judge Allen and this Court, as she has found the blessing of God and the favor of God even in coming into getting this election, that she has found the favor, because she has been

bold and forthright in her honor of God and how He established the law.

And I'd just like to bless the Judges and the Legislative, that this seed of a nation that was established by Penn to be an example to the nations, that judgments would be made that would be an example to the nations, I pray that that precedent would go forth even in this day, as it was a covenant that was established through Penn by God and it's a destiny for the state, and we pray that that would go forth, and know that Judge Allen will be a model of the kind of Judge that will uphold that. And bless you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, Reverend Abildness.

Before I continue, if any of you may have thought I forgot to introduce one of our colleagues who's sitting on the bench, what I could never do, Justin M. Johnson who is here, but he is going to be introducing the oath of office to Judge Allen, so that's when I was going to do that. But he is here.

I would also like to introduce two colleagues who will be joining Judge Allen I guess sometime in mid-January, and I'd ask them to stand up, and that would be Judge Christine Donohue and Judge Elect Jacqueline Shogan.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would also like to recognize the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Attorney General Tom Corbett. I believe you're here. Welcome.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And now, before I introduce our next speaker to make remarks, since he is coming from the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, I want to take a brief moment to introduce some of Judge Allen's colleagues who are here today. We are always very honored to have the presence of the Court of Common Pleas Judges in our chamber.

You will find, Judge Allen, as you join our bench that things will be much quieter, a little slower paced, perhaps. No less work. But we fully appreciate all the hard work that you have done on the Court of

Common Pleas, just as we very, very much appreciate the Trial Judges in Pennsylvania. They are not only the work horses of the system, but they are also the ones who set the cases up for us and make our work incredibly easier, and so we thank them very much for being here.

As I introduce the Judges, I would ask that you please stand and remain standing until you're all introduced.

Judge Joseph James, who is the President Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Dwayne Woodruff, Judge Livingstone Johnson, who will be speaking in just a moment, Judge Michael Della Vecchia, Judge Eugene Scanlon, Judge David Cashman, Judge Kathleen Durkin, Judge Robert Gallo, Judge Christine Ward, Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, the Administrative Judge of the Family Division, Judge Paul Luty, Judge Tom Flaherty, Judge Lawrence O'Toole, Judge Michael McCarthy, who was sworn in yesterday, and then also we have the pleasure of having with us today – I'm sorry, Judge Kathleen Mulligan. Thank you very much.

Oh dear, hello, Judge Eugene Strassburger, who I believe is the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division now. Thank you very, very much for being here.

And certainly last but not least, but from another county, President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca from Washington County. Thank you for being here.

Please did I miss anybody?

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Oh, Madam Justice Cynthia Baldwin was here. She could not stay for the ceremony, but I know that she came over to wish Judge Allen the very, very best, and we miss her here today.

I'd now like to call upon the Honorable Livingstone Johnson, Senior Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for remarks.

Please, everyone, if you have cell phones and pagers, would you check them right now just to make sure they're off. Thank you very much.

JUDGE LIVINGSTONE JOHNSON: May it please the Court, I am honored that Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen has permitted me this single

privilege to participate in her installation service as she ascends from the Court of Common Pleas of the Fifth Judicial District to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Some years ago, several judges met in Judge Allen's courtroom in Juvenile Court in Oakland. As we waited for lunch to be served, I looked up from the counsel table and noticed Judge Allen's nameplate sitting in the front center of the bench. Beneath her name was emblazoned in very noticeable script the following. If you don't know, you better ask somebody.

As I think back over the many years of knowing Judge Allen, most of our meetings have occurred in a courtroom, church or educational setting, all of them of a positive, uplifting character-building nature.

Oftentimes I've seen her in a robe, not always seated on a bench. Many times she's been standing or sitting in a church choir loft, lifting her voice in praise to the Maker.

Judge Allen has grown immensely over the years in her professional abilities and responsibilities. She's moved from being an educator to being a lawyer and Common Pleas Court Judge, and now she's about to don the robe of a Superior Court Judge.

Her path has not been without valleys, impediments, disappointments and tears. In the not too distant past, she offered herself as a candidate on the Democratic Party ballot for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, losing in the primary. That experience was not unique to Cheryl.

Stony the road we trod. Bitter the chastening rod. Felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers died – for which our fathers sighed.

Judge Allen has proven herself not only to be intelligent, experienced, learned, dedicated and worthy. She has demonstrated for all to see her resilience. Several weeks after her losing the race for Supreme Court, Cheryl and I met at the Friendship Elementary School, where we volunteered to read books to first and second graders.

After the principal had passed us each a potted plant in appreciation for our service at the end of the session, Cheryl and I met once again out on the street, both having parked our cars in near proximity.

I took the occasion to offer words of regret to Cheryl and to suggest that she consider making another run for the appellate bench. Without a pause or hesitation, Cheryl responded, "I fully intend to do so, I'm running in the next election." I said I didn't realize there was a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Cheryl then informed me, "I'm running for the Superior Court, and I'm going to win. I learned a lot in my recent campaign, and I'm going to win. I'm running as a Republican." Then she told me, "I may not have told you, but I recently switched my registration to Republican, and I'm going to win."

Our meeting that day ended with my continued support and encouragement for Cheryl's Appellate Court ambition. Months later, true to her word, Cheryl ran, and not only is the rest history; Cheryl has helped to make history. Since 1895, when the General Assembly of Pennsylvania created the Superior Court, only three African-Americans have come to serve on that Court. Judge Theodore Spaulding of Philadelphia in the 1960's, my brother Judge Justin M. Johnson, who has served from 1980 and is retiring within the next week, and now Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE LIVINGSTONE JOHNSON: We have come over a way that would tears have been watered, we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughter, out of the blooming past to now we stand at last, where the white glean of our bright star is cast.

As we celebrate Judge Allen's move to the Superior Court, we congratulate and thank her mother Corrine and her father Robert for giving us their daughter Cheryl, who cares about justice. Congratulations and thanks to Cheryl's husband Jimmie and to her sons for sharing their wife and mother with us.

Though Cheryl's mother Corrine is not physically present, we know her spirit is ever present. I can imagine her singing from her seat in that choir loft on high to God, Cheryl here below, that old spiritual I don't know about tomorrow; I must live from day to day. I don't borrow from



its sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray. I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said, and today I walk beside Him, for He knows what's ahead. Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.

As you discharge your duties, Cheryl, remember, if you don't know, you better look up and ask somebody. Right on, Judge Cheryl. Continue your journey for justice. Godspeed.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: As always, Judge Johnson, thank you very, very much.

I would next like to call upon Dr. John Stahl-Wert, President of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, for remarks on behalf of Judge Allen.

DR. STAHL-WERT: If it please the Court, the Psalmist writes in the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter, the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delighteth in his way the mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom and his tongue talks of justice, the lull of his God is in his heart, and none of his steps shall slide.

It is a great honor to say a few words this morning about the long service of a woman of righteousness whose steps have been ordered by the Lord. I have watched you, Judge, wrestle with deep integrity the way so many of our fine justices wrestled with deep integrity, because you understand the role that law plays in sustaining of the free and a good society.

Throughout the course of our history as America, we've understood the intertwined relationship between freedom and law, but it was about 60 years ago that we began to sever that tie, to our great detriment. A terrific confusion has worked its way up into the body of America, and that confusion stems from a growing notion that freedom is somehow given greater play by stripping society of its standards and of its morality. Indeed, friends, the very opposite is the case.

It was upon standards of right and wrong and of morality and of ethics that a nation governable by its people, a nation in which freedom would reign was made possible, rules by law. Judicial action on the basis of standards of law. The very work that you will be doing in the Superior

Court on our behalf, Judge, is what makes our freedom and a good society possible.

Why is that? That is the case precisely because freedom is first and foremost made possible by the protection of society from human whimsy. It isn't the standards of law or of morality nor of commandment that oppress humankind. It is the absence of those standards into the gap of which self-centered and selfish people insert themselves, impose themselves, rule as though they are the standard; they are the commander that matters.

I think you were elected, Judge, because there was an expectation that you will rule with a view toward right standards, and it isn't coincidental. I believe that the electorate placed its trust in you and you are a woman of faith because, you see, as a woman of faith, you believe there is a God and that you are not that God.

As a woman of faith, you understand that there is a standard that must be abided by and that it's not your job to make that standard up. As a woman of faith, you know that your life must be lived in submission to something that is more important than your views and your preferences.

As a woman of faith, I would add, you are in the lineages of Washington and Jefferson and Adams and Patrick Henry and our first Supreme Court Justice and the overwhelming majority and the founders of the longest-lasting experiment of self-government, democracy and human freedom that the world has yet known. You're here, too. I believe there is no coincidence.

I would leave you with a personal prayer George Washington penned in his prayer book, as these words might serve as your own. He wrote, of, eternal and everlasting God, direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins of an immaculate blood of the land and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit daily, frame me more and more in the likeness of the High Son, Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear and dying in thy favor, I may in the appointed time obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life.

God sustain you and direct your steps, Judge, as you serve Him and us.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would next call upon Elder Milton E. Raiford, Headmaster of the Imani Christian Academy.

ELDER RAIFORD: May it please this Honorable Court, Bishop Garlington and all people that are present. Bishop Garlington, I didn't know whether – when I sat there, I met Judge Allen when I was a clerk in 1976 for Judge George H. Ross in this courtroom, so that desk was like screaming at me.

And I met Judge Allen in the hallway. She was an attorney at that time, and she had come before Judge Ross, and as he was known to do when he didn't know you, he would growl at you. So she was somebody that wasn't to be growled at. She was nice. So what I wanted to do was to be a barrier between her and Judge Ross as best I could.

And even on that particular occasion, I knew that there was something about her demeanor that just wasn't an advocate's demeanor. It was something very judicial about her. She was nice, and she was sweet, and she was kind, and she was wise. She seemed to have it all together. It seemed that she had peace on the inside.

I believe today is a victory for God. I sincerely believe that, with all my heart, that God gets His victory in that Judge Allen is God's vessel to express His glory today in such a powerful way.

I've learned so much from Judge Allen and from her process. I've walked through this with her. As I've said, I've known her since 1976, so it's really been a process that I've watched God use and work in her.

What I found out is that the person that you are off the bench really matters. You know, the person that you are outside, out of the robe, really matters. It really does matter. It matters.

Every once in a while what you'll do is you'll run into somebody who's two people. They're one on the bench, another person in the street. They're one person at home and they're another person on the bench.

What I've learned, I've watched, that it really does matter what type of person you are, because the decisions you make on the bench will be tempered by the life that you live. So that the life that you live really does matter in terms of your decision making on the bench.

I've learned that from Judge Allen, because I can stand here flat-footed and say she's one person, she's one person, the same person you

go before, you – even though she did call one of my clients pond scum one time.

JUDGE ALLEN: Not in the courtroom.

ELDER RAIFORD: She did it in chambers, did it off the record.

She really was one person, because what she really wanted to do was call me pond scum. She let me by on that one.

But, also what Judge Allen brings to the bench is a real wedding. It's a matching of the gift and character. You know, to get out of law school you have to have some certain gifts. You have to be able to read. You've got to be able to retain. To be an advocate, you have to have the power of persuasion, you have to have a certain amount of giftings and everything that's a lawyer to be able to get out and pass the bar and that kind of stuff, and you're a gifted person. But every once in a while your gift will take you somewhere that your character cannot sustain. And I kind of know about that firsthand.

But every once in a while you can be a really gifted person and have a lot of powerful gifts, but those gifts are not enough, particularly when people are having confidence in you as an administrator or as a jurist. But Judge Allen really brings together kind of like a wedding between character, the person that you are all the time, the values that you believe in, the person that you really are when you go home, the person that you are when you're by yourself with God. That's really who you are.

She brings that together, along with the phenomenal gift of being an extraordinary, wise woman and a compassionate jurist who knows how to be firm when she needs to be. She knows hard love and compassionate love are all part of the same pie, and that's a blessing.

And lastly what I'd like to say, which has always been a dream of mine, because I'm a history type of guy, I'm a history major, and when I went to Penn and studied history, and when I got into law and really got into constitutional law, because I wanted to know could it happen, what's the meaning of those murals on our ceilings and having argument about faith has gone too far, you know, shut up, we don't want to hear that, you've gone to far. Let God speak is not likable here.

But Judge Allen really resolved something for me. She really resolved that, you know what, faith has its place in law when faith has a hold on your jurist's heart. Faith has its place in law when God has a hold of the person's heart who's in place. And I am confident that God has got your heart and the victory truly is His.

Everybody who truly believes say Amen.

*(Chorus of Amen.)*

ELDER RAIFORD: Amen.

*(Chorus of Amen.)*

ELDER RAIFORD: Amen.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Our next speaker is Pastor Jeffrey Marshall, New Day Assembly of God, Covering Pastor, Women Without Walls.

PASTOR MARSHALL: If it please the Court, it's a privilege and an honor to be here today with Judge Cheryl and Skip and members of the Court, family and friends. Cheryl asked me several weeks ago if I would share a few comments at that time, and she said that she would have to be nice to me from that time to this time.

Cheryl and I have had a lot of fun together talking back and forth. Over the past five years, I've had the privilege of getting to know her, She sent me a lot of e-mails, interesting e-mails. She's called me a lot of names, never pond scum.

But it's a privilege and an honor to be here today, but we are not here today by chance. It is the will of God. God is righteous, and God has led and directed you, Judge Cheryl, skip to this time today. And it's a time that God has placed in history, as we were sharing earlier, time and history, a pivotal time in history, but it's also a pivotal time in heaven as heaven is rejoicing at righteousness and what a job it is.

In the Old Testament there's a story of a woman who was placed in a specific place, a specific time, for a special purpose, Queen Esther, and she has changed history by being placed at that time. And as it's mentioned in the Book of Esther, she was placed for such a time as that. You are placed here for such a time as this.

The bible tells us in Judges Chapter 2, the Lord raised up Judges. Each one of you has been raised up by God. God has placed you in the position that you are in, and God has placed you now, Cheryl, in this very special position that you are in today. God is still raising them up, anointing and appointing men and women to serve in righteousness and places of position.

In Hebrew the word “Judge” means a balance of ethics and wisdom. During the time God appointed Judges and raised them up, it was something that was needed. A balance was needed. And a balance is needed today again, a balance between ethics and wisdom, ethics that comes from God. The word of God is the guiding factor in our lives. It is to be our strength. It is to be our plumb line of how we are to live.

And the wisdom we read in the scriptures of witnesses comes from God. The wisdom of man will fleet away. The wisdom of man will be gone. True wisdom comes from God.

During this time we need that same balance. We need that balance of wisdom and ethics based on the word of God. The word of God is the real standard that we have.

God has called you for this time. This is a calling. Scriptures tell us that positions of authority have been placed there, and as we heard earlier, they’ve been placed there to bring order, to bring peace and to bring righteousness. Each of you has been placed in such a position. That the word of God is the standard, and the righteousness of God is the standard.

God has called you for a very special job, and he’s gifted you, as we heard, with great wisdom and great blessings from God, as well as the academic standards that you have had that you hold so strong.

Micah, Chapter 6, Verse 8, in the Old Testament says He has shown you what is good, and, Cheryl, I think you know God has shown you what is good. It goes on to say what does the Lord require of you? Each of us, the Lord requires us to do the same thing. To act justly, to love mercifully and to walk humbly with your God.

I want to challenge you with that today, and let the word of God be your guide, and I bless you and the glory of God shine upon you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Allen, you will join the Superior Court of Pennsylvania today. You will become a member of the Superior Court family, and as I wrote to you not too long ago, we are a Court that is rich and deep in friendship and collegiality. But as you become a member of the Superior Court, all of the members of your family will also be welcome in our Court, and we look forward to sharing all of the stories that you have about all the kids and about your husband, and we will do the same, because it is very much that.

I know this is a time of tremendous – for all of the members of your family, this is a wonderful and very tremendous occasion, and I know you’re sitting in the front row, and I’d like to take a moment to introduce each and every one of you to everyone who’s here in the audience. And I’d ask that you please stand and turn around and nod.

Your father is with us today, Robert Allen, Sr. Sir?

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Your husband, Jimmie Skipwith, that we had the pleasure of meeting not too long ago.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Your brother, Bob Allen.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Your sister, Claudia Allen is with us, but Denise is unable to be here.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And very, very importantly, your four sons, Jason Craig, Justin Craig, Frederick Craig, and Jermaine Cleveland. I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to – Jermaine Cleveland, is he not here?

And, also, I know you’re going to be speaking about your grandchildren. Your niece, Erin Allen, is here and your nephews, and I know you’re going to speak about those as well.

As Elder Raiford said, they very much are a part of who you are and the wonderful Judge you are, and that’s why we look so forward to having you come on our Court and having you share all that with us.

And now, I would like to call upon Deborah Lesko, Esquire, attorney at law and president of the Women Without Walls, to do the Judge's Presentation of Commission.

MS. LESKO: May it please the Court, it's my honor to be here. Thank you, my sister, my friend, Judge Allen, for giving me the privilege of presenting the commission. Before I do, if I may make just a few brief remarks in honor of my sister, Cheryl.

You know, there are areas in life where we compromise. We all have areas where we compromise in. For example, when I'm litigating a case and I'm in conciliation before one of these fine gentlemen, often times we compromise a lot to settle a lawsuit, and that's okay. And with my daughters I had to compromise a lot when it came to questions of who gets the car, when and how much money they can spend on this outfit. But there are some areas in life that there is no room for compromise, and those areas in life is where one's character, I believe, is really defined.

And in getting to know Cheryl over a number of years, being a co-laborer with her ministry, being her treasurer in the campaign, I've gotten to know this woman quite well and seen her walk not only on the bench but off the bench, in the private times, in the hard time and in the good times. And there's three areas that I think define her character in a great way that there is no room for compromise in.

And the first area is in integrity. Cheryl's never compromised in integrity. There were times when people, where circumstances may have suggested maybe we'll compromise here, but that was nothing to even be spoken of or heard of in any dealings with Cheryl in any situations. There is no room for compromise to her ethics, no room for compromise to her integrity.

Another area that I saw that there is no room for compromise is in her commitment to fairness and in equity. It didn't matter who was before her or what the situation was. It doesn't matter who the person was or wasn't. It didn't matter what the political persuasion was. It doesn't matter what they can do for her or can't do for her. It just doesn't matter. What matters is what is right, what is fair and what is equity. Cheryl, you never compromise on that.



And the last area that I wanted to mention that Cheryl never compromises on is in her unwavering faith to God, in God and her unwavering obedience to what God has called her to do. I've never seen a compromise in this commitment with you, Cheryl. You know what God has called you to do. You know His word. He lives in you. And your faith is a driving force. Your faith comes before everything else. And what the Lord has called you to do comes before everything. And I've seen no compromise. When you know the Lord has called upon you for something, you obey Him.

And these three areas I think define so much the character of who Judge Allen is. And I know that God will bring glory to himself through this woman in elevating her, in giving her the privilege of serving us in this Appellate Court.

It is with great privilege that I present this commission. If you'll allow me to read it. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office, The Honorable Cheryl Lynn Allen of the County of Allegheny, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greetings: Whereas, it appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, anno domini 2007, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, know ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To have and to hold said office, together with all the rights, powers and emoluments there unto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years, to be computed from the first Monday of January, 2008, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord, 2007, and of the Commonwealth the 232<sup>nd</sup>. Governor Ed Rendell.

Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

MS. LESKO: And Cheryl, your sisters in the ministry Women Without Walls, which is a ministry of reconciliation and unity of God's

people, would like to present to you this limited edition print of the governmental mountain.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Attorney Lesko.

I now call upon my colleague and friend, The Honorable Justin M. Johnson, Senior Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, for the Administration of oath of office to Judge Allen.

Judge?

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: President Judge Ford Elliott, may I first ask is Commissioner Brenda Frazier in the courtroom?

There's a seat up front here, Commissioner Frazier, if you'd like to come forward as I proceed.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And I would also want to recognize Brenda. Thank you for being here today.

I was going to say it's very difficult at many of these occasions to make sure that in a crowd like this I can at least see somebody if I haven't been given a list that I can run through. As my colleague Joe Del Sol used to say, if there's somebody here who thinks they should be introduced and they haven't why don't you stand up.

Justin?

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: Bishop Garlington and assembled clergy, Attorney General Corbett, members of Judge Allen's family and my distinguished colleagues both on this Court and on the Common Pleas Courts of Allegheny and Westmoreland County, let me first say that I feel somewhat comfortable this morning because your last speaker, Attorney Deborah Lesko, I'm a client of hers in a matter which is only now being concluded, and I've always felt comfortable taking her advice in that matter.

Listening both to my brother, the real Judge, Livingstone Johnson, and also listening to Pastor Marshall, I found that there are allusions in their remarks which you might hear again from me. I know that I was not at all familiar with anything my brother was going to say, and given the time that I put my remarks together, I'm quite sure he does not know what I'm going to say.

But I'm really impressed by the fact that every speaker here this afternoon or this morning has been very conscious of the role which our God plays in everything that we do and has been very acknowledging of the strength and integrity which we get from His presence.

Before we get to the swearing in, permit me a few remarks. It's a rare and distinct privilege to have been present and participating in the beginning of Cheryl Allen's legal career 34 years ago and now being permitted to once again rejoice at this moment in a mid-point of her upward journey through the law.

While solicitor for the Pittsburgh Public Schools, I had the opportunity to employ Cheryl as a law clerk in 1973, even as she pursued her studies at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. During that same period, Cheryl agreed to perform law clerk duties for the firm of Johnson & Johnson. These relationships permitted me to realize at an early stage in her career the contributions which Cheryl Allen would make in our chosen field.

In her discharge of her duties as a law clerk both for the school district and at Johnson & Johnson, Cheryl displayed the quiet yet firm commitment to her task, which resulted in careful constructive work that always displayed her ability to discern issues and articulate recommendations worthy of the professional scholar that she was becoming.

We may not have maintained a close relationship through the years, but I've been aware always of the contributions she has made to her church, to her community and to her family.

Judge Allen, an ordained elder, takes her commitment to God and community seriously. This is reflected in her many activities, including her ministry in Women Without Walls and her service on many boards, including Lydia's Place, Communities in Schools, Child Watch, Healing Tree International, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Imani Christian Academy and Theotherapy.

Almost all the confusion roiling around the separation of church and state, Judge Craig, like my mother did for 93 years, follows the challenge that Joshua presented to the tribes of Israel just prior to his death at 110 years of age, where Joshua proclaimed "choose this day

whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”.

We need not fear that Judge Allen will somehow ignore the commandment to do justice and to love mercifully and to walk humbly with her God. Her soon to be colleagues on this Court have had the opportunity to review her work as a Common Pleas Judge over time, and her decisions have passed muster.

In 1997, Judge Craig’s opinions in two Family Court cases were reviewed by this Court and affirmed. One of those cases involving the county’s trans racial adoption policy generated enormous publicity, and Judge Craig’s decision ordering the removal of children from their prospective adoptive parents was upheld.

In another case the same year, this Court held up Judge Craig’s adjudication of delinquency where the child’s attempt to apply adult rules of criminal procedure to the juvenile proceeding was rejected.

More recently, this Court has affirmed Judge Craig in a child’s placement in a maternal grandmother’s home, and in another case where Judge Allen adjudicated a child delinquent for making terroristic threats against her caseworker.

Once this Court made the mistake of reversing the ruling of Judge Craig where he had interpreted a section of the Crimes Code relating to the same criminal episode where conduct occurred in two counties, and I say mistake because our Supreme Court reversed this Court, concluding that Judge Craig’s analysis had been the correct one.

Now, I cannot close out observing that Cheryl L. Allen will be only the third black Judge to be elected as a Judge to the Superior Court, as my brother Livingstone had pointed out, in its 112-year history. After running quite credibly but unsuccessfully for party nomination to the Supreme Court with virtually no resources, she persevered and ran for election this year to this Court and was elected.

With my retirement, as the only black Judge on the Court, albeit in senior status, only three days away, I can rejoice and invite you to join me in celebrating the ascendance of Cheryl L. Allen to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Like Mordechai's daughter, who was referred to by Pastor Marshall in his remarks, like Mordechai's daughter, has not Judge Allen come forward to occupy her rightful place on the Superior Court for such a time as this.

My use of the word "mid-point" in my opening remarks was intentional. We can with certainty anticipate that Judge Allen has not finished her rise within our legal system, even as we recognize the honor which she brings to this county and to the Commonwealth through her elevation from our Court of Common Pleas to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Through her service since 1990 as a Judge in both the Criminal and Family Divisions of our Courts of Common Pleas, she has demonstrated the wisdom, courage, perception and humility that will be needed as she enters into this new and important phase of her career.

With three responsible and productive grown sons and a strongly supportive husband, Cheryl L. Allen will continue to reflect credit not only upon her family, her church, and her community, but now also on this Court, which will be stronger by virtue of the values and undaunted spirit which she brings with her.

Now, as she comes forward to take the oath, along with her husband and her family, I would invite the Court Crier, Mr. Carey, to prepare the audience for the swearing in.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Allen, you'll go to the podium. That way we'll be able to hear you at the mike.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: I would invite everybody to stand for the swearing in. You can get closer than that, Mr. Skipwith. A photo opportunity.

Would you raise your right hand and repeat after me, Judge Allen. I, Cheryl Lynn Allen.

JUDGE ALLEN: I, Cheryl Lynn Allen.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE ALLEN: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: That I will support and defend.

JUDGE ALLEN: That I will support and defend.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE ALLEN: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE ALLEN: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: And I will discharge the duties of my office, as a Commissioned Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE ALLEN: And I will discharge the duties of my office, as a Commissioned Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: With fidelity.

JUDGE ALLEN: With fidelity.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: So help me God.

JUDGE ALLEN: So help me God.

JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON: Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would ask Robert Allen, Sr., to robe Judge Allen. And then I ask, Judge Allen, that you join us on the bench.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Allen, the floor is yours.

JUDGE ALLEN: I just don't know what to say. I would just like to start by thanking all of you for coming this morning and sharing in this wonderful moment with me. I thank my parents, my father, who taught me the importance of community service, the importance of giving back. I thank my mother who taught me that I could do all things through Christ, who strengthens me and who encouraged me to pursue the highest heights that I could.

I thank my family for their support. My sister Claudia, my brother Bob, my sister Denise, who couldn't be here and my sons, who are really my proudest accomplishment, raising three responsible young men, men who give back to their communities. Of all things that I've been

fortunate enough to accomplish in this life, that is my proudest accomplishment, that I have three sons who have made me proud.

I thank my husband for putting up with all the running around the state, the absences and eating out in restaurants and just being willing to support me in this endeavor. And I thank my cousins, my cousins from Westchester, Dottie and Kenny. You know, they provided me with a place to stay when I would campaign in the eastern part of the state.

I thank my cousin Daisy Phillips. I don't see her here, but, you know, she worked so hard for me. And my cousin Eldora Ellison for your support. And the many, many friends that I have here. I can't name everyone. My sisters from Women Without Walls. Just so many people across this state who prayed for me. And never doubt the power of prayer.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE ALLEN: Judge Johnson said – Judge Justin Johnson said I ran for the Supreme Court with no money or resources. The truth of the matter is I ran for the Superior Court with no money and no resources, but God.

You see, because I had people all over the state. I remember being in the eastern part of the state and having someone ask me, well, how did you win the primary with no money and – no money. Had to give back some of the money, half the money we raised, and we're laughing about it today, but you should have seen us trying to give that money back. Debbie and I had to pitch in to keep checks from bouncing because we had no money.

So this person asked me, well, how did you do this with no money and no organization? I said, well, we didn't have any money, but we did have one heck of an organization. Because we had people all over the State of Pennsylvania calling their friends, e-mailing. We had a network. Never doubt the power of grass roots campaigning, even on a state level.

There are many, many people in this room and throughout the state, people who could not be here, who every time an attack would come, and there were many, they would just rally and just begin to pray. You see, when the attacks would come, we didn't have the financial

resources. We couldn't compete in the media. We couldn't run a media campaign. We couldn't do direct mail. But we knew how to pray. And so we had to assume our battle stance, which was on our knees.

And so when people question the power of prayer and the power of faith, I'm living witness that God does answer prayer and He is able.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.

JUDGE ALLEN: And I know there are some people who feel that, well, you know, maybe this isn't the proper environment to talk about God, because this is a courtroom and this is a state event. But you see, for me, I know where my strength comes from.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE ALLEN: I know there are a lot of people who say, well, you know, all this talk about God, it just doesn't take all of that. You know, maybe you should praise him privately, make it a private event. Well, He didn't give me a private blessing. He blessed me in a very public way. And on this day I will give honor, glory, adoration and praise to the most High God who supported me through this campaign.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE ALLEN: Now, I really want to thank the Republican Party, because Republican voters across this state gave me their overwhelming support in the primary, enabled me to get to the next level. And I thank all of the voters of the State of Pennsylvania who were willing to put principles before party and recognize that not only am I qualified for this position, but that I will be committed to upholding the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Pennsylvania and that I will perform the duties of this office with integrity, with honesty and with a commitment to hard work.

I would like to introduce – I have many family members here. I'm just going to ask all my family members to stand.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE ALLEN: Faith Allen, I don't know why you're sitting. This is Faith and Masha, who are very close to my family, and I really thank you for being here.

You all may be seated.



I thank God for my grandchildren and my sisters-in-law, who came here from Virginia. My niece Sheryl Wilkerson who came here from Virginia. My friends from Montgomery County who came here to support me. And I ask you to pray for my friends who got stuck on 80 from Clinton County and could not make it here in time.

And I just – there are so many people who worked so hard for me, and I'm just afraid to name them for fear that I might forget somebody. But Tammi Barch, Debbie Lesko, you've been real troopers. You know, Judith Brown, Karen Shaheen, Jane Wills, people who just went door to door. The Vinings, who took to the street in Wyoming County to get my signatures. Fritz Strom from Lancaster County, who helped me to get on the ballot. And just so many people here that I can't begin to name them all. But I would like to extend a special thanks to Ann and Bill Palmer.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE ALLEN: God knows what you need when you need it, and He knows that I am technologically challenged.

But he put Ann Palmer and Bill Palmer in my life. You know, they were the backbone of my campaign. They developed the web site. They just did the work that was so necessary. I thank Ann and Bill. I thank God for you. And I know that God has some wonderful things in store for you. I thank Beverly King for her hard work, and Laura Winn.

And if I haven't mentioned your name, just charge it to my heart – my head, not my heart, because my heart is just warm for all of you who believed in this candidacy.

You know many, many people, well-meaning people, had all but written my political obituary. But God knows, and as they were doing that, and I'm talking about friends who just could not see how this was going to happen, but the people on my campaign committee never stopped praying, never stopped encouraging. I could be just in a low moment and Mom Porter would call me and just begin to pray or Nancy Crinion would send me a word of encouragement.

And its just been an awesome experience. It's been tough, but its been awesome, awesome experience, because we have so many wonderful people in the State of Pennsylvania, all across the state.

And so I thank all of you for coming. I thank everyone here who helped me, who prayed for me, and I assure you that I won't embarrass you. You will not be embarrassed to say you supported me as a Superior Court Judge, because I will serve this Commonwealth with integrity, honesty and a commitment to hard work.

And I will just, as I embark upon the rest of this day, I will continue to give God all honor, all glory and all praise, because He is worthy of being praised. And I am the inductee today, but I am not the honoree. My God is the honoree, and I thank Him and I thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would now like to call upon Carl Vining from Amazing Grace Ministries for a concluding prayer:

MR. VINING: If it please the Court, as Pastor Vining, Amazing Grace Ministries, we would like to congratulate the Honorable Judge Cheryl Allen into Superior Court.

We thank the Lord for her. She is a woman of integrity. Standing as a man of the cloth, I was invited to a political event where I'd first met Judge Cheryl Allen, And as she was standing there, the Lord had given me a prophetic word for her and prophesied over her life that she would be elected.

When God speaks a word through a man and prophesizes these things, many times it's hard when you don't see it happen right away. It's like ok, am I a false prophet, are they going to say this or throw stones. But I said God, you said she would be elected.

I remember the phone calls that she was discouraged, that things didn't look good through the first campaign running for Supreme Court and losing the election. It's like ok, do I bury my head in the sand? But no, God, you said she would be elected, and as part of that process in the destiny where God has taken her, this is a stepping stone in that way.

And so God performed, and I thank those who have made comments here today referring to God as the source and God is our integrity. Without God we would have no integrity. Even as we see upon the ceiling the paintings of Moses, the law giver. And all laws derive from

The Ten Commandments, that our Commonwealth upholds those in their laws and judicial system.

In my closing prayer, I want to pray for the strength not only of Judge Cheryl Allen, but also for other Judges for the task that is at hand and in the world that we live in today. Without the strength of God, we would fail. But through his strength, we can succeed.

Father, we thank you this day, and even as you said to the audience here, the Lord our God is one God, we pray to that one God, and we thank you. We thank you for this event this day. We thank you for the words that have been spoken, that have been chosen wisely.

Father, you have said give honor where honor is due, and to the honor of Judge Cheryl Allen as she has embarked upon this new path and this new journey with the Superior Court, that you would be with her and you would uphold her and you would be her strength, and yet it is not an easy task, but it is one that as she leans upon you, she will gain great understanding, and she will acquire more wisdom that comes from you and from your word.

And even as you have said that, thy word was in the beginning and thy word was with God and was God and your word was made flesh and amongst us as we beheld Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, as we see this word made flesh, and yet today your word is being made flesh in our society and your righteousness is being upheld to the Judges that are before us here this day, we ask for their strength, their continuing strength, Lord, God, into the physical realm, the spiritual realm.

Father, we ask a special anointing to fall upon each Judge here, and especially for Judge Cheryl Allen as she embarks on this new road, traveling down a new journey, that is your strength and your anointing, as you have anointed her for this position, may your holy spirit rest upon these Judges as they rule in righteousness, for your word says that when righteousness rules, all shall prosper.

So we thank you. We thank you for this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the great Commonwealth, whose Constitution is older than the Constitution of the United States. As we are a forerunner, let the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Judges that are here, be an outstanding Commonwealth and one that is recognized throughout

the nation as a Commonwealth that is one to be modeled after. And we thank you, gracious Heavenly Father, in your Son's precious name, the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Vining.

Before we close, Judge Allen would like to announce that there is a reception immediately following the ceremony in the rotunda of the Juvenile Court Building 440 Ross Street.

And on that note, I would ask Mr. Carey to please close the special session of the Court.

THE COURT CRIER: Court is adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 11:53 a.m., the installation Ceremony was concluded.)

**THE HONORABLE  
JAMES J. FITZGERALD**



*Assumed Office: January 7, 2008  
County: Philadelphia*

James J. Fitzgerald III was appointed a Senior Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2008 and served the Court with distinction until his retirement at the end of 2017. His legal career spanned more than fifty years and encompassed multiple levels of judicial, government and public service. He is widely admired for his integrity and his dedication to the cause of equal justice for all.

Judge Fitzgerald was an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Executive Vice President for Government Affairs at the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, an elected Judge in the First Judicial District to the Court of Common Pleas, the Administrative Judge in the Trial Division on the same court, and an interim Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. His cumulative experience in the legal profession, both at the bar and on the bench, as well as his government and private sector experience, made him uniquely and admirably qualified to serve on the Superior Court.

Born just north of Boston, in Winchester, Massachusetts, Jim Fitzgerald was the son of James Joseph Fitzgerald, Jr., and Mary E. (Lyons) Fitzgerald. He grew up in a household where the most frequent topics of conversation at the dinner table were sports and politics. There was also, within his family, an implicit expectation of high achievement and service to the public. It was a commitment he took to heart, and one that served as a constant and visible trail marker on the career path he pursued.

Fitzgerald attended high school at the Browne & Nichols School and at Worcester Academy, where he excelled in basketball, football and baseball. As a catcher, he was known to have a “major league arm” and his pinpoint accuracy gave an extra moment of pause to every would-be base stealer. He attended a Phillies try-out camp, where he hit a home run.

After he graduated from Worcester Academy, Fitzgerald came to Philadelphia to take a tour of the University of Pennsylvania, and was so impressed by what he saw that he made the Keystone State his home. At Penn he played freshman basketball and led Penn’s team with twenty points against rival Princeton freshmen in a losing cause at the Palestra. He also rowed crew, a pursuit that led to two Olympic trials and an appearance for Penn in the Grand Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in England. In his senior year at Penn, Fitzgerald was elected vice president of his class and was voted president of the Kite and Key Service Society and a member of the Sphinx Honor Society.

As much as he loved sports, he came to love the law even more. Before rowing practice, he regularly took the subway downtown to watch the criminal trials at City Hall. In part, as a result of that experience, his interest in the law grew steadily. What he saw in court led him to realize that what he wanted to do more than anything was to become a trial attorney.

After graduating from Penn in 1962 with a degree in economics, Fitzgerald followed his dream of becoming a trial attorney, earning his J.D. from the Villanova University School of Law in 1966. He began with an initial stint in private practice with the Philadelphia firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads. He then signed on as

an assistant district attorney with Arlen Specter in the Philadelphia District Attorney's office.

There followed a 12-year stint of trying criminal cases. It was a period during which he tried more than 5000 cases, including 10 homicide jury trials. Fitzgerald headed up the Felony Waiver Unit until 1975, when he became Chief of both the Felony Waver Unit and the municipal Court Unit, a role he fulfilled until 1979. He also headed up the mental health unit in the D.A.'s office.

In 1979, having always harbored a strong interest in politics, he decided to take the plunge and he ran as a Republican for City Controller. His candidacy was endorsed by three Philadelphia newspapers – the Inquirer, the Bulletin and the Philadelphia Tribune. However, he lost by a narrow margin. From 1981-1985, Fitzgerald worked as a civil trial attorney at the Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin law firm.

In 1986, he accepted a position as Executive Vice President of Government Affairs at the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, representing the various interests of the 5,000 members of the Chamber with the legislative and agency bodies in local and state governments. Fitzgerald was a member of a team of business and union leaders that secured 180 million dollars to build the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. He ran government affairs for the Chamber for four years, from 1986 through 1989.

In 1989, when multiple vacancies occurred in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Jim Fitzgerald's lifelong interest in justice and fairness spurred him on to enter the judicial race. With Ed Rendell and Nicholas DeBenedictis as his campaign co-chairs, Fitzgerald won election as a judge for a ten-year term and was retained in 1999. Owing in part to the experience he garnered in 12 years in the D.A.'s office, the newly elected judge was made a major crime section leader and then one of ten homicide judges.

In 2002, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed Fitzgerald Administrative Judge of Philadelphia's Common Pleas Court Trial Division where he was responsible for the operation of the civil and criminal trial sections. The Trial Division was comprised of sixty-eight

ected Common Pleas Court judges, ten senior judges, twelve hundred employees as well as other units. The Trial Division continues to be the second largest Common Pleas Court system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fitzgerald also established an intensive criminal case disposition program, revised the remuneration scale for the First Judicial District Lawyer Arbitrators, and launched an electronic filing initiative for the Civil Section of the Trial Division. Judge Fitzgerald re-established and supported the First Judicial District's Judicial Pro Bono Publico Program. More than 200 attorneys responded to representing indigent clients in all types of civil matters. In the words of one Associate Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, "Judge Fitzgerald did a magnificent job straightening out the problems of the Philadelphia court."

Judge Fitzgerald also advocated on behalf of the First Judicial District Public Information Initiative and approved the design and authorized construction of Philadelphia's first historic High Technology Courtroom. Between 2003-2006 Judge Fitzgerald initiated the First Judicial District-U.S. Attorney Office Summer Intern Program.

Being a judge was a job he loved and one at which he excelled. In later years, he was often heard to say, "Being a judge is the best job in the world, not because it is easy but because a judge must be fair, insightful, and give the citizens confidence in their court system." It was a comment that can be readily attributed to his time on the Court of Common Pleas.

In 2007, Judge Fitzgerald was nominated by Governor Edward G. Rendell to serve as an interim justice on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The nomination was unanimously approved by the Pennsylvania Senate. Once on the bench, Justice Fitzgerald found himself in a unique position: he was both the newest and the oldest justice. He often became the swing vote on many 4-3 decisions. He served on the high court until January 2008, during which time nine of his opinions were published. Following his service on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, he was appointed a Senior Judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

From 2008 until his retirement in December 2017, James Fitzgerald served as co-chair, with Chief Justice Emeritus John Flaherty, of the



Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence, a cause that has long been near and dear to him. The commission seeks to promote public understanding of the importance of a responsible and independent judiciary, recognizing that it is vital for ensuring that cases are being decided purely on merit. He has also been a champion of expanding access to counsel for low-income people and of veterans and mental health diversion courts, believing they help people to become productive members of society.

Among Jim Fitzgerald's numerous accolades have been the William J. Brennan, Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award, the Saint Thomas More Society Award, and the J. Clayton Undercofler, III, Distinguished Service Award of the J. William O'Brien Villanova Law Inn of Court. Justice Fitzgerald has twice been honored by the Brehon Law Society – receiving both the Award for Judicial Excellence, and the Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Law. He was also presented with the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Day Award, and the Philadelphia Flag Day Association Annual Civic Award. In 1989, he received the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Award of Merit for outstanding leadership and service to the University.

In 2009, Justice Fitzgerald was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and served for a term of eleven and on half years.

James Fitzgerald is married to the former Carol McCullough, who served for seventeen years as Executive Director of The Pennsylvania Society. They are the parents of three children. Their daughter, Melissa A. Fitzgerald, is Director of the Advancing Justice Initiative at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). They have two sons. Jamie (James J. Fitzgerald, IV) is an attorney and Senior Vice President, Investment Management Division, Goldman Sachs & Co. in Philadelphia; and Craig McC. Fitzgerald is Director of Strength and Performance for the New York Giants Football Team. They have five grandchildren; James V, Russell, Mac, Joe and Luke. The Fitzgeralds live in Philadelphia.

**THE HONORABLE  
CHRISTINE L. DONOHUE**



*Birthdate: December 24, 1952*  
*Assumed Office: January 2, 2008*  
*County: Allegheny*

**OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY**  
Honorable Christine Donohue  
Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

January 11, 2008  
3:00 o'clock p.m.

Supreme Court Courtroom  
Eighth Floor, City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**PROCEEDINGS**  
(3:15 o'clock p.m.)

MR. CAREY: The Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez, let all family, friends and associates of Christine come forth on this joyous occasion and participate in this special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. All men or persons having business to come before the Honorable, the Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania here holden this day, let them come forth and appear and they shall be heard.

Let all come forth and join in this special event, the oath of office of Christine Donohue.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Carey.

Good afternoon, everyone. We gather here today in ceremonial session to welcome to our bench the 94<sup>th</sup> Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Judge-Elect Christine Donohue.

As we begin our ceremony today, I would call upon Father Jack O'Malley, chaplain of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Allegheny County Labor Council, for invocation.

FATHER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

God of all history, God of all traditions, God of all faiths, you are a God of mercy, God of justice and compassion. We are grateful for your forgiveness, your compassion, your understanding.

Bless Christine, her family, friends and staff as we celebrate this day and celebrate her vocation. Through your authority, justice is administered, laws are enacted and judgment is decreed.

Assist our new Judge Christine with your spirit of counsel, fortitude and courage so she will be a servant to all of your people. May she execute her time in these halls with understanding, mercy and compassion, and may she let the light of your wisdom direct her deliberations and shine forth in all of her proceedings, and may she bring us the blessings of liberty and equality and peace and harmony.

May she and all judges be enabled with your protection to discharge their duties with honesty and creativity.

We pray all this in your name and together we say amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, Father O'Malley. It is nice to see you.

Judge-Elect Donohue, when you take the bench today, you will join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is already well established.

Your colleagues warmly welcome you and we know that we will benefit greatly from your legal scholarship, your professional integrity and what we have come to know as your boundless energy. And with almost 8000 new appeal filings at the end of 2007, you are going to need all the energy you have.

As we begin this session today, I would like to introduce the members of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania who are here today and present for the swearing in. There are some of us that have not been able to make it in but I know have been in contact with you and have sent you their well wishes.

Sitting on the bench today is Judge Joan Orié Melvin, Judge Maureen Lally-Green, Judge Richard Klein, Judge John Bender, Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Susan Gantman, Judge Jack Panella, Judge Jacqueline Shogan, and Judge Cheryl Allen, two who are joining Judge Donohue on our bench this year, we congratulate them. Judge Patrick Tamilia, Judge Robert Colville and the newest addition to our court, thankfully, Justice James Fitzgerald, III.

Also in the audience, I would like to recognize Judge Robert Daniels, who finished his commission time with us in December, but we are all hoping, as we sit here on the bench, that he will be coming back to us very soon, and I think he knows what we are talking about.

I also wish to recognize some former members who are on the bench and I mention Judge Daniels, but I also, and I know he will be speaking in a few moments, I wanted to recognize our President Judge Emeritus Judge Joseph A. Del Sole. And as I said, he will be speaking in a few moments.

I would also like to recognize the members of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania who are with us today.

We have Justice Max Baer from here in Allegheny County and the two newest justices of the court, and our former colleagues and friends, Justice Deborah Todd, who was sworn in yesterday, and Justice Seamus McCaffrey, who was sworn in last Friday into Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

I also recognize, and I believe she is here today, Madam Justice Cynthia Baldwin who, along with former Justice James Fitzgerald, has just completed service on the Supreme Court.

Also in attendance from the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, we have Judge James Flaherty, Judge Barry Feudale, and I received a phone call, Judge-Elect, this morning from President Judge Emeritus Judge James Gardner Collins and he wished to extend his best wishes. He was unable to get out of Philadelphia in time to be here today.

I would like to call upon our former President Judge and cherished colleague, Judge Joseph Del Sole to make some remarks. We are very pleased to have you back in the courtroom. We only wish you were still churning out 245 decisions a year.

JUDGE DEL SOLE: Thank you, Your Honor. I never thought I would be back.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: We are glad you are here, looking a little too rested, by the way.

JUDGE DEL SOLE: As am I. There is life after the bench, I assure you.

The occasion of the installation of the new member of this court is a day of celebration. I'm sure that each member of the court fondly remembers the day that they took the oath of office. It is a time of joy, excitement, pride, wonder and humility.

Today, we are formally here to install Christine Donohue as a member of this court as it continues its 112 year history of service to the people of Pennsylvania.

I have known Judge Donohue for 30 years. She began her legal career at the firm of Sikov & Love, learning the skills of a trial lawyer. She refined those skills as a partner in the firm of Evans Rose Quinn & Donohue practicing as a litigator in state and federal courtrooms. She

became a shareholder of that firm and then with its merger, a shareholder in Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

I would also like to note in order to replace her, the firm had to hire the former chief justice of Pennsylvania.

I do feel fortunate to bring a unique perspective to this occasion. To the members of the court, I can attest that you are being joined by an exceptional colleague.

Christine is an accomplished trial lawyer. She has handled all matter of civil cases from slip and fall to intricate accounting and fraud matters. Her abilities as a litigator are well recognized, as evidenced by her membership in the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and the American Academy of Trial Lawyers. Both of these organizations are admission by invitation only, acknowledging outstanding performance and reputation.

Christine is a person committed to public service. She has served as a chair of the Young Lawyers section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, on the Board of Judicial Discipline, on the Disciplinary Board, on the State Board of Law Examiners, on the board of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and many other public and charitable boards and committees too numerous to mention.

This dedication to serving both the profession and society exemplifies the true nature of her character.

Her success is all the more remarkable when you realize she is the daughter of a coal miner and a seamstress, growing up in the hard coal region of Pennsylvania. Her desire to secure an education, and she had to work her way through both college and law school, this she did and it is to our good fortune.

Members of the Court, you are being joined today by a dedicated, hard working, highly intelligent, experienced and compassionate person. A woman who will work with you, challenge you on the law, see all sides of the issues, come to a reasoned judgment, and at all times be your friend.

An example of a willingness to undertake what may seem to be impossible is this: she called me in December of 2006 and told me she was thinking about running for a seat on the Superior Court. She asked

what I thought. I, of course, told her that she was starting very late and it would be very difficult, she should give it more consideration, it was doubtful she could win. That shows what I know.

But more importantly, it speaks volumes about her ability to take on a difficult task, work hard and secure success.

Christine, today you join one of the outstanding appellate courts in this country. While it is one of the busiest courts in the nation, its members pride themselves on being one of the most current and hard working of all courts. Each member authors over 200 dispositions per year.

This court has been recognized by the American Bar Association for its achievement in providing timely justice.

There is one quality of Christine's that I have not mentioned, her humility. While she is successful and dedicated she has never forgotten her roots. She is grounded and knows what is important to have a full and happy life.

She epitomizes the words of Sir Thomas Newton: Fill the seats of justice with good people but not so absolutely with goodness to forget what human failure is.

Members of the Court, your colleague is such a person.

Judge Donohue, my heartfelt congratulations to you as you begin this new and exciting part of your life, and it is my honor to call you colleague.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge Del Sole. Thank you for being here and we still miss you.

JUDGE DEL SOLE: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I'm glad you brought Karen along with you.

By the way, there are many introductions that I will be making on behalf of the court today and introductions that Judge-Elect Donohue has asked that I make, what I was hoping that we could do, just to make sure that since it is such a large crowd, when I introduce various groups of people, which is what I am going to try to do, if you would each stand

when introduced and withhold applause until the end of that particular group. I think that will work.

By the way, the three Justices for our Supreme Court, I know everyone in this room knows who they are, they are sitting to my right in the chairs.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I'd like to recognize some members of the federal bench who honor us with their presence today.

From the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Michael Fischer, Judge D. Brooks Smith, Judge Tom Hardiman, I believe somewhere in the audience is former member of the court of appeals, Judge Tim Lewis.

From the U.S. District Court, we have Judge Nora Barry Fischer, Judge Terrence McVerry, Judge Jeff Deller and from the Magistrate Court, Magistrate Amy Hay, a good friend of this court, Magistrate Judge Lisa Lenihan. I don't see her here, but I think she is somewhere here in the audience.

Thank you all for being here.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Also, from the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, and I have a list here, so I hope that I am going to be able to remember everybody, but please let me know if I miss anyone.

We have present today the President Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Joseph James. We have administrative Judge for the civil division, Eugene Strassburger. Administrative Judge for family division, Kim Berkeley Clark, Judge Edward Borkowski, Judge Michael Della Vecchia, Judge Kathleen Durkin, Judge Kim Eaton, Judge Judith Friedman, Judge Robert Gallo, Judge Allen Hertzberg, Judge Beth Lazzara, Judge Jeffrey Manning, Judge Lee Mazur, Judge Kathleen Mulligan, Judge Timothy Patrick O'Reilly, Judge Lawrence O'Toole, Judge Eugene Scanlon, Judge Randy Todd, Judge Christine Ward, Judge Dwayne Woodruff, Judge John Zottola, and the



former – most recent former Judge of the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas, Judge Livingston Johnson.

We also have Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco, Judge Thomas Flaherty, Judge Kaplan and Judge David Cashman.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you all very much for being here.

It is important for the Superior Court to have the presence of the Court of Common Pleas judges who make our jobs so much easier by how well you do yours.

I would like to next call upon Honorable Carol McGinley, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, and I must compliment Judge-Elect Donohue on her choice of friends.

It is a pleasure to welcome Judge McGinley, also a friend of mine from Pittsburgh.

JUDGE MCGINLEY: Thank you very much.

President Judge Ford Elliott and Justices, Honorable members of Superior Court, Commonwealth Court, anyone who has the power to overrule me, I say good afternoon, and I also welcome hello to my colleagues of jurisdiction and federal court as well.

Recently, Judge Donohue woke up on her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday and said to herself, I am the happiest person I know. You know what, she is the happiest person I know, too. She deserves this happiness. She deserves it because she has earned it.

She deserves it because her character and intellect support it. She has the finest mind I know and intellect unclouded by emotion.

Her humor is piercing and caustic and applied equally to friend, foe and herself. Not surprisingly, laughter is always a big part of an encounter with Judge Donohue. She respects people not for the power or position, but for their rightness of mind.

She told me how gratifying her campaign experience was, because in her first experience, Democratic Party workers, and I'm sure as time went on, Republican Party workers, because they work so hard for what they believe and not because they expect anything back.

Raised in the coal regions of Pennsylvania where hard work is a religion all its own, she has neither forgotten nor foregone her roots. I have heard her describe her mother as bright, hard working and incisive, and her father as charming, funny and good looking.

I don't think it dawned on Judge Donohue that in those descriptions, she was describing herself.

We have been friends since the mid '80's when we both served on the board of law examiners. As luck would have it, we were both also appointed as founding judges of the constitutionally created Court of Judicial Discipline, and it is there that our friendship blossomed beyond acquaintance.

Her attitudes, not necessarily popular, resonated with me. She is feminine, but not a classical feminist. She is a woman, but not a quote, woman judge.

We share the attitude that intellect is gender neutral and the quest for excellence should be universal.

Because my husband finds nothing in the world to be as interesting as his animals and farm, Judge Donohue is my favorite traveling companion. We have gone dog sledding in Utah, hiking in Tuscany, sight-seeing in Rome, skiing in Colorado, desert trekking in Palm Springs, exercising in Mexico.

I'm tired and broke, by the way, and, or course, shopping in all of those locations.

Judge Donohue taught me some things without knowing what she was teaching. Her most important lesson to me is that when it comes to stating the truth, a woman can be just as powerful as a man. Now she is teaching me in a different way, and probably like other friends of mine who have gone on to the higher courts, she will disappoint me, only in one respect, but heeding only lightly my admonition that I am not to be reversed.

She will correct what she perceives in her intellect to be wrong with neither fear nor favor.

I would like to take my last opportunity to teach her a few things; after all, appellate judges don't generally hear from trial judges except on paper and through our written opinions. Our efforts are reduced

to the sterile record, which is then enthusiastically misrepresented by appellate counsel.

The first thing I want to teach her is that the trial court records and opinions that she will see bear little resemblance to reality. Just like cops clean up murders and crimes for presentation to the courts, the trial courts further sanitize the experience for presentation to the appellate courts.

Although Judge Donohue comes to the Superior Court from the highest quality of legal practice, I am confident that she will use her incisive legal mind as well as a firm connection to her heritage and to understand the human subtext of the trial court record.

She will recognize a million grains of life's experience. Among them heartache, fear, failure, that distill to a legal principle.

Another task I assigned to her is to stem the tsunami of pseudo-drama that is washing away hundreds of years of jurisprudence. As overloaded as the appellate courts are, their overload is only the tip of the iceberg of what trial judges are going through.

Anyone can have his own show for a filing fee and if you watch Judge Judy, you, too, can be a litigator. Pop culture and advanced technology are morphing the edges of the justice system even as I speak.

Perhaps it will be Judge Donohue that makes sense of all this and recalibrates the balance of accessibility to justice with the systemic needs for thought, care and reflection in the administration of justice.

That brings me to the second thing I want to teach you, Judge Donohue, how to make a decision in this bewildering environment. And I present you with a decision maker. It is low tech, admittedly, it is a pod shaped paperweight with a spinner. That can help the wheels of justice turn as you spin it to its option, yes, no, maybe, today, tomorrow, sit on it, pass the buck and my personal favorite, reorganize. Notably lacking, and listen carefully, is reconsider.

Judge Donohue, we all have the best and highest wishes for your success. We wish you many days of happiness as you struggle to make a difference.

We hope that in both the law and your life that it is easy to see what is right and easy to choose it.

Finally, we wish that for the rest of your career and beyond that, you can always be the happiest person we know. After all, you earned it.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much, Judge McGinley.

I also would like to take a moment to introduce the administrative department heads for the Superior Court. These are people, Christine, if I can call you, and I think I can, these are people you will come to know, to need and, therefore, to love.

We have our executive administrator here today, David Szewczak, I don't believe the deputy administer, Michele Usilton is here. She will be busy moving you into chambers.

We have chief staff attorney, Ernest Gennaccaro.

We have our Prothonotary, Karen Bramblett, Deputy Prothonotary here in Pittsburgh, Eleanor Valecko, and we also have our Reporter, Bob Levine, in the back of the courtroom and our Legal Systems Coordinator, spending a lot of time in your office, Charles Thrall in Philadelphia.

I want to recognize all of you. Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Some other public officials with us, we have District Justice Richard King, who is not only a district justice here in Allegheny County, but immediate past president of the Special Judges Association for Pennsylvania. Welcome.

We have Carol Fiorucci, who is registrar of wills in Beaver County; Janice Beall, who is recorder of deeds in Beaver County, George Matta, former clerk of courts for Allegheny County; Honorable Valerie McDonald Roberts, whose position now is Manager, Department of Real Estate for Allegheny County and former recorder of deeds.

Sheriff Bill Mullen; Treasurer John Weinstein; Karl Williams, Allegheny County medical examiner.

The Honorable Sophie Masloff, if she is here, I would appreciate if she would stand up, it would be wonderful to see her. She just had a street named after her. That's when you know you have arrived.

Honorable Dan Frankel, State Representative, 23<sup>rd</sup> legislative district.

Mayor Joseph Sinnott from Erie; Emmett McCall, recorder of Deeds for Carbon County; Bob Crampsie from Carbon County, Controller; Andrea Naugle, Clerk of Judicial Records, Lehigh County.

Richard Fink, Commissioner for Armstrong County, and Pat Fiorina, Jury Commissioner in Armstrong County.

I next would like to call upon Attorney Edwin L. Klett, a member of the firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney and past president of the Allegheny County Bar Association, to make some remarks on behalf of Judge-Elect Donohue.

Welcome, Mr. Klett.

MR. KLETT: Thank you.

It is a distinct pleasure to be part of this installation ceremony. Obviously, Christine and I have practiced together for quite a number of years.

More specifically, it was in 1989, a long time ago, when she joined the Klett Rooney firm as a litigation shareholder.

Prior to that, she practiced law with some outstanding Pittsburgh lawyers, Chuck Evans, who will also be part of the program, and a person that I saw here earlier today, the iconic Seymour Sikov. Christine has many fond memories of practicing with Seymour.

After 1989, Christine and I had quite a number of important matters together, probably the most important was the Phar-Mor case, and we were in trial in that case for six months, September of '06 – I'm sorry, September of '96 until February of '97. These were 16 hour days, seven days a week. Most often, the prep time required us to be there on weekends.

So, we're talking about a steel-like work ethic that Christine reflected along the way.

In the third row, we have her new chief clerk, Greg Rhodes, and Greg also was in that Phar-Mor litigation with us.

Over the years, we also shared responsibilities for matters involving the UPMC Health System and its enemies.

Thus, given this extensive background of working together, one would have thought that sharing – obtaining a spot on today's program would be no big deal. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

In reality, I had to beg and plead with Christine to get a spot on the roster. The discussion went something like this:

ME: Christine, may I speak at your installation.

CHRISTINE: No. There are several legal luminaries who have already signed on to be part of the installation, former President Judge Del Sole, Judge Carol McGinley and Attorney Charles Evans.

ME: But Christine, I really, really, really want to do it. I can provide some balance to that fellow Evans. And also, by contrast, I could really make these other speakers look excellent.

CHRISTINE: Well, okay. But would you be willing to say some nice things about me?

ME: I would. I would. And indeed, I would say them with wisdom. That is the story of how I came to be part of this program.

Now it is time to do what I promised to do. This is a record – is a directory of some of the things that I’m supposed to say. It is a napkin from Christine’s favorite restaurant, Nicky’s on Grant Street. I’m faithful to the promise I made.

Christine is a marvelous human being. She exudes class and style. When the creator created Christine, he or she threw away the mold.

Christine possesses, I guess the word is tremendous intellect. The difficulty is, Christine, I can’t read your writing, and you’ve gotten ketchup on this end here.

In terms of fair disclosure, I stole that routine from a Pittsburgh lawyer, Gary Gentile. My conscious is clear, because I know that Gary stole it from someone else.

Now, on to my next revelation, revelation being a coined phrase from Hollywood gossip columns and so forth. I am going to make another revelation now that we have Christine feeling really concerned.

I will tell you that what I am about to say has been in the public domain for quite some time. Indeed, by election day 2007, the cat was really out of the bag, and that secret revelation, really never secret among her colleagues in the bar, is that Christine is an exceptionally talented, qualified lawyer. Her skills, integrity and extensive trial experience will most certainly make her an outstanding addition to the bench of this court.

I am aware after the oath of office is administered to Christine, we will all have to put behind us the campaign, but permit me to share just a couple observations with you before she takes the oath of office.

As Judge Del Sole indicated, Christine came to her decision very, very late in the game. Many candidates worked for months, if not years, before entering into the primary process, but in point of fact, it was only in January of 2007 that she decided to seek a spot on this court. And she was joined at the outset by a very extensive staff, Chuck and Marilyn Evans.

She had no political portfolio, she did have her credentials and her intellect and her work ethic, and she had Marilyn and Chuck. And she also had members of her family who are sitting next to Christine. I know how hard they worked in the center counties, central Pennsylvania counties, in the eastern counties.

But just as Christine's strong work ethic and dogged determination served her well in the practice of law, that special resolve became her mainstay during the campaign. If there was a call to be made, a visit to be undertaken, someone that she needed to meet, she not only did it, she did it in an organized way and did it with such enthusiasm that the enthusiasm became contagious among her many ever growing supporters.

What I saw was that day by day, mile by mile, she attracted more and more friends and supporters from across the State. And ultimately, at almost super human effort, translated into what turned out to be overwhelming support at the polls.

Along the way, I think Judge Del Sole also mentioned this, Christine came to enjoy the campaign trail. Marilyn shaking her head yes, and Chuck, I'm sure will agree.

At the outset, you could sense that there was a bit of intrepidation as to how this might go, her strong work ethic, her ability to focus and achieve caused her to really enjoy meeting people, meeting issues, and all the ups and downs of the campaign trail.

In her case, the political process really did work.

My second point and final point is that I am equally amazed by the number of good friends and supporters who are here today. We also have folks in the assignment room. It is not only those who are seated here,

but we have many, many others. I know from the guest list that was put together that there are so many friends and supporters of Christine who have driven many miles in some cases to be here, and why is that?

Well, Christine has a very, very special trait and that is she bonds with people. When she was on the campaign trail, as I mentioned, she met a lot of people. These folks became her friends and it is that deep bonding that has caused people to want to share this day with her.

So, in finality, let me just say that on my behalf, on behalf of the firm, on behalf of the Bar, we thank you, Christine, for all your contributions as a trial lawyer. And Judge Donohue, we wish you nothing but the best in the future.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much, Mr. Klett. It is a pleasure to see you here.

I recognized two people I know of and I think what Ed has said is true, there are people who have come from very far away to honor Christine, to celebrate.

Two people I know who are personal friends of mine as well, Peg Wilson from Washington County and Elli Kuhns from Northumberland. It is wonderful that you have come this far to be with us.

We also have today an outstanding representation from the labor community, as well as several other very important community leaders. I would like to take a moment to introduce them.

I would like to recognize Dean Donald Guter from Duquesne University School of Law.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: This now puts eight Duquesne graduates on the bench.

I also recognize David Blaner in the back of the room, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Sitting next to him, this former immediate past president from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Ken Horoho.

*(Applause.)*



PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would like to recognize some of the labor leaders here today. Hold your applause until the end. The labor leaders and also community people who are here, who are very important to Christine and the bench today.

Bill George I know is not here. As many of you may know, he lost his wife this past week, and the members of the bench extend to him our deep condolences and we will keep her in our prayers.

We have Jack Shea, president of the Allegheny County Labor Council; Jim Klingensmith, executive vice president of the Allegheny County Labor Council; John Vento, an old friend of the court, who is co-director of the labor council.

Rosemary Trump, treasurer of the county labor council. We have the Pennsylvania State vice president, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Barbara Barnes; John Tarka, president of the Federation of Teachers; Sylvia Wilson, Assistant to the president of the Federation of Teachers; George Gensure is here, also from the federation PFT.

Joe King, I hope is, president of the Pittsburgh Firefighters and dear friend of mine; Ed Nemeth, vice president of the Pittsburgh Firefighters; John Connors, PAC trustee of the Pittsburgh Firefighters, and I want to recognize I ran into Ed O'Brien, who has come from Lehigh County.

Welcome to all of you. Thank you for being here.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I also want to recognize on behalf of Judge-Elect Donohue, Tim Riley, Junior, who is president of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice; Barbara McNees, who is president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; Linda Dickerson, president of the board of trustees of the National Aviary of Pittsburgh; Carmella Mullen, vice chair, Allegheny County Democratic Committee.

We have Barbara Daly Danko, chair, City of Pittsburgh 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, democratic party; Barbara Ernsberger, chair, City of Pittsburgh 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, democratic party, and I assume they are all on their way to state committee; and Susan Rutt, who is the president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women.

Thank you all for being here.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I would now ask Charles Evans from the firm of Meyers Kenrick Giuffrie & Evans to present the commission for Judge-Elect Donohue and make brief remarks.

Chuck, it is nice to have you here.

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

I know that I was the only one that was told brief remarks. My reputation must precede me.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Not at all, sir.

MR. EVANS: The former candidate will be handling the commission to present the candidate.

I want to start by saying that we are happy for you.

*(Applause.)*

MR. EVANS: I originally thought I would tell funny little stories, because there are a lot of them on the campaign trail, particularly when you have three naïve people stumbling around trying to find out what to do. But I thought the event, this your day, your time, deserved a little bit more of a serious note.

Basically, who is Christine Donohue as I know her. I've known you for a long time. She tells me – in fact, I heard this on the campaign trail, that I was the first lawyer outside of law professors that she ever met. That was when she appeared at Sikov & Love, where I was a partner, to apply for a clerkship.

I know a star when I see one, so did Seymour Sikov, and together, that was the start of her career. We went on as my associate, partner, and I know her very well.

I thought that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, who endorsed her along with many papers, said a great thing about you in the general election. If you remember where we were when we read that, we were in the Squirrel Hill Giant Eagle.

We had come in from some campaign event, Marilyn and I stopped for coffee, I needed half and half and I slipped over to Post-Gazette. I

knew it was going to be Sunday, and there it was, another endorsement by the Post-Gazette.

What it said was she is an American success story. And that captured the United Mine Workers, it captured her mother's union and hard work. I think that captured a lot. An American success story in the true sense of the world.

Fifty-three and a half weeks ago, she said to me well, I finalized matters and I am going to make a run for the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

Here is what she said: She said, I think I have the experience, I think I have the intellectual capabilities and I think I have a record of achievements that I can run a campaign successfully. And I stopped at that moment, she doesn't – of course, those are true and those are statements to which I agree.

But the way she said it then is the way she always talked about herself. Pride with humility. The ability to talk about accomplishments which are so diverse and impressive from the best lawyers in America on down, without arrogance. That trait is not simply a personality trait, that's her.

And throughout the campaign, she would give speech after speech, I personally believe that the reason people liked and admired her is because of that characteristic. And you made them follow you. And the mark of a person, that has been said, is a good character.

Christine Donohue is a person of good character. And she is a person of great substance. That is what I want to talk about, also.

When she said fifty-three and half weeks ago she was going to seek the Superior Court, it didn't surprise me. We had talked about that on and off casually for a number of years. I knew how important the intermediate appellate courts, including the Superior Court, was, because it is a work horse court, high volume in its jurisdiction touched so within the areas of her practice. No surprise there. And she has, if anybody in the room, I was almost going to ask for show of hands, but I won't, if anyone has talked to Christie about law or a case, you will know her dedication to the legal system.

She loves it. She is so proud to be an attorney. And she knows that a legal system, she's told me this a hundred times, is only as good as its ethics.

The ethics of the judges and the lawyers and without the ethics, it is not there. That is why she spent so many years in her practice on the Court of Judicial Discipline, on the Board of Law Examiners, on the Disciplinary Board, to make the court – to make the system better.

Throughout the campaign, she used a phrase when she would speak, she always was an eloquent speaker, she used the phrase back stop for justice. How many times did you say that? That sounds like a slogan, and maybe it is. But it really reveals how I know she looked at the court.

We all know that the judiciary is a co-equal branch of government, along with the legislative and executive, but she also sees it as the guardian of individual rights. I know we have talked about it.

When we look at the Pennsylvania constitution alone, it stands for so many things that she has always fought for. We know it stands for the proposition that all men are born free and equally independent. We know that it guarantees the rights of the criminally accused.

We know it has a no gender bias, a statement right in the Pennsylvania constitution.

Importantly, it says, I think it is the sixth comment made in Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, the right to trial by jury is inviolate.

She has devoted, I think from the first day we practiced together, a large component of her time to make sure that any attack on the jury system would be beaten back. That is a kudo and honor I grant her.

She knows, and the Pennsylvania Constitution also guarantees, the absolute right of an appeal from a lower court. And near and dear to my heart in Article III, section, 18, it prohibits any monetary caps on actions for death and personal injury.

We have a beautiful Pennsylvania constitution and I think it is noteworthy that all officials take, to my understanding, in the Commonwealth the same essential oath.

In a few minutes when Christie takes the oath, she will be swearing allegiance to follow two critically important documents: The U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

So, when Christine Donohue talked about back stop for justice, it revealed her inner most view as to how she loves and fights for this system. I don't think I've met many people, if any, who had a more unabashed, unveiled love of the legal system than you.

She is going to be a great judge on the Superior Court.

So, in closing, Marilyn said to make sure I said this to you: we loved every minute of campaigning and doing what we could for you, and we wish you the best.

Unfortunately, President Judge Del Sole took one of my lines. I wanted to say, Your Honor, it was really our honor.

Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

MR. EVANS: I noticed as I approached that the medical examiner is immediately behind me. And Carl, I want to thank you for not bringing your tool kit. Made me a little nervous, if you know what I mean.

Probably no greater honor than I have had in this room than to be asked to do the following, and that is to read the commission, which I will try to do without my glasses.

This is the commission from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am not quite ready to call her judge yet. That will come in time.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office.

Greetings, Whereas, it appears by the certificate and returns made according to the law of the election held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November *anno Domini* 2007, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, know that in conformity to the provisions of the constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such cases made and provided, I do by these presence, commission you to be Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have and to hold the said office together with all rights, powers, and emoluments thereunder belonging or by law in any ways appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January 2008.

If you shall so long behave yourself. It says that.

And it is signed and presented by the Governor of our honorable Commonwealth, the Honorable Edward G. Rendell.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

Judge-Elect Donohue, as you take your oath of office today, I want to once again welcome you to a court which is steeped in tradition and widely respected. Because I have known you for quite some time, I know that your service on this court will only enhance that reputation.

We are also a court where friendship and collegiality run deep, and therefore, as you take the bench today, you will become a part of this Superior Court Family and this friendship and collegiality will hold you in good stead as you carry out your judicial duties, which involve making very important decisions about other people's lives and doing it one life at a time.

It is a great privilege to serve as a judge, but it is also an awesome responsibility, one which all of your new colleagues are very confident that you will handle with grace and with honor.

Now, would you please step up to take the oath of office.

Will someone be holding the Bible? Marilyn and Chuck.

Please place your left hand on the bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, Christine Donohue, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge my duties as a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania with fidelity.

*(All repeated by Judge Donohue.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Congratulations, Judge Donohue.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Now, could I ask the Judge's sister, Jacqueline Lewis, and brother, Steven Lewis, to please assist the Judge in her robing.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge, will you please assume your place on the bench.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: We're a large bench. It's all yours.

JUDGE DONOHUE: Thank you so much. This is so important that I'm going to put on my glasses so I can read my few remarks.

This is a day that conjures up three very distinct and complementary emotions in me. One is reflection, the second is gratitude, and the third is true excitement.

Everyone who is here listening and seeing the ceremony today knows how hard we all worked for this. But as I sit in this courtroom today, all that I can think of is the first time I was here. That was in December of 1980 when I was sworn in as an attorney in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And that day, like today, I was struck with awe. Because I thought, here I am, my dad was a coal miner, my mom was a seamstress in a dress factory and here I am joining the most noble profession in the entire world. And I thought, what a land of endless opportunities I live in and we all live in.

And so, as I sit here today, again, I think about my mom and dad, who I've talked a lot about on the campaign, but never had the opportunity to thank them for everything that they did to get me to where I am today.

My mom and dad passed away many years ago and as Judge McGinley mentioned, I talk about them often. They were really wonderful people.

Steve Lewis, my dad, was a coal miner. Everyone in the room knows he was a member of the United Mine Workers of America.

My mom, Mary Lewis, was a seamstress in a dress factory and everyone in this room knows she was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

All of those things mean very different things to different people. To me, it is my base, it is who I am, it is where I come from, and nothing pleases me more than to hear my friends and colleagues say that I've never forgotten where I come from. Because I don't. And I won't. And that is one of the ideals that is true and dear to my heart.

I think it is important for every judge to remember where he or she comes from.

During the course of 27 years in practice, I, likewise, had the privilege of appearing before this court on many occasions. And sometimes my clients were the poorest of the poor. They were injured victims and they were here for justice.

Other clients I represented over the course of my years of practice were the largest and most successful corporations in Pennsylvania. And you know, they always had one thing in common when they came to this court, and that one thing was they were entitled to and they would get equal justice.

And so, as I cross the bar and sit on the bench, I am humbled and honored with the responsibility that the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have given me.

Now, my next feeling today is gratitude. And this is probably the hardest and the easiest to express because all I could say to everybody who is listening is thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your help and support.

This is a wonderful Commonwealth and I have, through the entire course of my career, always believed in an elected judiciary. As I went across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for eleven months meeting wonderful, diverse people in all corners of this state, I was absolutely solidified in my view that this is exactly how judges should come to serve the people of the Commonwealth.

I learned so much that, win or lose that campaign, I was a more enriched and broader person. And for that, I will always be grateful.

The thing that really stunned me as I was going through this process, because it's been said a number of times today, I essentially had no political credentials.

When Chuck and Marilyn Evans and I went to the first democratic state committee meeting, we didn't know how it worked. We didn't know that in order to ask for the nomination of the state committee, somebody had to nominate you. And it was a very lucky thing for us that the Supreme Court nominations came before the Superior Court nominations, because it gave us all about, you know, 15 seconds to find somebody to nominate me.

I tell you that story because it is literally true. They and I knew nothing about this process.



The one thing I learned and the one thing I will share that I think is just a tribute to everyone in this room and the political parties, both democratic and republican, there are so many fine people out there who help you as a candidate, because they really believe in good government. They don't want anything other than, in this context, good judges serving on the bench.

These are people who I never met before this past year, who worked so hard for me to help me in my campaign. And that is a wonderful thing. Because if anybody thinks that there is something about electing judges that is unsavory, they probably never have gone through the process. Because with all of the good people I met and all of the wonderful help that I have gotten, I cannot say enough in support of the system.

You know, I'm afraid to do this, because expressing individual thanks to people in a room that is full of people that just deserve my gratitude and thanks is a dangerous thing. But there are certain people in this room that I have to mention, because they exemplify everything that I just said about campaigning in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

All of you know this, I grew up in the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania, and so, as a candidate, I ran as being from Carbon County and being from Allegheny County, and both of those things are true.

When I went to Carbon County the first time, my mom and dad passed away many years ago, back in the mid 1980's, so I really didn't have occasion to keep in touch in any way, shape or form with the political figures in Carbon County. When the people in Carbon County learned that I was running for a seat on the Superior Court, they contacted me, and I am looking in the middle of the room today and I see Emmett McCall.

Emmett McCall knew my mom and dad and has fond memories of them, also. But Emmett adopted me. Emmett worked as hard for me as he has ever worked for anyone else, and I couldn't let today go by without thanking Emmett.

His son, Mike McCall, used his garage as distribution central for 2500 yard signs to be distributed in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. And you know, I'm telling you this, they are fine people, they are now my friends. They were my advisors. But up until last January, I didn't know the McCalls at all.

Eddie O'Brien, who was mentioned earlier, who is a labor leader who is legend in the state, is someone who I never had the opportunity to know before this past year.

By the way, I believe that he currently resides in Schuylkill County or maybe Carbon, I am not sure which of the two, but once again, somebody who reached out to me and introduced me to people I otherwise would have never known, and to them I am grateful.

Also, I claim many areas of this state as my home. For a number of years, I lived in Northumberland County, in a suburb of Shamokin. And believe me, there is a suburb of Shamokin. And so, Elli Kuhns found out about my background and my history, Elli Kuhns worked herself into a frenzy to assist me in becoming a Judge on this Superior Court. And she drove here from Shamokin to be here today on this occasion.

I mean, I tell you this, because these are stories and these are people who are not to be forgotten in terms of their contribution to what they do for there to be good government in Pennsylvania.

Labor, and I say labor in the broadest sense of the word, I had labor support, and I had labor's effort all over the State of Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia to Scranton to Erie to Pittsburgh.

Many of the labor representatives have been introduced today, but all support starts at home and I cannot leave this bench today without thanking especially labor in my home county, and that is the Allegheny County Labor Council, Jack Shea, Johnny Vento, Jim Klingensmith.

They counseled me, they became my friends, they became my advisors, and to them, I am grateful, because the working people in Pennsylvania supported my campaign because of labors' efforts, and I thank you for that.

One other group I have to thank from the deepest, deepest parts of my heart and that is the legal community. And I have to start with the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney.

I was actually new to Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney when I decided to run for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. One of the most gracious, brightest men I have ever known, Tom VanKirk, who is the chair of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, gave me his wholehearted support in

my effort to become a judge. It was not lip service, it was wholehearted support, and for that, I will always be grateful, because without that support of my law firm and the lawyers in it, this would have been an impossible task.

Jack Barbour is here today, and Jack is the former chairman of my previous firm, Klett Rooney. Jack, too, has been a friend and confidant for many years, and I thank him for his support.

Lawyers all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gave me their support and their recommendations to others, because all of you in this room know that when people need a recommendation on who they should vote for in a judicial race, they ask a lawyer.

So for all of that, I am thankful. The Academy of Trial Lawyers, The American College of Trial Lawyers, all of the members of those groups were instrumental in helping me to get here today.

I need to give a special thanks to what is now called the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, formerly, will always be to me, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers and Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers.

As a lawyer in the first decade of my practice, I was a trial lawyer in the sense of the word that I represented victims in personal injury actions, and the support of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and all of those brothers and sisters meant the world to me.

Tim Riley is here, he is the president, and I give my thanks to the ranks. Thank you so much.

Before I leave here today, I want to introduce you to the people who are going to be my staff in my chambers on the Superior Court. I want to introduce them to you for a number of reasons; A, they are important to me and they will be very important to the workings of my office. Secondly, they are employees of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and you have the right to know who is going to be working for me in my chambers.

The first who I would like – and if you can stand, Toni Thompson, who is going to be my chief secretary. The bible that we used today is Toni Thompson's bible.

Toni Thompson has been with me for about nine years now. She prayed me through this campaign. She and members of her church and her relatives were so supportive and I am very grateful and lucky to have Toni coming with me to the Superior Court.

Greg Rhodes, who was mentioned earlier, who is going to be my chief clerk. The citizens of the Commonwealth are very lucky. Greg Rhodes has been practicing law for 17 years. He has been my colleague for 17 years. One of the finest lawyers I know. He also has a Ph.D. in philosophy, if I am not mistaken. That is a very good thing for all of us.

Mike James, I know is standing in the back of the courtroom, he is going to be one of my deputy clerks.

Christina Sloss, are you here? There she is, she is in the assignment room, that's good. And Jennifer Lee is – Jennifer is also in the assignment room, will also be joining me, and Valerie Murphy, who, prior to working for me, was with Justin Johnson of this court. She will be joining me as my second secretary.

So, we are all lucky to have them and we all look forward to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth.

As I look around the room, there are two things I will never live down if I don't do this.

First of all, Teddy Schwartz, who is with the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and traveled here from Philadelphia to be here today, thank you, Teddy. Please take the word back to my friends in Philadelphia.

This is absurd, but I almost forgot to introduce my family to you. They are undoubtedly the most important thing in my life. And if they could stand up.

It is my brother Steve, my sister Jacqueline, who assisted me in the robing. Their spouses, who are like my siblings, Ann Lewis and Phil Hublitz.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE DONOHUE: And I don't have a really big family, so I will take a second and introduce all of them.

My cousin Mary Lou and her husband, Art Schock, are here today.

Between Mary Lou and Art, Jackie and Phil, Stevie and Ann, they were my bed and breakfasts all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the campaign.

My nephew, Steve Lewis, is here, and my niece, Olivia, his daughter, is here. His wife, Missy, is at home taking care of their two younger children, Alexis and Coleman. They can't be here.

My niece, Rachel, and her husband, Don Burkett, are here with their children, Jonathan Hill and Alexis Hill.

Isn't that a fine group of my family.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE DONOHUE: They have to all sit down so that I can introduce to you my family who is sitting behind them, and that is my niece, Jennifer, and her husband, Steve.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE DONOHUE: So, it was sort of my goal to get us out of here in time for the reception that we are going to be having shortly after this.

One last time, I thank you all for being here, I thank you for your help and support, and I promise you that I will do the very best that I can to serve as a Judge on the Superior Court.

Thank you so much.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: The court will now call upon Joseph Moeller, Department of Music student for Indiana University of Pennsylvania, to close out our session with God Bless America.

*(Singing of God Bless America.)*

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Mr. Carey, will you close the ceremonial session of the Superior Court.

MR. CAREY: This special session of the Superior Court is now adjourned.

(At 4:40 p.m., court was adjourned.)

**THE HONORABLE  
JACQUELINE O. SHOGAN**



**INSTALLATION CEREMONY**  
Of The  
Honorable Jacqueline O. Shogan  
Judge Of The  
Superior Court Of Pennsylvania

January 17, 2008  
10:00 A.M.

Supreme Court Courtroom  
8th Floor, City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**THE COURT CRIER:** The Honorable Judges and Justices of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania. Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order, President Judge Kate Ford Elliott Presiding.

Let all manner of persons rise and attend. Let the family, friends, and associates of the Honorable Jacqueline O. Shogan be joyful as the Superior Court convenes for the Administration of the Oath of Judge for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania to the Honorable Jacqueline O. Shogan.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I have been instructed to remind you to please turn off your cell phones and any electronic device capable of sending or receiving a signal. I'm asking you to please take your seats and if there are not enough seats, there are seats on the lower floor to take the overflow.

Please, let's be seated.

Thank you, Mr. Carey. I'm President Judge Kate Ford Elliott. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you today for this celebration.

It is a celebration for our Court as well as for all of you in this room. Before we begin today, I want to call upon the Reverend David F. Keller of the South Avenue United Methodist Church to offer our invocation. Reverend.

REVEREND DAVID F. KELLER: Judge Shogan, we rejoice in the electorate's wisdom of selecting you to be a Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge. We are happy for you, and we are happy for ourselves, because we are confident that your service will greatly benefit our community engendering a confidence in the law and its just administration.

Let us pray: Holy God, creator and lover of justice, we ask for your blessing on Judge Jackie Shogan. Bless her in this awesome calling to the Superior Court, to justly administer the laws of our Commonwealth. Bless her with a persevering wisdom to apply the law with compassion, honesty, and integrity. Bless her with a discerning spirit that comprehends in each unique case the complexities of the issues and the many dimensions of truth. Bless her with strength of spirit, warmth of heart, and clarity of mind to stand for what is right and just and good.

Holy God, as you bless Judge Shogan, we thank you for the blessing to each of us that we may enjoy the peace and harmony of our lawful

society and that each of us may follow our own calling to a joyful duty to law and compassion. Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Reverend. We gather here today in ceremonial session to welcome to our bench, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the 95<sup>th</sup> Judge of the Superior Court.

Judge-Elect Shogan, when you take the bench today, you will join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is well established. Your Colleagues warmly welcome you and we know we will benefit from your legal scholarship, your professional integrity, and your friendship. And with all eight thousand annual appeal filings in 2007, we also welcome your help, sincerely.

Before we begin today or as we begin today, I would like to introduce very briefly the members of the Superior Court who are with us today. Not all of us could be here due to different scheduling problems, but I know they have been in touch with the Judge-Elect and have given her their warmest wishes.

Sitting today, I'm Kate Ford Elliott. I have Judge Maureen Lally-Green. Judge Richard Klein was unable to be here. Judge John Bender, Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Susan Gantman, Judge Jack Panella, Judge Christine Donohue, one of the newer members of the Court along with Judge Shogan. Judge Patrick Tamilia, Judge Cheryl Allen, who is also one of the newer members of the Court, and Judge Robert Colville, and former Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Justice James Fitzgerald. And Judge Joseph Hudock.

JUDGE HUDOCK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: I'm going to pay dearly for that. And I have been told that Judge Justin Johnson is here, who just retired from the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Thank you very much.

And I would also like to recognize the members of the Supreme Court who are here with us today. Justice Max Baer was unable to be here, but I see Justice Debra Todd in the audience.



I would ask that everyone stand whenever I call your name, so all of us in the room can see you and you can be rightly recognized. We are also very, very pleased to welcome back to this courtroom the Chief Justice Emeritus of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, John P. Flaherty.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Also in attendance I'm told from our sister appellate court is the Commonwealth Court Judge James R. Kelly. I don't know if you are here.

I would now like to call upon the President of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Kenneth G. Gormley, to offer remarks on behalf of our Judge-Elect.

PRESIDENT KENNETH GORMLEY: Thank you President Judge Ford Elliott, honorable judges, distinguished guests. My name is Ken Gormley and I have the privilege of serving as President of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Today is truly a joyous occasion for the 137-year old association, because today, we witness the elevation of one of our own Luminaries to the appellate bench of this Commonwealth.

You will hear plenty more about Jackie Shogan's impressive career over the next few minutes. But I'd like to lay the foundation by noting that she is truly a lawyer's lawyer, who has earned the universal respect of her colleagues at the bar, in part because she is absolutely committed to the notion of justice for all.

If anyone's background has prepared her for a career that requires a combination of raw intelligence, experience in many areas of legal practice, and the ability to empathize with plaintiffs and defendants of all stripes, it is Jackie Shogan. She's a nurse who has served on the faculty of major teaching hospitals. She's a magna cum lauda graduate of Duke Law School and an inductee in the Order of the Coif, the most prestigious legal honor society in the nation. She's a practicing attorney in both the civil and criminal courts; a former law clerk to Judge Cohill on the federal district court; an arbitrator, a mediator, and an adjunct professor at Pitt Law School specializing in appellate practice.

Talk about a complete package.

All the while, Jackie Shogan has been an invaluable asset to the Allegheny County Bar Association, toiling away on committees, helping us to build bridges with the Pennsylvania legislature, and giving of herself selflessly as a Fellow of our charitable Bar Foundation.

It's hard to imagine how one could have fashioned a more ideal jurist, if one had set out to build the perfect appellate judge from scratch.

I apologize in advance that I may have to sneak out of this ceremony earlier than I wish. I have to teach 90 Constitution Law students this morning – so Jackie was kind enough to put me early in the line-up and give me a seat on the side aisle perfect for sneaking out. She understands first-hand the importance of a professor's duty to his or her students.

But I do find it apt that my class today deals with the equal protection clause and gender discrimination. One of the cases we will discuss today is *Bradwell v. Illinois*, the 1873 decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that a state could ban all women from practicing law without violating the equal protection clause. Justice Samuel Freeman Miller wrote in that case: “The natural and proper timidity and delicacy which belongs to the female sex, evidently unfits it for many of the occupations of civil life. The paramount destiny and mission of women are to fulfill the noble and benign offices of wife and mother. This is the law of the Creator.”

It's almost chilling, when one stops to think about it, that that was the law of the land in this country, under our United States Constitution. Yet today, Jackie Shogan joins a Superior Court that has only gained luster and preeminence, with the addition of top-notch female jurists and most recently a female President Judge. I guess Justice Samuel Freeman Miller wasn't all wrong – as you'll hear from other speakers, Jackie has done a remarkable job at fulfilling the “noble offices of wife and mother.” But she's also managed in the process to prove herself as one of the finest legal intellects in this Commonwealth. In fact, I think it's safe to say she's beat out Justice Miller himself, since that opinion was a dud. And today we celebrate that singular accomplishment, as she joins one of the great appellate courts in this nation.

It is with enormous pride, on behalf of 6,600 members of the Allegheny County Bar Association, that I say: Congratulations, Judge Shogan. And Godspeed.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you President Gormley. I have just seen Justice Max Baer come into the courtroom. You have been introduced. But will you please come up here and join us. This is the long walk to the front. See everybody sees you now. Before I go on, I would like to recognize some members of the Federal Judiciary who honor us with their presence today. I see sitting here in the front row, and I would ask also that they stand, from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, I recognize Judge Tom Hardiman. Judge Donetta Ambrose is here. She is the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District, and good friend to a lot of us in this room.

Judge Maurice B. Cohill will be making some remarks later and swearing in the Judge. Judge Joy Flowers Conti is here. Judge Nora Barry Fisher is on my list, but I don't see her in the courtroom. Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan, and Judge Jeffrey A. Dellar. Welcome to all of you.

Also from the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, we are honored to recognize distinguished members of our trial bench. We have Judge Tom Flaherty, Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco, the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division, Judge Eugene Strassburger, Judge Christine Ward, Judge Jill Rangos, Judge Michael McCarthy, Judge Kathleen Bubash, Judge Kim Eaton, and the Administrative Judge for the Family Division, Judge Kim Berkeley Clark.

Along with Judge Kelly from the Commonwealth Court, whom I mentioned earlier, I want to recognize Judge John Driscoll from the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas who we are very pleased to have here today.

Now I would like to call upon the President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Andrew F. Susko, for remarks.

PRESIDENT SUSKO: I didn't mean to jump the gun there. President Judge Kate Ford Elliott, esteemed judges of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, Judge-Elect Jackie Shogan, distinguished jurists and attorneys, family, friends and guests of Judge Shogan. May it please

this Honorable Court, it is indeed a privilege and special pleasure to extend my congratulations on behalf of the 29,000 members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association to the newly elected judge of the Superior Court, Jackie Shogan. Her Honor, Judge Shogan, joins this prestigious court along with the two newly elected judges whom the Pennsylvania Bar also welcomes to the Court, Judge Christine Donohue and Judge Cheryl Allen.

At least some of the members of this Court know Judge Jackie Shogan has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. This court has a long and storied history and was constituted in 1895, the same year that the Pennsylvania Bar Association was established by charter. In fact, this court's creation was intertwined with the establishment of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, which was created when lawyers from across the state met in Bedford Springs in July of the same year, 1895.

At that time, sweeping legislation was being considered by the general assembly in Harrisburg, related to our judicial system and the legislature. Because that legislation was being proposed without meaningful input from the practicing lawyers in the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Bar Association was created, with espousing the noble purposes of the legal communities in commitment to an effective and fair justice system and the preservation of our noble legal profession.

As has been said, our Superior Court in Pennsylvania is a court that has been nationally recognized as a court of excellence and is frequently the last word on Pennsylvania law for persons within the Commonwealth.

Judge-Elect Shogan should know that she'll be joining one of the busiest appellate courts in the country. Members of this court, I'm so proud and pleased to celebrate with you the addition of Judge Jackie Shogan as a judge on this court. She happens to share in common with my wife a BSN Degree of Nursing. She obtained her Master's Degree and practiced 12 years as a clinical nurse at several major teaching hospitals. Her caring and compassion for the well-being of people in need of critical care demonstrated by her nursing career is evidence to all of those who had the good fortune of knowing her.

It is particularly appropriate that the Pennsylvania Bar Association was given an opportunity today to speak about Judge Shogan, because as I previously noted, she has been a very active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, demonstrating Her Honor's own personal commitment to the betterment of our legal profession and the justice system.

Judge-Elect Shogan has been a member of our PBA Appellate Advocacy Committee; the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; the Judicial Administration Committee and the Civil Litigation Section, where she serves as a council member.

From my vantage point, however, her most important contribution to our association comes from her active involvement in our Women in the Profession Commission.

Judge Shogan has mentored counselors here, women lawyers in the community, and understands the need to lead by example. And what an outstanding role model she has been. She takes the time and effort to give back to women lawyers across the state so that their paths to professional success can be filled with opportunity.

Judge Shogan, as you are about to assume your judicial duties, I bring you the best wishes and support of the Women in the Profession Commission chaired by your friends, Dana Baiocco and Phyllis Epstein.

I leave Your Honor's taking a moment to highlight particular ideals regarding our justice system and profession, that both the organized bar and legal community, and this Court share and hold dear. Judges must be free and independent to follow and preserve the rule of law though not independent from it.

Individual judges must make their decisions free from political interference or intimidation and free from public pressure and coercion, and free from financial consequence or penalty.

Chief Justice Ron Castille at his recent swearing in as the highest judicial officer in the Commonwealth, very eloquently stated that the ideal judge once elected to the bench must be nonpartisan. Judges are public servants to do justice in an individual case based on the merits of the matter before them, not based on the express or implied will or desire of the political parties that they come from. We know here, and

Jackie Shogan well understands, appreciates and will hold true these ideals, and that she will always protect her own professional judicial decision making independence and support and defend the constitutional independence of this Honorable Superior Court.

Judge Shogan, it is in that spirit, the spirit of choosing the right course under the rule of law, no matter what the cost in terms of public upset or political pressure that we think will be your guiding light as you assume these most important judicial duties.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, congratulations to you and Jeff and Godspeed.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, President Susko. There are several additional distinguished representatives from the legal community here today that this Court wishes to acknowledge. We have deans from our law schools here in Pittsburgh. Dean Mary Crossley of the University of Pittsburgh. We have Dean Donald Guter from Duquesne University. We have the former Pennsylvania Bar Association President Ken Horoho. We have the PBA Executive Director who is with us, Barry Simpson. We have the Allegheny County Bar Association Executive Director, Dave Blaner. And I also wanted to recognize from Neighborhood Legal Services, the Executive Director, Bob Racunas, and also the President, Bob Morgan. And I hope you are here in the audience, and you are. Thank you very much for being here.

I would like to next call upon Maureen Kelly of the law firm of Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir. I like your taste in friends.

MS. MAUREEN P. KELLY, ESQ.: President Judge Ford Elliott, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Superior Court, Commonwealth Court, and the Common Pleas Courts, as well as the Federal Judges who are present, and Attorney General Corbett. It is truly my privilege to stand before you to share a few remarks about my friend of almost 20 years, Jackie Shogan, who we gathered today to honor. But before I do, on behalf of your friends and family and co-workers, I just want you to know how incredibly proud all of us are of you, of the

perseverance that you demonstrated in running for office, and we are all just so thrilled to be here today to support you as you are sworn in.

*(Applause.)*

In reflecting on Jackie's unique journey to this Court, it reminded me of a similar nontraditional journey taken by that of another woman judge, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Justice O'Connor once said: We don't accomplish anything in this world alone and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all of the weavings of the individual threads that come together to form something and someone very special.

In the case of Jackie Shogan, those threads that form the tapestry of the dynamic particular woman who today joins this court are those of a nurse, nursing professor, a respected litigator, a health care lawyer, a federal judicial clerk, a mediator and arbitrator, a mom, a wife, and loving daughter and daughter-in-law, a sister, an advocate for women and a person dedicated to community service.

I would like to comment briefly on just two of the pieces of the fabric that have formed what would be Judge Jackie Shogan, her career as a lawyer, and her commitment to service. Since the beginning of law school, Jackie has demonstrated a commitment to scholarship and professional excellence. She entered Duke University School of Law, after a distinguished nursing career, and as a wife and mom of Alyson who was three at the time. Not only did she graduate from Duke, she received high honors and numerous awards and accolades, including North Carolina Trial Lawyers Award for The Most Effective Advocate, which I'm sure Jeff, Alyson and Jack would agree with unanimously in their dealing with their mom.

What many of you may have not been aware of was Jackie, while at the end of her career at Duke, received the Mike Krzyzewski award as being the only student who graduated from Duke and never attended a Duke basketball game, despite the fact they were in the Final Four all those years and despite the fact she was a basketball player in her youth.

On a more serious note, after she moved back to Pittsburgh and joined the fine firm of Thorp Reed and Armstrong, as one of her

colleagues, I can tell you she quickly earned respect as a litigator. Jeffrey and Jack also joined Team Shogan in 1991 and '93.

Subsequently Jackie spent four years with our dear friend Judge Maurice Cohill in Federal Court. There Jackie learned the importance of fairness and authority and judicial temperament. All qualities which she brings with her to this Court.

In recent years Jackie has earned a reputation as a legal scholar, effective arbitrator and mediator, and is known for her always calm and thoughtful presence in dealing with issues.

The other portion of the cloth of Jackie that I want to acknowledge is her commitment to community service. Jackie has always been involved with many nonprofit and community organizations.

Her dedication to Neighborhood Legal Services is something that I feel compelled to note. Jackie has served as a pro bono volunteer, board member, and active officer. She has been a tireless advocate of the delivery and importance of providing legal services to the poor in this Commonwealth. She has had a significant impact on securing the funding to provide desperately needed services to the clients of Neighborhood Legal Services, and through her heartfelt ways, and Bob Racunas and I have discussed this on a number of occasions, she endeared herself to the clients, client board members and staff of NLSA who all think the world of Jackie.

In fact the day after her election, I think Bob Racunas received as many phone calls as Jackie did, but those phone calls were from clients and client board members and supporters of NLSA, wanting to make sure that Jackie could remain involved with Neighborhood Legal Services, because she makes such a positive impact in her role.

In conclusion, Justice O'Connor once commented that a judge brings to his or her court a lifetime of experience and values. Jackie brings with her a multitude of professional and life experiences, and values that I believe will form the tapestry of a truly exceptional judge that will join this court today.

Jackie, on behalf of those present, your friends in the legal community, congratulations and God bless you.

*(Applause.)*



PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, counselor. I want to briefly introduce some elected officials and distinguished guests who are here today to honor the Judge Elect. We have former Congressman, Pat Toomey. Former Congresswoman, Melissa Hart. Former County Executive, Jim Roddey. Former Monroeville Mayor, Mike Lynch. Former Monroeville Tax Collector, Geneva McKee. Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Penn Township, Chuck Horvat. Beverly King for the Pennsylvania Republican Party and Deputy Chairwoman Renee Amooore. Pennsylvania Republican Party Northwest Caucus Chairman Ash Khare. Pennsylvania Republican Party Assistant Treasurer Mike Klepec.

Along with those important public officials we have another very important public official who is present today to participate and to honor the Judge Elect. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Tom Corbett. Will you please make remarks for us?

*(Applause.)*

ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM CORBETT: Thank you, President Judge Kate Ford Elliott and to the Members of the Judiciary, both federal and state, to all of the elected officials here.

But most importantly to Jackie, you and your family, congratulations on such a wonderful day. It is finally here. You have been working for this for a very long time. And most of you probably voted for her, I'm going to hope, maybe wrote a check or two, because these offices are political. And I thought I would speak a little bit, but because Mo and everybody in front of me took all my speech, so I rewrote it as I was sitting there. If you look around this courtroom, I was thinking about, you look at the ceiling, and you look at the paintings. I was thinking about the changes of scenery you have seen as you go through changes in your career. You don't change just jobs, you change careers.

As the audience heard, you have been a nurse. I thought, wow, she must have been in the operating room. It looks a little different than here. Probably a little faster pace than sitting on the bench listening to the advocates in front of you. Then you went into becoming a lawyer.

And we in the courtrooms, lawyers, we tend to spend most of our time in our offices, talking and doing research.

How do you explain what a trial judge does? They see a trial judge. And many of the members here are friends of mine. Before they left, I told them before they went onto the trial bench, well, you are no longer throwing the ball or swinging the bat or catching the ball, you are calling balls and strikes. You are the umpire. Put in football terms, you are the referee on the field and the referee on the bench. But I always had a hard time explaining what the Appellate Court judges do. That wasn't until they came up with instant replay in football. You are in the replay booth. But it is a good idea to have a replay booth, because the job in the Appellate Courts, particularly the job in this court, is to make sure that we, as attorneys and advocates and the judiciary, the judge as a trial judge, get it right, because the whole mission that we have is to seek justice. And as anybody who knows you, that has been your fight to seek justice.

And your work with Neighborhood Legal Services and your work on behalf of clients, your work on behalf of patients, is to seek justice that everybody is taken care of. And I think that's very important that people understand in the future, when they appear before you, that you are dedicated to that.

Maureen said that she wanted to talk about your dedication to service, and immediately I wrote I can eliminate that from my speech, because I thought that's what I was going to talk about, but I'm talking about your dedication and your perseverance, and I think that's going to be important.

As we all know, as the judges here, appellate and trial court, the judges know, this is a political position. Even though it is judicial, it is a political position. I stand here before you as a member of the other branch, one of the other two branches of government, the executive branch. And it is great to try and teach our children, but it is a political position, and you had to go around and work for this. This is somebody who wasn't successful her first time out. I remember I saw her in '05 out on the campaign trail. I saw her in '06, on the campaign trail. And in '07 on the campaign trail. In fact, she wasn't successful initially, but

circumstances and facts changed and she was given the chance to appear on the general election ballot for the entire state. And I think that the voters chose wisely and I think it is very important that they chose wisely in this election. She persevered.

Now, I know many of my friends here are Democrats. You all don't have to go to as many counties as we as Republicans do. And you may not have ever been to Sullivan County or Tioga County. But I want to tell you that Judge Shogan was there. I know she was there. And she was working hard to obtain this job, because I was there either giving a speech or campaigning myself at some point in time. And I think it is important that you and your future colleagues understand that this is somebody that works very hard.

Judge, what did you say the case load was eight thousand?

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Eight thousand new last year.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM CORBETT: We have a couple up there. Not that we are asking for any special favors. But I can tell you that I believe you have a workhorse joining you on the bench. A very bright, very intelligent workhorse joining you on the bench, because I've watched her work to obtain this position. And nobody works hard to obtain a position and says, now I can take it easy. I know that she will carry that on, because her main mission in life, I think, and her main mission from now on, is to continue to seek justice, to make sure that we do get it right. And I would like to close with this.

This is a final observation, Jackie. I don't think we are going to have to see you out on the trail for ten years. All of a sudden, it is like the cicadas appearing ten years later and a judge for retention. No offense to my friends. She went to all of these areas. You don't have to go to Clarion, you don't have to go to Sullivan, unless you want to, for the next ten years, or unless you decided to do something else. And if you would, we would be there for you.

I want to congratulate you and your family and wish you Godspeed and good service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you. Also, before I continue with our next speaker, I would like to take a moment to introduce some people who are here who form the executive arm of our Superior Court operation. We have our Executive Administrator, David Szewczak is here. We have our Prothonotary, Karen Reid Bramblett. Our Chief Staff Attorney, Ernie Gennaccaro. We have our Reporter of Decisions, Robert Levine, and we have our Deputy Prothonotary, Eleanor Valecko, and I see Charles O'Connor who is here, and it is nice to see you Charles, from Philadelphia. I can't see anyone else. I can't focus here. I apologize if I missed anyone.

I do recognize Judge David Cashman, who has come in. If you are in the audience, I thought I saw you there, and I wanted to recognize you as well. You will come to know Jim McCullough, who is here. He is our Deputy Prothonotary in the Middle District which is our Harrisburg district. And I apologize, but these are my close-up reading glasses. I also wanted to let you know that there are people who you will come to know Judge-Elect. These are people that you will need and therefore they are people that you will come to love. They are there for you in whatever many ways possible.

I would also like to call next upon one of our colleagues on the bench. One of the Judge-Elect's new colleagues and also her mentor judge on the Superior Court, Judge Maureen Lally-Green.

HONORABLE MAUREEN LALLY-GREEN: Thank you, President Judge Kate Ford Elliott.

May it please this Court, and welcome to Jeff, Jackie's children, Alyson, Jeff and Jack, family, friends, and each one of your, all distinguished guests, of course my colleagues here in front of me.

Congratulations, Judge Shogan. How wonderful that sounds. I'm honored to be here today, as you take the next step on your very impressive professional journey.

We have talked about journeys before here today. And now I'm with you on this journey. Well, I was with you this past year on your journey, too. I'll talk about that in a minute.

All who have come here today can attest to your commitment to the rule of law, your dedication to the truth, your amazing fortitude and courage and your devotion to justice.

Today, Jackie, we celebrate the fact that you have joined our family.

Now, I must in fairness disclose that Jackie and I have been professional friends for many, many years.

We have worked together as women in the law and we have shared many times together socially. But no time was so stressful and intense yet exciting and oh, yes, fun, as the time we spent this past year on the campaign trail together.

On the roads of Pennsylvania we endured snow storms, icy highways, thunder storms, high winds, linked together by our cell phones, making sure that the other one was okay on those bleak, dark roads of Pennsylvania.

Our meals went from the sublime to the ridiculous, from superb dinners with committees to midnight sweet rolls from vending machines.

When we had an extra hour or two in the great northwest, all Republicans understand this, the great northwest, before our next event, we did what normal women do. We went to the Grove City Outlets and shopped. This is all true.

Some of our supporters called us the YaYa Sisterhood.

Well, it didn't get that spacey. But you might glean from all of this that Jackie was an incredible, wonderful friend on the campaign trail.

So today it is my honor to welcome you personally to our family, the Superior Court.

Jackie, today, you are going to be sworn in in this room and I see my wonderful mentor, my dear friend Justice Flaherty, and when I was sworn in, Justice Flaherty swore me in in this room, and he reminded me of the three great lawgivers in the portraits above us, and so, I remember that, and I remind you that you are being sworn in under the three great lawgivers of Edward the Confessor, Justinian is in the middle and Moses. How wonderful. How splendid.

In your new role, you'll be called upon to be a judge for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You'll be inspired by many, first and foremost the man to the right of you, Jeff, your children, your

parents, your in-laws, your friends and your fellow jurists. Judge Cohill, probably the most impressive of them all, because he was your mentor in the judicial realm.

Permit me therefore to conclude with some words of inspiration derived from another Supreme Court Courtroom in Pennsylvania, The Supreme Court Courtroom in Harrisburg. And when you serve there, you will serve amidst murals painted by Violet Oakley. And they are splendid murals, but I focus not on the murals, but I focus on her words as read to me by Former Governor Tom Ridge at my swearing-in in 1998. They are inscribed on one of the murals. Her words describe the law through the ages, and our role as jurists. “The streams of the law flow through all the countries of this world, down through all of the ages – these streams of law are purified by wisdom and meet in the sear of light.”

That is the beauty of the law. That is why we Pennsylvanians are so privileged that you will be a part of the law of Pennsylvania, the stream of law.

So, Judge Shogan, with every case you hear, with every judgment you pass, you will contribute to the stream of Pennsylvania law and by the very nature of your work, you will play an important role not only in the evolving law of Pennsylvania, but also in the evolving concept of justice itself, helping the law become the sea of light.

So, on behalf of the 12 million fellow Pennsylvanians, I thank you for your willingness to serve as Judge of the Superior Court. It is my honor on behalf of my colleagues in this most Honorable Court, the best court in the nation, to welcome you, Your Honor.

Congratulations, and thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: As always, Judge Lally-Green, beautifully said.

Well, we have many introductions, from many important people. However, I think our Judge-Elect would agree, that the most important people in attendance today, are those sitting with her in the front row of this courtroom. It is my great privilege at this time to introduce the members of Judge-Elect Shogan’s family and I would ask that you stand

up and be recognized, because you are soon to become a part of the Superior Court family. We know how proud you are of the Judge today and we welcome all of you.

We have Doctor Jeffrey Shogan, the Judge's husband. You can applaud for these people.

*(Applause.)*

While Judge Lally-Green was speaking, everyone of us have come to the Superior Court the same way that Judge-Elect Shogan did, and it is so hard on the family. We have the Judge's three wonderful children, Alyson, Jeffrey and Jack.

*(Applause.)*

We have the Judge's mother, Arline Ouzts.

*(Applause.)*

Her father-in-law, Andy Shogan.

*(Applause.)*

Her brother and sister-in-law, Carlton Ouzts and his wife Anne.

*(Applause.)*

Her other brother and sister-in-law, Dwight Ouzts and his wife Linda.

*(Applause.)*

We have the Judge's brother-in-law, Andy Shogan.

*(Applause.)*

Her nephew and his wife, Andrew Shogan and his wife, Katie.

*(Applause.)*

I would next like to call upon Michele Prior, a good friend to Judge-Elect Shogan, and a very, very good friend to me, and I welcome you here today Michele. We both are raising two teenage children, and we have had to see our hairdresser a lot more often in the last few months. Michele.

MS. MICHELE PRIOR: Thank you President Judge Kate Ford Elliott. What an honor it is for me to be here today to speak about my dear and beloved friend Jackie – I said I wasn't going to cry – during this impressive installation ceremony. I have the wonderful opportunity to tell you about the remarkable qualities that I have seen in Jackie over the lifespan of a friendship that began 35 years ago in high school and

solidified during our years together in Nursing Education at Allegheny General Hospital and has continued ever since, providing support during the birth and raising of our children, the caring for and passing away of parents, and the development of our careers.

I would like to begin by saying that you are all well aware of Jackie's drive and ambition that she demonstrated throughout her career, and especially during her pursuit of becoming a Superior Court Judge, but what you may not know is that her drive and ambition may well have had its beginning back in high school on the Gateway Gator Girls Basketball Team, where she was one of the star players. She and her high school sweetheart, Jeff, also a basketball player, had some friendly competition on who could score the most points. Jeff was attracted to the spunk that Jackie showed on the court and was also impressed with some special left-handed lay-up shot that she perfected.

Now that you know about the passion that Jackie has for basketball, it speaks even more about her dedication to her law studies at Duke, since she never took the time out to attend even one of the famous Duke Blue Devil basketball games.

Jackie's history of service and dedication begins with her role as a daughter. Jackie is the devoted and loving daughter to her mother Arline and to her father-in-law Andy, both of whom live with Jackie and Jeff. They encouraged their parents to move into their home as Jackie and Jeff wanted to spend as much time with them as they could and wanted to be there for any needs that their parents may have.

Jackie lovingly cared for her deceased father, Jack, and her mother-in-law, Anne, during the course of their illnesses and they became her priority during those very difficult times. I am sure that they are smiling down at her from heaven today with pride and gratitude.

The good news is, a lot of the rest of the speech is funny, so no more emotionalness.

As a wife – And this is one of them. As a wife, Jackie has always supported Jeff during his medical education and professional career and Jeff has showed the same respect for Jackie. A more brilliant couple would be difficult to find.



Jeff was faced though with one major marital dilemma this past spring during Jackie's race for a victory in the primary election. It so happens that their slightly overweight Golden Retriever, Murphy, was scheduled for surgery for his bilateral torn ACL, the same day Jackie was scheduled for surgery for a ruptured disc. What is a man to do when his two best friends are having surgery the same day. Well, somehow Jeff managed to be with both of them during their hour of need and brought each of them home safely post-operatively. I think Jackie was back on the campaign trail the very next day. Talk about a tireless campaigner. Murphy on the other hand, has still not fully recovered.

Humor aside, one of my most heartwarming memories of Jackie and Jeff actually is from the night of the election this past November. We were in their den gathered around the computer checking for preliminary results. The support and the love that Jeff showed to Jackie while he helped to navigate the different websites was incredible. He was cheering for her county by county as the results came in. It was clear that a victory for Jackie was just as important to him.

As a mother, Jackie has always put her children's scholarship and sportsmanship on the top of her priority list. She has been an influential volunteer on many school committees. But when it comes to their sporting events, our dignified and serene Jackie becomes like every other very eager and vocal parent who wants to make sure that the refs are fair and not interfering with a potential win for her child's team.

Over the years I went to games to watch Alyson, Jeffrey and Jack excel at their sports hoping also to have the opportunity for some social chit chat with my friend Jackie, but that was not to be. She watches the games with the same intensity that I'm sure she practices law. That is ok, as there are always vacations to look forward to with Jackie and always plenty of time to catch up on news.

In her nursing career, Jackie was the type of nurse you would want to have taking care of you or one of your loved family members. One of the patients that most touched Jackie's heart was a young reservist whose parachute failed to open and as a result he was a quadriplegic. Jackie spent her first Christmas as an RN at his bedside in the Trauma Unit in the Medical College of Virginia Hospital, meeting not only his

critical care nursing needs, but his psycho-social needs as he tried to cope with this catastrophic and life changing event.

In my nursing experiences of working with Jackie, she showed the same integrity, compassion and commitment that we have heard so eloquently described of her in her role as an attorney.

Along with her devotion to her family, friends, patients and clients, Jackie has an incredible commitment to service and helping those less fortunate. In addition to her commitment to the Neighborhood Legal Services, she has also served on the boards of many other distinguished organizations both locally and nationally. Jackie is way too humble to want me to mention all of them, but I would like to highlight her dedication to the Easter Seals Society. Jackie served two terms on The Easter Seals Board and she and Jeff were co-chairs at the Cotillion Ball, the Easter Seals major fundraising event, with Easter Seals parents Jill and Roy Cheran. Their beautiful daughter Chandler Cheran has Rhett's Syndrome and consequently numerous disabilities and mental delays. Jackie's incredible fund raising efforts have improved the quality of life for Chandler and other children with special needs by helping to provide increased early intervention services.

Through this all, faith has been Jackie's focal point. She is an active member of the South Avenue United Methodist Church and a generous supporter of the Wilkesburg Community Ministry which develops programs to meet the social, economic, and spiritual needs of Wilkesburg families.

On the other lighter side, you may not know in addition to her nursing and legal careers, Jackie has always had another career in mind, one she can do on the side. She and I share this secondary career goal. Way back when we worked together in nursing education, we wanted in the worse way to be on television. We tried our hardest to be guests on the local TV show "Evening Magazine" with Liz Miles. I cannot remember what amazing act we were hoping to get selected for, but we were never chosen. However, we did not give up our dream and sometimes dreams do come true. As you know, Jackie has had numerous opportunities for TV exposure through all of her awesome campaign advertisements. This fall I was given my first opportunity for a television appearance as

I was asked to be a part of a commercial series for Channel 4 Action News. I am one of the “Real People” speaking on why I watch Channel 4 News. Got that, Marilyn? Ironically, my dear friend Jackie’s campaign ads bumped my “real People Watching the News” commercial, so Jackie and I had some good natured dissent about this.

However, I’m so happy to report that Jackie will never need her TV campaign ads again and I’m back on TV reporting how I feel watching Channel 4 News with my family and friends.

We have already heard about Jackie’s career as a lawyer, but there is one addition that I would like to mention. When Jackie was a law clerk for Judge Cohill, she had the utmost respect for him and his position as a judge. She always referred to him as “The Judge.” It wasn’t until recent years that I met Judge Cohill that I actually knew that he had a first name. I’m now faced with an etiquette dilemma, do I need to call my beloved friend Jackie, “The Judge”? So I sought advice from our mutual friend, President Judge Kate, who assured me as a non-lawyer, I only needed to call Jackie “Judge” in the courtroom. Quite frankly, after today, I hope not to be in a courtroom with Jackie so to me she will remain Jackie, my treasured and priceless friend in my heart.

Congratulation, Judge Jackie. We are all so proud of you. You are an extraordinary daughter, sister, wife, parent and friend, nurse/lawyer, and community leader, and you will be an extraordinary judge for the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

May God’s guidance and blessings be on you always, and thank you for asking me to be such a special part of this monumental day in your life.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Now you know why she is such a good friend. Actually what I told her, if she was going to call Jackie “Judge,” she had to call me “President Judge.”

And now we have come, ladies and gentlemen, to the part we are all here for today and what we have been waiting for, and to that end, I would please ask the Judge’s daughter, Alyson Shogan, to come forward and present to this Court the Commission from the Governor as a Superior Court Judge.

ALYSON SHOGAN: Thank you, President Judge Ford Elliott. May it please the Court, before reading the Commission I would like to say a few words.

First of all, on behalf of my family, thank you all for being here today to celebrate this happy occasion. I've always known that my mom possessed the qualities and qualifications that would make her an excellent judge. For as long as I can remember, my mom has sought to serve her community, first as a nurse, then as a lawyer, and now as a judge.

She has made countless sacrifices in order to help those around her, from donating her limited free time as a mother, such as Easter Seals, Neighborhood Legal Services, and school boards. My mother has always put others first. She is often the last one awake at our house as she sits at the kitchen table doing her paperwork. However, she rarely complains and views serving on these organizations as a privilege and honor.

In recent years, as I decided on a career path, my mom has pushed me to choose a profession that I truly enjoy and will allow me to give back to society. She has always encouraged my brothers and me, no matter how big our dreams are or how far off our goals may seem. However, it is her actions more than any words of wisdom, late night talks or cheers at sporting events, that have made my admiration of my mom continually grow. She has pursued her dream of becoming a judge through hard work and perseverance and, most importantly, she has maintained her integrity throughout this whole process. My mom has been a constant inspiration and role model to me, and I only hope I can become half of the mother and leader that she is today.

My brothers and I are very proud of our mom and know that she will serve the citizens of Pennsylvania with compassion, intelligence and diligence.

Mom, Jeff, Jack and I love you very much, so thank you for everything you have done for us.

And now it is my honor to read my mom's commission from the Governor.

"Greetings: Whereas, it appears by the certificate and returns made according to law, of the election held on the sixth day of November,

Anno Domini two thousand and seven, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, know ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presense, commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority of Commission.

To have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law and in any ways appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and eight, if you shall so long behave yourself well.”

Signed by Governor Edward G. Rendell.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you,  
Alyson

*(Applause.)*

What so often happens when you are working from multiple lists, I just looked over and realized I perhaps failed to recognize someone who is sitting up in this front row, whom we all know very well, who is a distinguished Jurist, who has set the bar high. And that is Judge Livingstone Johnson.

*(Applause.)*

Judge-Elect Shogan, as you take your oath of office today, I want to once again welcome you to a court which is steeped in tradition and widely respected, because I have come to know you quite well over the last several years. I know that your service on the Court will only enhance that reputation. We are a court where friendship and collegiality run deep and this will hold you in good stead as you carry out your judicial duties in making very important decisions about other peoples’ lives and doing it one life at a time.

It is a great privilege to be a judge, but as you can see, it is also an awesome responsibility. However, it is also one which your new colleagues feel very confident that you will handle with commitment, with courage, and with conscience.

I now would like to call upon Judge Maurice Cohill to administer the oath of office to our Judge-Elect and can we all please stand.

(whereupon, all rise.)

HONORABLE MAURICE B. COHILL, JR.: In a moment it will be my privilege to administer the oath of office to Jacqueline O. Shogan. Jackie served as my law clerk for four years. I have always thought that the appellation “law clerk” was a misnomer. Judges and their law clerks have a very unique and special relationship. It’s a two-way street, and I’ll be the first to admit that a judge is only as good as his or her law clerks.

The two qualifications I have always insisted on are that my clerks have a sense of humor, and secondly that they be smarter than I am. Many people will say that that’s not such a big order in my case.

Well, I’m happy to say that Jackie exceeds expectations on all counts. She always seemed one step ahead of me, anticipating and answering my question before I even asked it. It was always a pleasure to work with her, and I know that the members of this Court will appreciate her knowledge, her work ethic, and moreover, her sense of humor.

Now, Ms. Shogan, please come forward:

Would you place your right hand on the bible and repeat after me.

I, Jacqueline Shogan.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: I, Jacqueline Shogan.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: Do solemnly swear.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: Do solemnly swear.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: That I will support and defend.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: That I will support and defend.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: And that I shall perform the duties.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: And that I shall perform the duties.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: Of the Office of Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: Of the Office of Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: With fidelity.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: With fidelity.

HONORABLE MAURICE COHILL: So help me God.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: So help me God.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you the Honorable Jacqueline O. Shogan, Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: I would ask Arline Ouzts and Jeffrey Shogan to please robe the Judge.

(Whereupon, Judge Shogan is robed by her mother, Arline Ouzts and her husband, Jeffrey Shogan.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Shogan, will you please take your place on the bench.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: This always happens. We are a large family.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: Thank you all so much. President Judge Ford Elliott, Reverend Keller, esteemed members of the bench, distinguished elected officials, members of the bar, and dear friends. Thank you so much for coming to share this wonderful occasion with me and my family. I'm so honored to be taking this oath. Thank you to all who made such very kind remarks on my behalf, too. Someone said it is like attending your own wake. But rest assured I feel very much alive on this day.

I also have a few comments of my own, because my heart is filled with so much joy and gratitude at this time.

However, I did confer with some of my colleagues before preparing my remarks, and I've already discovered that there is one area where

there is a split on the Superior Court. Some of them said that this is my day and to take as long as I want with my ceremony and my comments. The other faction led by Judge Ford Elliott, who unfortunately has to rush off and catch a plane immediately after the ceremony, very gently recommended that I keep my eye on the clock.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: No, no, I moved on. I've changed my vote.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: In the interest of keeping peace on the Court, I will try to accommodate both factions. Besides, I may need their votes soon.

I still cannot believe it. It has been such a long and exhausting journey and a very unusual one. I don't think that either Senator Clinton or Senator McCain has one up on me as a come-back kid.

*(Applause.)*

Neither lost an entire primary only to comeback and win the general election. Furthermore, I cannot agree with Senator Lindsey Graham, who is one of the McCain advisors, who said that you need to go down in flames at least two or three times during an election or it's no fun. I think I can do without that kind of fun.

On a more serious note, I believe it was Carl Sandberg who said, "Nothing happens but first a dream." I have to confess that I had a dream a very long time ago when I was a young teenager in the 1960's and saw firsthand some of the great injustices of our time. It was a dream that I never thought would come true, because I did come to the law late in life as a second career and faced financial responsibilities, family responsibilities, the politics of the process, and the inevitable passage of time. You all made my dream come true, and I thank you very much. And by you all, I mean just about every one in this room, Republican or Democrat, close friends or casual acquaintances. Even those who did not or could not outwardly support or campaign for me because of politics, your positions or whatever, you often had a kind and encouraging word, or in the case of my women friends, a "You go girl." That meant so much to me, and really did keep me going. But there are so many people, so many, many very special people throughout this Commonwealth, many of whom are here today, who came from great



distances, Friends like Michelle Johnson from Montgomery County and I know Charlie Roberts and his daughter Nancy were supposed to come from Lehigh County and I hope that they were able to make it. Dick Stewart from the middle part of the state. Rose Gaetano and Jerry Morgan from the northeast. So many friends from there. My northwest caucus friends, Robin Sye and Marty Breen who really stuck with me. Ash Khare was a help. The Horvats, the Bakers, Marty Matthews, all my friends from the southwest. People who seemed to believe in me from the very beginning, who worked so hard, who encouraged me never to give up, when I doubted whether this really was part of God's plans for me. I thank you so very much. This is not just my victory, this is our victory. I wish I could thank all of those people individually. But as Judge Donohue said last week, it is dangerous to even try to do so, because inevitably you leave somebody out, and truth be told, I don't even know the names of a lot of the people who were out there working for me.

So, I just want to express my overall gratitude to all those good folks who came out and did what they could to help me. But there are some groups that I have to thank collectively and a few individuals who I do have to mention by name. So please just bear with me for a few moments.

Collectively, I do have to thank those approximately 350 state committee members who gave me their overwhelming vote of confidence, not just once, but twice. First through the endorsement process, and then through the nomination process. And they worked so hard to get me elected. I also thank the local committee people who put out the signs, did the literature drops, went door-to-door, made telephone calls, and then on Election Day, worked at the polls during some of the coldest weather of the year. These people are incredible. They do this without any expectation of anything in return. They just believe in our system of government, of the importance of citizen involvement, and of getting good people elected. I thank you all.

I thank the many elected officials, like Tom Corbett, who came out for me early, and worked so hard for me. Our Republican leaders, in particular, Pat Toomey, Bill Scranton, Melissa Hart, Jim Roddey,

Mayor Joyce Somers from Murrysville, former Monroeville Mayor Mike Lynch, former Tax Collector Geneva McKee from Monroeville. I have to smile when I think of a picture in the Tribune Review the day after the election of Joyce Somers handing out literature at the polls. Now, you have to know a little bit about Murrysville. Mayor Joyce Somers is so popular. She was up for re-election this year, but nobody dares run against her, because they know that they would never stand a chance. But there she was, once again, on one of the coldest days of the year, standing out there, I think from 7:00 a.m. in the morning, until 8:00 at night, handing out my literature. The title of this picture was "No fair weather friend." And that's how I feel about my friends. They have stuck with me through thick and thin. I need to thank the many networks who helped me, certainly the teachers, the law enforcement groups, groups that are truly concerned about the future of Pennsylvania and realize the importance of our courts. The importance of electing good judges. In particular, I want to thank Jack Krah and the Allegheny County Medical Society, and Dave Thompson and the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and Betsy Snook and the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

You heard from my dear friends, Judge Cohill and Judge Lally-Green, both incredible people and incredible role models and friends. They, along with many of the lawyers and the judges in this room, have taught me what being a good lawyer and being a good judge is all about. And Judge Lally-Green, it was such an incredible honor to be on the same ticket as you.

*(Applause.)*

Thank you also to my friends and colleagues at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, which is one of the finest law firms around. Especially Doug Gilbert who supported me all those years, and my friends and my husband's friends and colleagues at UPMC, especially Donna Scahill and Stan Marks who are with us today. You all, I hope, realize you are like family to me and Jeff. I really appreciate everything that you have done for us. I also have to express my gratitude to my campaign team. It consisted of, like most campaign teams, a lot of friends who gave so freely of themselves. People like Scott Holden, and I have to include his

wife Penny, who was my campaign manager. Barry Prior, along with his wife Michele, who we were fortunate enough to hear from, who put in countless hours. Roy Cheran, along with his wife Jill, who has been my friend and semi-political consultant for a number of years. I also have to give much credit for this win to Kent Gates, of Brabender Cox. Kent put together a plan and executed it just about flawlessly. I do, based upon my limited experience, consider him one of the best in the business. Kent, thank you very much. I also thank Mike O'Connell and Chris Nicholas who helped me early in the campaign. Then my numerous personal friends, too numerous to mention. Collectively, I say thank you. I promise you I'll never again ask you to go out in that type of weather to work the polls.

And finally there is my family. I am, as you all have seen, blessed to have such a loving and supportive family, and this includes my brothers, brother-in-law, their wives, my nephews, my nephew's wife, my father-in-law who I am fortunate to have living with me, and my mother-in-law who unfortunately has passed away, but who was so supportive of me and so loving. Thank you all very much.

But my very, very special blessings which I'm most proud of are my kids, my husband and my mother. And I don't know where I begin.

Jack, you are always last, so I'll start with you. He is my now six foot, 14-year old baby. Sometimes I think, like most parents, that being the youngest, he gets the short end of the stick. With each passing child we have less and less time. Our lives are more and more crazy, but Jack, I just want to let you know now that mommy and daddy love you so much, and we are so proud of you. You are so smart, and so talented, and you have been such a source of strength for me.

I have to tell you a story about – this happened about two years ago. Jack plays football, which shouldn't surprise anybody looking at his size. But he hurt his arm in a game, and he kind of just brushed it off and said he was fine, and we believed him. So he went on and did his push-ups, did his workouts, and played in the games, until finally we said we better get that x-rayed. And we got it x-rayed, and here for 3 weeks he had been playing with a broken arm. Talk about feeling like terrible parents. But Jack said he did not want to let his team down. I

gather so much strength from you. If Jack does not achieve his dream of becoming an NFL star quarterback, which may happen, believe me, he certainly will be the first Shogan governor or Shogan president. He really is a team leader.

My middle child, Jeffrey, is just as smart, just as talented, and a kid who everything seems to come easy to, because he does so well at everything, but he is also so kind and so funny, always bringing a smile to my face. I remember during my first campaign, I was out on the campaign trail during the primary. It was Mother's Day, and of course I didn't have the children with me. I was feeling kind of down because things weren't exactly going my way during that campaign. I opened my suitcase and there was this beautiful handmade card from all three of my children. But I turned it over and there written in Jeffrey's handwriting, was "Paid for by Shogan for Superior Court." So you always bring a smile to my face, Jeffrey.

And Alyson, what can I say about you? When you said, "May it please the Court" it was all I could do not to jump out of my chair and say, honey, you certainly please this member of the Court. I'm so proud of you. My only daughter, my oldest, my only child for seven years, and you know, my best friend. You are just amazing in everything that you do, as I think everybody here has seen today. Inspiration comes to us from different sources. My daughter has been one of my greatest sources of inspiration. When I first started thinking about doing this, I hesitated. I mean, after all, it is a statewide race. I had never been involved in politics, not even on the local level. So I talked to my family, including my daughter. She looked me straight in the eye and said, "Mommy, you always said I could be the first woman President of the United States and now you tell me you are afraid to run for a statewide office?" That's all I needed to hear. Honey, I love you so much. You are just great.

And I don't know where to begin with my husband. We certainly have come a long way since Sophomore English class at Gateway High School. You have always been there for me, loving me, supporting me, believing in me; as you say, knowing me better than I know myself sometimes. I'm so appreciative and love you so much. I certainly made the right choice back in tenth grade and would do this all over again.

We all heard about what a dog lover Jeff is. Well, he has a sign in our study at home and it says, “Lord, please let me be half the man that my dog thinks I am.” Honey, I think you have exceeded that goal. I think you know what a wonderful, wonderful friend he is, but he is just the most amazing husband, father, son, and son-in-law. Thank you, Jeff.

Then there is my mother. My mother and my father, who unfortunately passed away ten years ago, have to take responsibility for anything good there is about me. I won’t make you take responsibility for all those things that aren’t so good. But they did instill in me a very solid value system, a love of education, a respect for hard work, the importance of honesty and integrity in everything I do, and a commitment to public service, and to family. I am so appreciative. I am sure that daddy is looking down on us from one of those holes in heaven. Thank you so much, mom. I love you. We all love you.

*(Applause.)*

Some say that this was the year of the woman on the Superior Court. If you look at the results, I guess you have to say that being a woman was a factor. We were all scattered throughout the ballot, with me being in the last position, and thank goodness for all of us, we all won, but I do want to point out that it was only one factor. I am convinced that the most important factor is that we all are incredibly hard workers, which will serve us well on this Court.

I know in my case, some of my political friends have coined a new phrase called the “Shogan Method of Campaigning.” For one thing, it means putting almost 100,000 miles on your car in less than two years time. But it also means getting out there months before the endorsement, visiting all 67 counties, meeting with as many people as will give you an audience in trying to make your case. For better or worse, we do elect judges, and it is so important that we make the effort to at least let people get to know us.

I also want to point out that my swearing in does represent women assuming the majority on this Court.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: We are going to let the men applaud.

HONORABLE JACQUELINE SHOGAN: This comes on the heels of the Commonwealth electing a female justice in Justice Todd this year.

*(Applause.)*

Us electing our first female President Judge last year in my friend President Judge Ford Elliott.

*(Applause.)*

And the Commonwealth Court, our other intermediate appellate court, also having a majority of female members and a female President Judge. None of this really matters in the administration of justice, for justice is gender neutral, as well as politically neutral, even though we all have to go through this political process.

However, I do hope that it will encourage more women to seek these positions, in addition to positions in the legislature and in the executive branch. I don't know that we leveled the playing field, but I think we have more than shown that we can be competitive professionally and politically, if we put our minds to it.

I would like to close by introducing some of my staff members, since you are not just electing me, you are getting my whole team. I give Judge Donohue credit for making me realize that I should do this, for she did this at her ceremony last week. And of all people, I, who was a law clerk for four years, should realize the importance of doing this. I am incredibly blessed that I'm getting such an experienced staff. My law clerks don't just have court experience, I mean years and years of court experience. They also have private practice experience. Plus I have very experienced staff members. So when I say your name I would appreciate it if you could stand up and wave to everybody. My chief law clerk is Brenda Cesare. Brenda has worked with the courts for almost 20 years in addition to private practice, and she teaches appellate practice with me at Pitt. I am also very fortunate to have Jeff Lucht from Judge Joyce's chambers. Jamie Orfanopoulos from Judge Musmanno's chambers.

*(Applause.)*

And Eileen Buck from Judge Hudock's chambers.

*(Applause.)*

And as my secretaries, I have Jill Christy, who was with Judge Johnson, and Mary Lou Karl, who came with me from Thorp Reed & Armstrong.

Let me say in closing, that I truly am humbled by this honor. I realize, but for the grace of God, it could have been any one of the other well qualified candidates on that ballot who could be sitting up here today. I don't know if any of you did see my commercial. I do not think too many people were spared during the last week of that campaign. I know my daughter was taken aback when she was working one of the polls in Shadyside, and some seemingly nice woman told her she would never vote for her mother because she was so sick of seeing those commercials. But if you did, you'll know that I did run, in part, on being a different kind of candidate, and I guess by extension a different kind of judge. I promise to bring the knowledge and the experiences, as well as the compassion, that I've gained being a nurse, a lawyer, and a mother, the commitment to public service, and the commitment to equal justice for all. I also promise to uphold the trust that you all have placed in me, by always conducting myself with integrity and fidelity to the law.

I thank all of you here today. God bless our wonderful Commonwealth. And God bless the United States and its soldiers, here and abroad. Thank you very much for coming.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: And now may we call upon once again Reverend David Keller for our benediction.

REVEREND KELLER: On this most joyous and momentous occasion and such an inspiring ambience of justice, receive now the benediction.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace imbued with justice and righteousness. Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Reverend. Mr. Carey, will you close this special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

COURT CRIER CAREY: This court is now ADJOURNED.  
(Whereupon, this matter adjourned.)

## THE HONORABLE JOHN M. CLELAND



*Assumed Office: July 3, 2008*  
*County: McKean*

### BIOGRAPHY

Judge John M. Cleland was born in Kane, Pennsylvania on December 24, 1947, the son of Dr. Charles and Dr. Elizabeth Cleland. After graduating from Kane High School in 1965, he attended Denison University where he majored in history and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969. He received his Juris Doctor with honors from the National Law Center of the George Washington University in 1972.

Following graduation from law school, he accepted a position as a law clerk to the Honorable Barron P. McCune, United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

After completing his two-year clerkship, Judge Cleland returned to his hometown and joined the firm of Woods and Baker, later Woods, Baker & Cleland. He engaged in a broad range of general practice with a focus on municipal, corporate and business law, and civil litigation.

In the summer of 1984, he was nominated by Governor Richard Thornburg to fill the vacancy on the one-judge McKean County Court



of Common Pleas and was unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate that September. He served as the only judge in the county until the creation of a second judge position in 2002.

Judge Cleland has been actively involved in a variety of judicial activities. He served as Chair of the Interbranch Commission on the Juvenile Justice that investigated the circumstances involving the so-called “Kids for Cash” scandal and which developed a range of recommendations to improve Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system. He was one of thirty judges, court executives and law professors from throughout the country invited to participate in a three-year Executive Session for State Court Leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. He served for many years as Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Education Committee.

He was an appointed member of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges Commission. He co-chaired committees which prepared “Pennsylvania’s Public Health Law Benchbook,” the “Continuity of Operations Template for Pennsylvania Courts,” and the manual for “Courthouse Preparedness for Bioterror/Biohazard Public Health Emergencies.” He wrote the introduction to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Benchbook. He has also served on the Supreme Court Orphans’ Court Rules Committee, and on committees to study revisions to the administrative rules regarding minor judiciary, statewide computer implementation, and continuing judicial education. From 1992 to 1998 he was the Administrative Judge of Regional Judicial Unit III.

Judge Cleland served as a Commissioned Judge and later Senior Judge on the Superior Court from June 30, 2008 until December 31, 2010.

He was sworn in as a judge of the Superior Court in a private ceremony held in the judicial chambers he had occupied since October 1984 as President Judge of McKean County.

Judge Cleland has been invited to speak throughout the United States and Canada to a variety of judicial and governmental groups on issues involving public health preparedness and continuity of operations planning and implementation. For many years he has been on the faculty

of Pennsylvania's New Judge School and has served as a lecturer at other continuing judicial education programs addressing a variety of topics. His articles on professionalism have been published in the *Pennsylvania Lawyer*.

Judge Cleland has served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and as chair of the Advisory Board of its Bradford regional campus from which he received its Presidential Medal of Distinction. He is a recipient of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges President's Distinguished Service Award and Golden Crowbar Award, the Pennsylvania Bar Associations' Clarity in Writing Award, and the Herbert B. Cohen Inn of Court's Robert I. Shadle Legal Excellence and Professionalism Award.

In 1969, Judge Cleland married Julia Shaw. They have two married daughters and four grandchildren.

**THE HONORABLE  
ROBERT A. FREEDBERG**



**INSTALLATION OF ROBERT A. FREEDBERG**  
As Judge of  
**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Friday  
September 12, 2008  
12:00 noon

Northampton County Courthouse  
Courtroom No.1  
669 Washington Street  
Easton, Pennsylvania 18042

**PRESIDING:**  
HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT, PRESIDENT JUDGE

**SPEAKERS:**  
HON. JAMES C. HOGAN

HON. FRANKLIN S. VAN ANTWERPEN  
THOMAS J. MALONEY, ESQ.  
DEBRA FREEDBERG-BAKER, ESQ.  
HON. ROBERT E. SIMPSON  
HON. ROBERT FREEMAN  
HON. ROBERT A. FREEDBERG  
HON. GAY L. ELWELL

### AFTERNOON SESSION

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Mr. Morrissey.

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania gathers here today in special session to welcome to our Court its 97<sup>th</sup> judge, the Honorable Robert A. Freedberg. As we begin our ceremony, I would like to call upon the Honorable Craig Dally, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, to lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

*(The pledge was recited.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Would you all please stay standing. Are you going to make remarks?

MR. DALLY: It is now my pleasure to introduce Lauren Smith from Easton Area High School who will sing our National Anthem.

Lauren.

*(The national anthem was sung.)*

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Than you, Lauren. That was absolutely beautiful.

I will now call upon Rabbi Steven Lindemann from the Beth Shalom Synagogue, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to provide an invocation.

RABBI LINDEMANN: Just by way of introduction, I cannot tell you how pleased I am to be here today. Judge Freedberg, Bob, is one of my oldest friends. In fact, I would go so far as to say he was like a big brother to me growing up. He always challenged me to think about

what I really believed, to test faith with reason so that I could come to know the reasons for my faith. Bob asked tough questions with kind words, and there aren't enough words to express my appreciation for his friendship. I have faith that you have found in Bob Freedberg a superior judge for the Superior Court. We are already blessed.

So now a prayer.

Oh, Lord, help us to understand that we cannot really pray for justice for the Bible teaches justice, justice shall you pursue. Justice, justice, repeated so that we might know that we are to pursue it again and again from lower courts to higher to challenge, if necessary, even God himself as Abraham once did in arguing for the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, shall not the judge of all the earth deal justly? And hopefully, God, we will do better than they did.

Justice, justice shall you pursue, repeated so that we might know to pursue justice justly, that unjust means can never bring just ends. Justice, justice shall you pursue, repeated to remind us that rich and poor, weak and powerful must be treated equally before the law, Justice, justice shall you pursue, repeated so that we might know to pursue justice in court and out.

Oh, Lord, we cannot really pray for justice, so let us pray for strength to pursue justice. Watch over our judges, Oh, God. Grant them all wisdom and inspiration, insight and sensitivity that we may see in our cities and in our states and in all our land the fulfillment of the prophet Amos, let justice well up as water and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Rabbi.

Will you all be seated, please.

Judge Freedberg, today you will formally and officially join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is well established. Your colleagues warmly welcome you, and we know that we will benefit from your professional and personal integrity, your legal scholarship, and your long experience with a well-respected Court of Common Pleas in this Commonwealth as both a trial judge and as the president judge. And with an anticipated

8,000 new appeal filings before the end of the year, we also welcome your help.

Now I'd like to take a moment to introduce the members of the Superior Court bench who are here with us today. I am Judge Kate Ford Elliott, President Judge. To my right is Judge Mary Jane Bowes from Pittsburgh. To my left is Susan Peikes Gantman from Montgomery County. There is a judge whom all of you know, Jack Panella from right here in Northampton County. We have Justice James J. Fitzgerald who has joined us after serving an appointment on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. We are very pleased he's with us today. And I don't know if he made it in, but if he did, I'd like to introduce a retired judge of our court, Robert Daniels. I believe he's here somewhere today. Thank you for being here, Judge.

Also, I know, Judge Freedberg, that you have heard from several of your colleagues who are not present today. I think you know how warmly they welcome you to the Superior Court, and all are very excited about working for you – or working with you.

The Superior Court is further represented today by our Executive Administrator David Szewczak, our Deputy Prothonotary for the Eastern District, Charles O'Connor, and our Assistant Chief Staff Attorney Leonard Blazick. We welcome them here today.

Also today we have members of our sister appellate court in Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth Court. We have the Commonwealth Court's President Judge Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter. We have Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer, Judge Robin Simpson, also from right here in Northampton County, and we have the Commonwealth Court's newest judge, Judge Johnny Butler. We welcome you here today.

I would like to call upon now to make remarks the President Judge here in Northampton County, Judge Kimberly McFadden.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE McFADDEN:** President Judge Kate Ford Elliott, Judge Freedberg, members of the Superior Court bench, members of other benches who are represented, distinguished guests, and friends, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Northampton County Courthouse and to our ceremonial courtroom for this very auspicious event.

Judge Freedberg served this Court for 28 and a half years, 17 of those as President Judge of the courts of Northampton County. As a graduate of eight weeks of that service, I can assure you his was indeed a herculean feat. Judge Freedberg's dedicated service to this Court will be celebrated today, as it should be, and the citizens of this community are very happy to participate. The example that Judge Freedberg has set for the members of this Court will long be remembered.

Judge, we pledge as a Court to continue to maintain that standard of excellence which you set for the members of this bench and are mindful daily of that legacy. Although we are saddened to be losing a hard-working member of our bench, we are delighted for you, Judge Freedberg, and wish you well.

President Judge Ford Elliott, a little advice from those who know your colleague well, keep him very busy. He is happiest when deeply entrenched in the work of the court. Our loss is definitely your gain.

Bob, good luck, Godspeed. Please don't forget those you leave behind in Northampton County. You will be greatly missed.

Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, President Judge McFadden. I would like to introduce the members of the Northampton County bench who are here today, the former colleagues of Judge Freedberg.

You just heard from the President Judge. We also have present today Judge Stephen Baratta, Judge Edward Smith, Judge Emil Giordano, Judge Paula Roscioli, Judge Anthony Beltrami. We have Senior Judge Michael Franciosa present and retired Judge Isaac Garb.

And I'd now like to call upon another esteemed member of that bench to make remarks on Judge Freedberg's behalf, Judge William Moran.

Oh, I'm sorry, I apologize.

JUDGE MORAN: I usually – God knows I usually speak out of turn, but I'm certainly not on the podium.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: I've never seen him speechless before.

JUDGE MORAN: I can go on if you'd like.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge James C. Hogan, Judge Moran asked that you come up and make remarks on his behalf. Please come forward, Judge Hogan.

JUDGE HOGAN: Your Honor, with the permission of the Court, I have an extra copy of my speech, I'd be glad to – thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: You'd think after all these years I'd get this right. Judge, thank you. I apologize.

JUDGE HOGAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I had a long list of people to address in my opening remarks. President Judge Ford Elliott has introduced those people who are active in this court and on the Superior Court and some of the senior judges who are in attendance here. We have distinguished guests from Lehigh County, elected officials and appointed officials, and esteemed colleagues of the court personnel here. This is a great gathering. We can all see who is here. You are not here because of you, but because of Judge Freedberg and we welcome you all, special guests, and you all are.

My name is Hogan and I used to work here.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE HOGAN: Some years ago while walking past a multiple-unit apartment house at the foot of Nevin Park in College Hill in Easton, there was a familiar young couple standing on the balcony overlooking the street in front of the building. We chatted, and it was obvious they were settling in Easton. This start-up apartment seemed to be the port of entry for the hopeful couple. Their plans seemed quite modest and involved ordinary goals and no fear of hard work

The young woman of the pair looked more than ready for the job. The lawyer of the two, Bob Freedberg, had already gone through some important preparatory chairs, including service as law clerk to President Judge Clinton “Budd” Palmer, a legendary figure in the state and county. This was a good place where a top performer at Columbia Law School already learned in the law, could really learn a lot about the courts and the judges who ran them.

At the time, Easton, as county seat, had a number of tried and true lawyers, but always an opening for a new workhorse. This fellow seemed to fit the bill. Soon thereafter in his trial career, young Freedberg, as he



was known to the old timers, spent an educational tour in Bethlehem with Jackson Sigmon one of the best trial advocates, who routinely ate young lawyers for lunch.

Shortly thereafter, Bob Freedberg came home to Easton in downtown offices not far from the North 8<sup>th</sup> Street home where he spent his earliest years. The young woman with him had arrived here from Johnstown, a tough western Pennsylvania enclave which had survived an historic, massive flood, Ronnie had spent an intervening several years with her husband living near the noisy New York streets that cradled Columbia Law School.

In those law schools days they had a full plate of upper Manhattan, off-campus living. Nights filled with sirens and peppered by the report of nearby gunshots were not unusual. So any high water and cultural challenges the City of Easton and the Delaware River presented, respectively, were not major problems for the hearty Johnstown native.

At the time, my brother, Bill Hogan, and I were a couple of lawyers who already occupied the same set of downtown offices. Bob Freedberg was shortly to lodge what promised to be a steady but quiet practice. Bill and I had a bird's eye view of the events to come from our new, young friend.

Not long after this start, Mr. Freedberg joined the staff of the district attorney where more than a glimmer of hope rose for the young lawyer in the legal community. People began to notice him – great preparation and effective courtroom presentation. As assistant D.A., he became a major challenge to a number of poor fellows, those who had run afoul of the law and their public defender lawyers. Over the next decade or so, he acquired a certain patina, the sign that attaches to a steady worker who is always there and you knew would be there tomorrow: Durable, reliable, and, in a stretch, still pretty good looking.

His private and municipal clients as well as his colleagues began to appreciate how well he handled those daily bumps that attached to his chosen work, brooking the usual challenges of a growing practice and learning the ways of jurors, judges, clients, and the movers and shakers of his community. This young man took off personally and

professionally adding two children and a good quotient of government and community service to his resume.

So it was, after a decade of solid growth, he was pressed by many of his fellows to throw his hat in the ring of county judicial contests, and the voters found their singular choice in a civilized but tough election with a number of interested and highly qualified candidates. Hence, it was in 1980 when Northampton County received for the first time the Honorable Robert A. Freedberg, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, Third Judicial District.

The young woman with him, in self-defense, had sharpened her skills. She reached the point where she could address people's problems, many of which we presume started in the legal system. Ronnie Freedberg had her own successful practice as a clinical psychologist, which continues to this day. About this time, we first began to hear the new maxim: Behind every skilled psychologist is a committed common pleas judge. During this time, daughter Debbie and son Steven moved unerringly toward their own successful professional careers.

Of course, Judge Freedberg ran for retention in 1990 after the first full 10-year term on the bench. As was the custom, the Bar Association conducted a private plebiscite to assess the ten-year work of the incumbent. For the first time in his life, the Judge found out then, despite his best efforts, that he was not loved by everybody. Three of his lawyer colleagues penned in, "no, do not retain," on the secret ballots. Fear not, he soon learned the remaining several hundred lawyers in the pool had without exception, voted yes. And with such a result, it didn't take him long to recover his confidence. The bar, who knew his work best, had offered its approval for Bob Freedberg at the literal rate of 100 to 1, a remarkable accolade for an active trial judge who doesn't dodge controversial issues.

In the retention election that followed, the vast majority of county citizens added their resounding yes votes, and he was off for another ten years. Thus with the continuing unqualified approval of his colleagues and community, survive he did, and shortly thereafter assumed the bench's leadership position upon the retirement of President Judge Alfred Williams.

His new position provided Judge Freedberg with teeth-cutting opportunities, a full education in advanced administrative application. Those around him marveled at what a daunting thrill it must be to awaken every morning with ultimate supervision of several hundred employees, multiple divisions of court, little authority over the money allotted to be spent on their labors, meeting the pronounced needs of his colleagues on the bench, and assuring from this Courtroom No. 1 that the court system was holding true to the public he was charged with serving. And all this with a relentless full courtroom caseload of his own. One can only imagine his surprise and wonderment each morning while shaving. He had to be thinking, what have I done to myself here?

Over his 18 years as President Judge, Bob Freedberg stubbornly refused to indulge the personal privileges which attach to that special office. Despite the relentless need to take care of the court's business, it was a rare occasion when he set aside an easy day or two away from his courtroom duties. The importance of his "first among equals" position never trumped his commitment to assign himself more than his fair share of the casework of the court. This judge is on the job.

He set a gold standard of public service. You could set your watch when he arrived at his desk at 8:30 in the morning, and around here at the noon hour when the rattling windows over here in his old courtroom couldn't mute the peeling bells of nearby St. Anthony's Church sounding the Angelus—that poetry is mine, not Bob Freedberg's – and back at work at 1:30 and at his desk at 4:30 when the clock offered blessed release to the other courthouse workers.

But don't get the wrong impression. He's not all work and no play. Judicial efforts rarely interrupt the time, energy, and concentration he expended over the past years with the daily breakfast rule in the courthouse cafeteria where his high rank is afforded little privilege, and no one's opinion, including his own, is given special quarter in non-judicial conversations with the knights of the donut who daily found seats at the roundtable.

It is here he is known to shine as an expert in explaining the successes and failures of his baseball team, the Mets; touting the successes and standing of his Patriot League basketball team, Lafayette. And

most recently, he modestly assures that all who will listen are updated on the latest exploits of the world's two newest, greatest grandchildren, daughter Debbie's kids in the Canadian wilds of Toronto.

In the middle of it all, a bricks and mortar success, laying the foundation of a mutual assent of a three-dimensional government that produced a New Juvenile Justice Center, a new Domestic Relations Center, and a new set of award deserving court accommodations and courtroom facilities. And most importantly, a working court that knew how to use it as well.

During his service here, the public and workers in the court system enjoyed the comfort of knowing that the court was led by a knowledgeable and predictable force, a committed judicial leader who was open to advice, doesn't dodge issues, and settles them with care and reason. But while we value his competence and good will, we can't ignore in any memoir that the president judge cannot be a perpetual jolly presence. Life in the office of president judge is not often serene. We remind ourselves that any occasionally mild bark at us or an unsuspecting lawyer or errant court functionary is not a personality flaw. It's an earned emolument of his office.

In the recent years of his stellar performance at the head of the Court, he teetered several times on the brink of earlier earned transfer to new and different jurisdictions, a career change of venue. The Lehigh Valley patiently waited for him to propose assignment of several new judicial job descriptions which the powers that be promised but often delayed. The community's concern was offset by the steady advances of our own court during his watch.

Notwithstanding his stoic manner and the calm and anxiety he might have had during the long wait, his alma mater, Lafayette Collee, awarded him an honorable doctorate to tide him over. His family really wanted a doctor in the family anyway.

On reflection, any delay in bringing us to today's celebration might be fairly attributed to the community's reluctance to grant Judge Freedberg any new jobs, not because he wasn't ready, but because he had to finish the extraordinary work of transporting our court into the 21<sup>st</sup>

century. All this success, as far as I know, and not a single-family member was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

This time around, the governor and legislature have done us well. Young Bob Freedberg has a new job now, which promises to employ fully all the talents and skills he used for almost three decades on our bench. Certainly, the Superior Court shall do well with this wise and caring judge, battle-scarred and remaining young after successive careers in the law. It is now our treasure that he leaves behind at 7<sup>th</sup> and Lehigh Streets, a record of accomplishment and a well-regarded bench of distinguished trial judges ready and able to continue Northampton County's excellence of judicial service.

Of course, Pennsylvania's trial lawyers and judges are all waiting in the wings to see how kind he is when the 'judgment reversed' decisions roll out on appeal. My humble advice is not to worry. Northampton County lawyers who know Judge Freedberg best can reassure them of a fair hearing, considered judgment, and a truckload of enlightened appellate rulings.

I am certainly personally honored to have served on this Court under Judge Freedberg's direction, and I am honored today to address the court, those in attendance, and, of course, Judge Freedberg and Ronnie, with some of the highlights of his and their preparation for Superior Court.

Congratulations, Bob and Ronnie.

Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge, very much.

Judge Hogan had mentioned that we also have present today some members of the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas, and I have a list here. I do not see Judge Carol McGinley; I'm hoping she's here. I believe Judge Larry Brenner is here, and Judge Reibman is here from Lehigh County.

Also present are some magisterial district judges who are here to honor Judge Freedberg today. We have Joseph Barner, John Capobianco, Daniel Corpora, Gay Elwell, Michael Koury, Joan Marinkovits,

Nancy Matos Gonzalez, Diane Repyneck, Patricia Romig-Passaro, James Stocklas, and Todd Strohe. You are all welcome.

We are also honored to have here today from the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen, and I call upon the judge to please make some remarks on behalf of Judge Freedberg.

JUDGE VAN ANTWERPEN: Thank you.

My name is VanAntwerpen and I used to work here, too. President Judge Ford Elliott, Your Honors, may it please the Court, thank you for inviting me to speak.

We celebrate today a milestone in an outstanding legal career. It was not quite 40 years ago that President Judge Palmer of the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas invited the new Legal Aid attorney in town to have lunch with him and his law clerk. I was that Legal Aid attorney, and the name of that law clerk was Robert Freedberg. And there began that day a friendship that continues to this day.

Now we've heard a lot about Judge Freedberg from Judge Hogan, but there are some lesser known facts about his life that I would like to share with you.

After completing Lafayette College in 1966, Judge Freedberg attended Columbia University School of Law. Now, this was, or course, during the turbulent '60s and you may be asking yourself, did our future Superior Court judge sport shoulder-length hair? Did he spend his time at SDS meeting with Mark Rudd burning draft cards? No, I'm happy to report, not Judge Freedberg.

He spent his time in the Columbia law library authoring a long thesis on maritime law, which helped explain when a river's flow into the ocean is deemed to be a bay rather than merely an estuary. This has dubious application in a county, which by any reasonable measure is more than 80 miles from the nearest ocean.

I suppose he could have been a proctor and advocate in Admiralty, but you know, Judge Freedberg was a man ahead of his time because if the glaciers melt and the oceans rise, our Bushkill Creek may empty right into the ocean here in Easton. And Judge Freedberg alone among us will know whether or not it has formed a bay. And it's true; you did

write that paper. You know you did. You didn't think I knew how to look these things up, but I did.

Furthermore, Judge Freedberg soon distinguished himself as a lawyer. Now, as we know, he was a law clerk to President Judge Palmer, but he was also an assistant district attorney. And that was at a time when larceny and fraudulent conversion in our Crimes Code were replaced by the offense of theft.

Now, some lawyers were reluctant to adapt to this change because you had to set a valuation on the stolen goods in order to determine the severity of the penalty. Some lawyers were reluctant, but not Judge Freedberg. He plunged right in as an assistant district attorney, and he immediately took a case involving the theft of a chicken. And when he was asked by the presiding judge what value he ascribed to the chicken, he said it was probably a poultry sum. And you know you did that, too, because I was there when you did that, too.

In 1979, Judge Freedberg successfully ran for a newly created fifth seat on the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. We were four common pleas judges then, and he handled some of the most important and difficult cases to come before the court. But to my way of thinking, most importantly and to my great relief, Judge Freedberg finally convinced the president judge that perhaps it wasn't a good idea to have the judges' noonday meals prepared by prisoners that we had recently sentenced in the system. And that's true, too.

I left for the federal bench in 1987 and, of course, we all know that Judge Freedberg became president judge in 1991. And he immediately set about the difficult task of upgrading the county court facility. The court was trying to deal with the 21<sup>st</sup> century legal problems with a Civil War era courthouse and the problems were obvious. Crowded hallways were filled with lawyers, jurors, witnesses, victims, spectators, the press, and even criminal defendants in custody. They were all together in the same hallway, and it was an accident waiting to happen.

And to his everlasting credit, Judge Freedberg brought together the county executive, the county council, the bar association, the court in a joint effort which resulted in the modern new court facility that we

have. And Judge Freedberg did all of this while still maintaining an active caseload and presiding in this courtroom.

Judge Freedberg's legal ability has always been of the highest order, and I personally know his integrity to be beyond reproach. And our new, modern court facility is a monument to his administrative skills, which are equally outstanding. Well done, Judge.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE VAN ANTWERPEN: And now he has reached the capstone of a brilliant career, a well-deserved seat on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. And when I called on him this year immediately after his Senate confirmation to this court, I found he was already hard at work on a big pile of briefs, and I know he will serve the appellate bench with the same brilliance he exhibited on the Court of Common Pleas.

But lest you get a swelled head, Judge Freedberg, a last word or two of warning about the real position we appellate judges have in the pecking order. To begin with, when I was elevated from the U.S. District Court to the Circuit Court of Appeals, a former district court judge colleague who had just been reversed by the Third Circuit stated to everyone that my elevation from the District Court bench to the Circuit Court bench would undoubtedly raise the level of both benches. You have to think about that one awhile.

And as president judge, you got used to running things, but as an appellate judge, you're going to find out you can't do very much unless you can get at least one other judge to go along with you. But more recently, a fellow Third Circuit judge found himself marooned at the Philadelphia hotel, and he could not get a taxicab in a torrential downpour. And as the hour of his sitting drew closer, in desperation he flagged down a passing Philadelphia police car.

The car was headed in the general direction of a federal courthouse, and he told the officer that he was a judge and asked him if the officer could drop him off at the federal courthouse. And the Philadelphia police officer appeared about to comply, but he looked at the judge. He said first, Judge, I don't seem to recognize you. Which common pleas court do you serve on? The Judge replied, well, I'm a judge of the United States Federal Court of Appeals, whereupon the police officer said, Oh,



I thought you was a real judge, and promptly rolled up the window and drove way. And that story's true, too. So much for our exalted position.

This is a great day. Not only for Judge Freedberg and his wife Ronnie and Debbie, his daughter, who are both here today, but it is also a great day for our legal system and the citizens of this Commonwealth. Time dictates that I have taken my final step up in judicial service and, Bob, this will probably be yours.

And as I look back at the almost 40 years we have been the dearest of friends and the 40 years that we served together, more than anything I am truly humbled and awed at the system of government that has allowed both of us who started out as a law clerk and Legal Aid attorney, a system that allowed us not only to serve as judges, but to advance to appellate courts. That type of thing doesn't happen in any other nation in the world.

There was an English professor at Wellesley by the name of Katherine Lee Bates who stood atop Pike's Peak and wrote words that put it best. America, America, God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Congratulations and the best of luck in your appointment.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge, very, very much. Beautiful remarks.

I neglected to introduce from Lehigh County Judge Black and also Federal Judge Cahn who are here.

I now would call upon Thomas Maloney, past president of the Northampton County Bar Association, to make a few remarks.

MR. MALONEY: May it please the Court, President Judge Ford Elliott, President Judge McFadden, properly introduced, my name is Maloney. I did work here, and after I'm finished and after you hear what I have to say, I probably won't be able to work here, anymore. And I didn't miss the inflection, President Judge Ford Elliott in emphasizing few remarks. Well done.

All of those distinguished guests, judges, politicians, government servants, have all been properly welcomed. I need not do that any further but to second and third what Judge Hogan and Judge Van

Antwerpen have said and you, President Judge Ford Elliott, but I just want to emphasize a real welcome to your folks from out of the county to the Third- emphasis on the Third – Judicial District.

And so I say to all of us, and I do this as my part of this program is to speak on behalf of the Bar Association and the men and women who practice law here on a day-to-day basis, for today we celebrate. We honor a man. We honor a man and his family and do so a bit sadly, but very quickly moved with joy and thanks for what he has been, what he has done, and to assure his new colleagues that it is truly their gain.

Our citizenry here in the Lehigh Valley, the government of Northampton County, the government of our court system and the bench and bar, the men and women who provide justice and who provide hope and resolution, all have much to be thankful for.

When Judge Freedberg returned to his home to begin his practice, my friends, there were events occurring in the great state and great Commonwealth in which we live that were so profound that they would change the system of justice forever. I'm referring to statewide practice versus local practice. I'm referring to the new Constitution that was adopted in the '60s in Pennsylvania. I'm referring to the unified judiciary which we now all work under.

I'm referring to the extensive codification of laws, the reforms, and the changes to criminal practice, the deference that had to be paid to the important decisions of our days, particularly when Judge Freedberg was starting to practice: The Douglas case, the Mapp case, the Miranda case, the adoption of the Post-Conviction Hearing Act – and how many times it has been plaguing our system and still does today, although important and does provide relief – and other rearview mirror statues that have been imposed upon our system of justice.

In addition, there have been changes in budgets, there have been changes in how those budgets are adopted, and yet our courts on many occasions have to deal with those budgets, but they don't have a vote in the adoption of the budget. So these changes include changes in the demographics of our county, the ethnicity, the make-up of our county, the number of people, the number of lawyers. We have a bar association.

When we started and when I started 40 some years ago, there were less than 50 lawyers. Today they're approaching a thousand.

Look at the increases, as Judge Hogan mentioned, in the court personnel, the additional number of employees that have been dealt with. And most important, there was imposed upon our court system here accountability, accountability to the Supreme Court that had to be done accurately, that had to be done frequently to prevent backlogs that were occurring in other parts of the state.

Judge Freedberg and his family chose to aspire to the administration of justice, with the support of his wife and his family, and they knew full well the protocols of that life would require sacrifice, financial sacrifice and otherwise, and at the same time a strict adherence to a code of duty and honor. And so he set sail, referencing his undergraduate work, on this sea of change that I mentioned. And he took the helm, and he was always vigilant, as we all can attest to, to avoid that perfect storm, to avoid those that prey on troubled waters.

He clerked for President Judge Palmer, a magnificent jurist. He worked under the tutelage of President Judge Alfred T. Williams, who we dearly miss. He watched carefully the talents of the Hogans, of the Seidels, of the Gus Milidese, and many others of the trial bar, and there were in our judge, talents that were added to his legal scholarship already at the highest level.

All of this permitted and caused him to do this: To make justice available daily to our citizens who could be heard weekly with hearings, and that's good. My friends from out of the county, that I assure you, does, in fact, exist here in Northampton County. Thanks to our court and thanks to the continued leadership of President Judge Freedberg, and I'm sure it will continue under the leadership of President Judge McFadden. It also permitted him and permitted us as attorneys and litigants in the county to have your case tried as soon as the parties are ready to do so, and that's not always the case elsewhere.

He provided leadership and challenges to a Bar Association that had grown, as I said, and encouraged them to participate in many new educational opportunities. Most importantly, he had the ability to say no. He had the ability to resist influence for certain changes, fearful that

those changes would fragment the system, but he did so with an honest belief that hard work and new techniques would continue to provide full and complete access to our courts.

He continued to devote his time unselfishly and assure a blend of history with modern convenience of a greatly expanded courthouse. As Judge Hogan so happily noted, it would not have happened without President Judge Freedberg at the helm. He effectively used the budget, and he cajoled others to properly use it.

Judge Freedberg loved the law, and you may agree that he has met the challenges of this sea of change. But know this as well, my friends, history and tradition dwells deep within him, his real, and at times his apparent, authority cleverly used by him – and I call it legal and judicial engineering – have served him well and was a benefit to the bench and bar. I'll come back to that in a minute.

Upon accepting this honor to speak today, I formed an ad hoc committee and I send my thanks out to Norm Seidel, Phil Hoff, Phil Lauer, Attorney Sletvold, Attorney Asteak, Dan O' Donnell, and Jim Onembo, court administrator, for providing additional information to me. It's important to say thanks. I learned that from Judge Freedberg.

All of those people that I have talked to, and I've talked to lawyers outside of the county as well, have this to say, and they attest to a man and to a woman. He was impartial, he was noted for his fairness, he has a passion for the truth, he decided fairly and, most importantly, he has a need to do it promptly.

There was a time when Judge Freedberg was asked a question by a seasoned trial lawyer, who was then trying a very difficult and lengthy case that was going on in front of him more than a week. On a Monday morning, the very tired trial lawyer came up and said, Judge Freedberg, how'd your weekend go? And Judge Freedberg replied, well, he said, I read the advance sheets and I watched the Mets. Well, Judge, and Gary Asteak, the Mets have improved and so have you. And, Gary, now he's not going to be reading the advance sheets, he's going to be writing them.

Public service, professionalism, and preparation were the hallmarks of Judge Freedberg. He never forgot the men and women that worked

with and for him. He was always caring about them. Ask any other court employee here, and they will almost to a person say he was always interested in their welfare, their family, their children and grandchildren. Here's a man for all seasons for all the good reasons, He is one to whom we should hitch our wagons to catch our stars.

Now, there was a great judge, education philosopher by the name of Mike Smith in Philadelphia who mentored a lot of students as they were going through college and graduate school. And he had an approach to handling and getting people to achieve what they wanted to achieve. His philosophy was very simple. He said you become what you think.

And I had the opportunity to see Judge Freedberg in situations where he had suffered the disappointments and the deep disappointments of things not going the way perhaps they could have. But what he did was he became what he thought. He has achieved that now.

So Godspeed, President Judge Freedberg, and as you go to your new courtrooms, wherever they are and as fancy as they are and ornate as they are, and as you preside in the presence of those wonderful courtrooms, we will miss you, but there's one thing that you cannot take with you. It's going to stay here and it's something that all of us here have to thank you for.

You know, there was another philosopher who said that the Ten Commandments were the basis for millions of laws that have been passed through the ages. And the thing that's not going anywhere outside of this courtroom are these tablets behind me, the Ten Commandments that Judge Freedberg through his legal engineering, made to remain on this wall as long as, hopefully, this courtroom stands, and for that we have to thank him.

*(Applause.)*

MR. MALONEY: So much for the serious side. It's certainly a privilege to present my colleagues at the bar of the court of Northampton County, but there is a bit of humor that I would like to leave you with.

Two occasions. One is I was informed by my senior counsel Norm Seidel and my colleague Phil Hof there was an occasion when Judge Van Antwerpen and Judge Freedberg were walking downtown Easton,

and they had both been elected recently. An elderly woman walked up and looked at both of them and said, Oh, my God, are you judges? They said yes.

You have to keep in mind about the pecking order that happened when you came on the bench.

Are you judges? Oh, you look too young to be judges. One of them – and I’m not sure which – turned immediately to the other and said, he’s the juvenile judge.

Back in New York when Judge Freedberg was doing whatever he did well at Columbia University, there was a great politician by the name of Ed Koch. I don’t have to introduce him to you folks, but he was campaigning. He went to a senior citizens center near Columbia where Bob was going to school, graduate school. He was on a campaign, and he was talking to these senior citizens.

And, by the way, I found this anecdote in my file on Judge Freedberg, so I can only assume that he’s the one who brought it to my attention. But this gives you an indication, President Judge Ford Elliott, of how his sense of humor functions.

So when Ed Koch was putting on his speech in front of this group, he was immediately asked what his position was on crime and what he intended to do about it to clean up New York City. Mayor Koch said, crime is terrible, terrible. He replied, “A judge I know was mugged this week, and do you know what he did?” He called a press conference and said the mugging would in no way affect his judicial decisions in matters of that kind. And fortunately, an elderly woman in the back of the audience stood up and shouted, “Then mug him again!”

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Maloney. I would now ask Debra Freedberg-Baker, a member of the Bar of New York, to read the Commission from Governor Rendell.

MS FREEDBERG-BAKER: Robert A. Freedberg of the County of Northampton in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings. Re-posing especial trust and competence in your prudence, integrity, and ability, and under authority of the Constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I have nominated,

and by and with the advice and consent of two thirds of all the Members of the Senate, have appointed and do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of The Superior Court of Pennsylvania to have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and privileges there unto belonging, or by law and in anywise appertaining, until the first Monday, of January 2010, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

I've been waiting a long time to say that.

This appointment to compute from June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State at the City of Harrisburg this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord, 2008, and of our Commonwealth the 232<sup>nd</sup>. Edward G. Rendell, Governor, Pedro C. Contes, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: I believe Judge Robin Simpson of the Commonwealth Court has a motion to make.

JUDGE SIMPSON: When Judge Freedberg asked me to make the formal motion for the administration of the oath, he either by neglect or by rare bad judgment put no limit on the time that I could speak, nor did he limit the subject matter of my remarks. So I'm going to take just a few moments for two purposes.

The first purpose is to raise my voice to join the chorus of those rejoicing in the long overdue, but well-deserved elevation of my friend to the appellate court in Pennsylvania.

The second purpose is to perpetuate a silly and seemingly purposeless tradition in Northampton County, the giving of a silly gift to a new judicial person. Now, this goes back a long ways, at least until the 1990s. I remember when Judge Panella was installed somebody gave him a seat belt with the hope that they could keep him in one place. I know when Judge Baratta was installed, I gave him a little squishy tomato so that he could release the tension on the bench.

I think we did something for Judge Giordano, too. I'm not sure that I remember it anymore. All I really recall from his installation are repeated references to the skin tight workout pants he wore. I was so scarred by that that I just sort of forgot about tradition, and I wanted to get something that I really thought Judge Freedberg would totally enjoy.

So I have here his favorite dessert, a box of peanut butter Kandy Kakes. This however, isn't the real gift for him because I spent some time with him the other day. I asked him, did he still eat Kandy Kakes. He said no. I said why not. And he sort of implied that his wife wouldn't let him eat the stuff anymore.

Well, I wanted this to be sort of a guiltless indulgence for him, so I had to take an extra step to make that happen. So I called up his wife to see if we would negotiate a settlement here. She drove a pretty hard bargain. I have the fruits of the negotiation here. I would like permission from the court to read this document into the record.

And now as of this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008, in consideration of one month of dog walks and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned does hereby waive any and all arguments remaining to the possession or consumption of Kandy Kakes by Robert A. Freedberg for the next seven days; and release Robert A. Freedberg from any and all claims of Kandy Kakes during the next seven days; and hold harmless Robert A. Freedberg from cross-claims by other family members arising in the next seven days from the possession or consumption of Kandy Kakes.

There is in small print at the bottom of this document the following: Provided, however, that this waiver, release, and hold harmless agreement is not transferable to any other products containing trans-fats, including but not limited to Twinkies, Snowballs, Crème-filled cupcakes, Devil Dogs, Oreos, Scooter Pies, Little Debbie Oatmeal Pies or any other dessert product from Wegman's Market.

And you will see what this is actually signed by Ronnie Freedberg, and it was witnessed by Sadie, the little dog they have. Judge, may I have permission to approach the bench?

Now, while this exercise may seem pointless, there are actually two good lessons to learn from this. First lesson is that a good wife is to be valued among all other things, especially a good wife with a sense of humor. So may I invite everyone here to join me in thanking Ronnie Freedberg for her help.

*(Applause.)*



JUDGE SIMPSON: The second point is to highlight another aspect of Northampton County judiciary, which is that the judges here take the work seriously, but they don't take themselves too seriously. And I think that humanity is really personified by the newest Superior Court judge, lately of Northampton County, our friend Bob Freedberg.

With those thoughts in mind, President Judge Ford Elliott, I move for the administration of the oath of office to Robert A. Freedberg.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge.

Judge Freedberg, would you stand and take the formal oath?

I --state your name-

JUDGE FREEDBERG: I Robert Freedberg -

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: -- do solemnly swear -

JUDGE FREEDBERG: --do solemnly swear -

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: - that I will support, obey, and defend-

JUDGE FREEDBERG: -- that I will support, obey and defend-

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: -- the Constitution of the United States -

JUDGE FREEDBERG: -- the Constitution of the United States -

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: -- and the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: -- and the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: -- and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: --and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Congratulations.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Before Judge Freedberg makes formal remarks for us; I'm going to call upon the Honorable Robert Freeman, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN: Good afternoon. President Judge Ford Elliott, President Judge McFadden, distinguished members

of the bench, members of the bar association, elected officials, public servants, and guests, it is a pleasure for me to be here today, and I am honored that my friend Judge Freedberg has asked me to make a few remarks on this obviously momentous occasion in his life.

First and foremost, I wish to extend my congratulations and the congratulations of the entire Lehigh Valley delegation to the General Assembly upon your assuming the office of Judge of the Superior Court. We were very supportive of seeing your name put forward when the vacancy occurred, recognizing your distinguished service as a member of this county's Common Pleas Court, and we were very proud when the governor had the wisdom to tap you for this position.

I also wish to acknowledge my colleagues who are here. I only saw two, so forgive me if I miss some of them. Representative Craig Dally and Representative Joe Brennan are here. I don't know if any others of our delegation are able to attend, but they send their best wishes and congratulations.

Judge Freedberg, this is a proud day for you and for Ronnie and for your family. It's also a proud day for the citizens of Northampton County to see one of their own elevated to such a high office and so deservedly so.

We have been friends for a long time, and I cherish that friendship. Our families have known each other for a very long time, and, of course, my cousin Bill was one of your best friends going through particularly their college days. They attended Lafayette together and caused quite a bit of mayhem during their time as college students.

If the story's to be believed, despite our friendship, I have to set the record straight from this courtroom. We are actually not related. This has been a rumor that hounded both of us throughout both of our lives. This is interesting because we both embarked upon our careers at roughly about the same time. Judge Freedberg was elected to the county bench in 1979 and I was running for the legislature in the early 1980s, getting elected in '82, and frequently we were mistaken for the same person.

It was a very rare occasion we were actually seen in public in the same room out of the fear that somewhere along the way some catastrophic

reaction could occur like the fear that has been raised about that new atomic particle collider and that encounter might have occurred here within the courtroom.

It's interesting to note that after he was elected in 1979, then later during my race in 1980 at a state luncheon, a prominent Easton Democrat was overheard at some meeting saying, what's with this Freedberg guy? First, he gets elected judge, now he wants to be a state representative. So hopefully we can clear that misconception up today.

I think one of the things that has always impressed me about Judge Freedberg is the way that he has always conducted himself with dignity befitting a member of the bench, but also with great humanity and a tremendously dry and self-deprecating sense of humor. Despite his sense of self-deprecation, he is held and continues to be held in high standing. He never forgot his roots, never forgot he grew up on North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Easton, truly one of the people.

He continues to this day to be courteous, considerate to people from all walks of life regardless of their social status or their economic standing. He treats everyone with the same courtesy and civility and is known to be a regular, as am I on occasion, at Angelo's Restaurant on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street where he rubbed shoulders with the regulars who know him by name, where everyone is addressed by the wait staff as honey or sweetie with one distinction. In this case, he is also on occasion referred to as judge honey, so that made him stand apart from the rest of us.

To some extent, in Judge Freedberg, the people of Pennsylvania have a judge who epitomizes what people look for in a member of the bench: Fairness, integrity, dedication of service, professionalism, thoughtfulness, and a scholarly approach to the law. He has been guided throughout his time on the bench by the principles necessary to see that justice is properly served and the people of Pennsylvania will be ably served by his outstanding grasp of the law, his abilities, and his unquestioned integrity.

So on this grand occasion, I wish you well as you embark upon your new position and know that you will ably serve the people of this great Commonwealth. Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Freedberg, I suggest you have a lot to respond to.

JUDGE FREEDBERG: I thought I would be entitled to rebuttal, but I didn't realize how much rebuttal I'd have to offer.

First, let me begin by thanking everyone who is here for taking the time to come and make this day even more meaningful for me and for Ronnie and for the rest of my family. It means so much to me that my colleagues from the Superior Court have come here today to participate. I know that judges came from Pittsburgh, they came from Philadelphia. Judge Panella came from Palmer Township. I'm also delighted and honored that judges of the Commonwealth Court, our sister appellate court, have come here today.

They do me a great honor by joining with us on this occasion. And, of course, the Judges of what I still am going to refer to as my court are here today, and it means so much to me to have them here with me as well, And all of you folks who have taken the time to come here, it is just heart-warming to see so many good friend and so many members of the bar who have come here today to be with us.

Service as a Judge of the Superior Court is an exceptional privilege and an honor. It comes to very few people in the course of history. There have only been – I'm told I'm the 97<sup>th</sup> person to serve as a judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, which was founded in 1895, so think about that. It doesn't often come to a lawyer to be able to have this high honor and privilege, and I am truly grateful to have this opportunity.

Becoming a judge of the Superior Court does not happen without a lot of help, and I want to recognize some of the people who participated in this process. I hope that those I call on are here. I want to introduce them, and when I do, I'll ask that they stand so that you, too, can recognize them and express appreciation to them for what has happened.

The idea of my serving on an appellate court started with an editorial in the Express-Times newspaper. I remember looking at the caption on the editorial when I was on the computer, and it said next appellate – our recommendation for next appellate court judge, and I said, well, I wonder who it is. And I turned to the website and, wow, it just blew me

away to see that I had the support and endorsement of the people at the Express-Times newspaper.

Jim Flagg has covered the court for many years. I don't know if Jim is here today. He may be. Is he here? Okay. We got to know each other when I was the assistant city solicitor about 30 some years ago. There was a young cub reporter covering the City of Easton government, and Jim was that guy. We got to know each other, liked each other, and have been friends ever since, although it hasn't stopped either one of us from criticizing the other on occasion. I want you to understand that. We have been reading each other's opinions for a long time.

The support of the Express-Times for my appointment was important, and they have a practice, perhaps you know, of once a week giving trophies to those whom they applaud and turkeys to those whom they don't agree with. I've gotten my share of both, but today the Express-Times, Jim Flagg, Janice Blake Piccotti, and Joe Owens, all of whom are here, get a trophy rather than a turkey. Will you stand, please?

Area legislators contacted governor Rendell to urge an appointment, and that was vital in the process. Bob Freeman, who just spoke, organized that effort and, Bob, once again, stand up so – they love applause.

As you may know, I'm a registered Democrat, but I had bipartisan support, and that was important in advancing the whole process. And Craig Dally, who led the pledge, was instrumental in seeing that that happened. Craig is a member of the General Assembly and he's a member of our bar. He organized an effort to make the Governor aware that not only did Democrats support this, but Republicans as well. He appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee along with Rob Wonderling. He's another great public servant. Joe Brennan, a long-time friend and representative, was an enthusiastic and early supporter and, Joe, will you stand as well?

I had tremendous support from members of the Northampton County Bar. There was a lot of expression of good wishes as it was unfolding. I know people offered their help; and the warmth and satisfaction when the appointment was announced and the confirmation became a fact was very gratifying to me.

So many people took an active role in this, and I just want to mention Marty Cohen, who is here, whose advice and assistance was particularly helpful. I'm not sure whether Hank Barnett is here as well, but he also had an active role. Marty, will you stand?

About 18 years ago when I was just starting out as president judge, we hired a young assistant court administrator who served here for many years and then moved on to the Pennsylvania General Assembly and ultimately the Pennsylvania Senate, and that's Lisa Boscola. She was a strong advocate for me in her role with the Senate Judiciary Committee. Lisa is traveling out of the country, but, of course, she wished she could be here. For her commitment out of the country, she is excused, but I wanted to place on the record that she did her part in a very effective way.

Next is an outstanding public servant who serves all of the people of the Lehigh Valley. I can tell you first-hand that his opinion counts with people who matter in Harrisburg. He is so well respected in Harrisburg because of his tenure there when he was secretary in Governor Rendell's cabinet, General Services Administration. The governor called him, and he talked with him and asked him whether he should make this appointment, and the answer was a resounding yes. And that went a long way to accomplishing my appointment and, of course, I'm speaking about my good friend, Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham.

Everybody needs friends and confidants with whom you can discuss matters such as this. And I have two outstanding friends and confidants who are here today, and I want to recognize them. About 14 years ago, I made the best decision I ever made as judge when I appointed this man as court administrator of Northampton County. He's been a great court administrator, a greater friend and was very instrumental in bringing this about, Jim Onembo.

The other fellow is well-known to all members of the bar, simply everybody who lives in the Easton area knows him and has great respect for him. He's been my tipstaff since 1984, but more than that, he's a member of my family. And it's not a stretch to say he's my brother, and that's Gino Guinta.

You may have noticed that when the reading of my commission got to the point about behaving yourself, she did it with a certain vigor and enthusiasm, and I want once again to introduce my daughter Debbie who came here from Toronto to remind me publicly that I have to behave myself.

And I have certainly saved the best for last. Ronnie and I have been married for 41 years. Without her, none of this would have been possible. She has supported me from the start in my desire to have a career in public service and was willing to make whatever sacrifices were required in order for me to do that. Quite simply she has always been my best friend, my wife, Ronnie. And if anybody deserved applause, it's Ronnie because she's lived with me for 41 years.

*(Applause.)*

JUDGE FREEDBERG: On January 7, 1980, I became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in this courtroom. In 1991, I took the oath as President Judge here as well. On those occasions I swore to perform my duties to the best of my ability, to uphold the Constitution, and to seek justice under law, and today, I renew those pledges.

Bernard Segal of Philadelphia who serves as president of the A.B.A. described the essential attributes of an appellate judge – they are to listen patiently, to probe deeply, to decide wisely, and to explain lucidly. You have my commitment that I will always strive to do so to the very best of my ability.

When he took the oath as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania in 1983, the great Samuel J. Roberts set the standard for the members of the judiciary. He said, "Justice is still the highest interest of a free society. The rule of Law remains our greatest hope for peace and social progress. We owe it to society and the course of justice, which we serve daily, to search for ways to meet all our challenges with an uncompromising commitment to excellence."

Judge Frank Johnson, Jr., the heroic federal judge from Alabama who issued the orders protecting the voting rights of marchers in Selma, Alabama, back in the 1960s, described a judge's role as follows: "More than simply deciding who wins and who loses, judges also have the duty to provide both parties with the confidence that win or lose, they had

their day in court and were given a fair chance to air their positions before an impartial decision-maker". I will always do my best to meet those noble standards.

In November 1969, I became a member of the bar in this courtroom. I began as a law clerk to President Judge Clinton "Budd" Palmer, His portrait is on that wall over there, Judge Palmer's portrait. Judge Palmer was a great and compassionate judge who took his job seriously without taking himself too seriously. There is seldom a week that goes by over the years when I haven't thought of him and thought of some important lesson that I learned from him. He was a very great man, and he was a great influence in my life, a very, very special person.

I learned how to become a lawyer from Jim and Bill Hogan with whom I was associated until my election to the bench in 1979. I will say only that they are exceptional lawyers, they are exceptional human beings, and it was my good fortune to work with them and have them as my tutors and mentors.

For six years, I was an assistant district attorney. I tried cases against legendary lawyers such as Bernard V. O'Hare, Jr., and Renald Baratta, father of Judge Steven Baratta, and contemporaries such as Phil Lauer and George Heitzman. It was a wonderful experience, and I'm grateful for that opportunity as well.

In 1979, when I was elected to the bench, Alfred T. Williams, Jr., was the president judge, and his portrait is over our jury box. And I think it's the best portrait in the room because that is his look, just a superb portrait. And he was a great superb judge. He was a brilliant jurist, cared a great deal about his court and people of this county. And from him I learned that the court is to be run not for the comfort of judges, nor the convenience of the bar, but always to serve the best interests of the public.

With us today are two of the judges who were on the court in 1980 when I joined the court, and it's wonderful to have them here. I'm particularly pleased to have Senior Judge Mike Franciosa here. Judge, will you stand, please. And my buddy Frank Van Antwerpen. Another member of that court was Judge Richard D. Grifo who is unable to be here today because he's ill. Dick truly was the lawyer's judge. He was



unquestionably the most beloved member of the bench, and over the years, I valued his good advice and his special friendship.

When I was president judge, I was honored to lead the current court, a talented group of judges who work hard for the community, these folks over here, and I include in the grouping two who have brought exceptional honor to this bench by their service on the appellate courts of Pennsylvania, Judge Simpson and Judge Panella.

Now it has been said that a court is only as good as the lawyer who is practicing before it, and the judges here are truly blessed that this bar is so outstanding. It has been exceptional because of the fact that lawyers treat each other with courtesy and respect and because of the unique talents and dedication of the members of our bar.

I remember exceptional people who are no longer with us, people like Jack Sigmon and Joe Leeson, Larry Briody and Jerry Brose, Robbie Taylor and George Weitzman. Outstanding talents, and I am better and my colleagues are better for having been exposed to them over the years and seeing how they practice and seeing how they respect the law. And one of the best, one of the few patriarchs who is still here and still practicing at age 90, and I'd like him to stand, and, of course, that's Norman Seidel. I don't know if he wants me to tell you that he's 90, though.

Service on this trial court was a privilege for which I will always be grateful, and now the chance to focus on the law comes at a good time for me. The Superior Court judges are talented and hardworking, and I very much look forward to continued service on this very collegial bench. I want to thank each of you again for sharing this very important day with me and for your friendship. Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Now I'd like to call upon Magistrate District Judge Gay Elwell for a presentation.

JUDGE ELWELL: May it please the Court, President Judge Ford Elliott, President Judge Brigance Ledbetter, and President Judge McFadden, also known as the new boss.

Judge Freedberg, I think, although my notes from that day are long destroyed, that at your swearing in as president judge, somebody advised

you that the new position you were taking would be sometimes akin to herding cats. In the ensuing times you no doubt thought, despairingly, that whomever that speaker was referring to was that band of 15 very unique individuals who are now known as magisterial district judges.

Over the years you have been a firm but fair leader who has always treated us members of the minor judiciary with great respect. When I hear stories from other MDJs from across the state about contentious and unhappy relations they sometimes have with their PJ's, I am grateful that we have been and are so fortunate in the leadership granted to us here in Northampton County, In particular, your championing of the video arraignment system has made night duty service very much less foul, and we thank you for that.

You know, for more than 10 happy years, I spent most of my waking hours in this courthouse in what I am still convinced was the best job in the world – except for the one I have now – covering Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. Watching you and the other judges certainly helped me for what I do now, and when I get it right, I'd like to give you and all of the Northampton County judges credit. When I get it wrong, well, that's usually something I made up myself, and I guess you might be hearing about it down the road.

Now that you've ascended to Superior Court, you belong to all the people of the Commonwealth. As a common pleas judge, you belonged to the people of the county, but you always belonged to the people of the county, but you always belonged to Easton and always will. It seems everyone in this city knows you or knew you and has a warm word for or about you from top city officials to one of your former P.D. Clients - - and you know who I mean – who probably will never stop bellowing out, Yo, Freedberg, when she sees you on the street.

At the end of the movie the Wizard of Oz, the Wizard tells the Tin Man that the good deed doers back home have hearts no bigger or better than his, but they have one thing you haven't got, a testimonial. And now I would like to present a testimonial from the magisterial district judges of Northampton County.

In token of our affection and respect presented to the Honorable Robert A. Freedberg, Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, with

respect and gratitude for your support and guidance through the years, congratulations from the Northampton County Magisterial District Judges Association.

May I approach?

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you Judge Elwell.

Before our benediction, the court will recognize the district attorney of Northampton County. District Attorney Morganelli, good to see you here.

And now I'd like to call upon the Reverend Monsignor Alfred A. Schlert, Vicar General of the Diocese of Allentown, to please provide us with our benediction.

REVEREND SCHLERT: Thank you, Your Honor.

With joy and gladness for all the blessings of this day, let us pray.

Almighty God, you are the supreme and eternal God in all things of your making and in all times and seasons we obey your laws. Look upon the members of the judiciary, given the spirit of wisdom and right judgment so that your eternal laws may find proper expression through their decision.

In a particular way, bless and approve the service of His Honor Judge Freedberg who begins his weighty service to the people of the Commonwealth. Help him always to be just, prudent, and humble in all matters that comes before him remembering that all authority ultimately comes from your goodness. May all the members of the bench and bar manifest respect for all people and protect the inalienable rights which you have given them and which our great nation guarantees.

Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Mr. Morrissey, will you close the special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

*(The Proceedings concluded.)*

**THE HONORABLE ANNE E. LAZARUS**

*Assumed Office: January 6, 2010  
County: Philadelphia*

**INSTALLATION OF ANNE E. LAZARUS**

As

Judge of the Superior Court  
of Pennsylvania

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Ceremonial Courtroom

Room 653, City Hall

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

11:00 a.m.

**PRESIDING**

HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

**SPEAKERS**

JUSTICE SEAMUS P. McCAFFERY

HONORABLE LEGROME D. DAVIS

HONORABLE PAMELA PRYOR DEMBE

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT A. BRADY

SAYDE J. LADO, ESQUIRE  
MITCHELL H. KLEVAN, ESQUIRE

COURT CRIER: All rise.

The Honorable Pamela Pryor Dembe, President Judge, First Judicial District.

The Honorable Seamus P. McCaffery, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Kate Ford Elliott, President Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Legrome D. Davis, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez, let this Ceremonial Session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order.

President Judge Kate Ford Elliott presiding.

Let all manner of persons rise and attend. Let the family, friends, and associates of the Honorable Anne E. Lazarus be joyful. Let the citizens of this Commonwealth be confident and assured as the Superior Court convenes for administration of Anne E. Lazarus for the oath of office of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

Please be seated.

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Good morning, everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Morrissey.

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania sits in Ceremonial Session today to welcome to the Bench our newest member, the Honorable Anne E. Lazarus.

Before we begin this session, I'd like to call upon Rabbi Leah Richman of the Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El for the invocation.

RABBI LEAH RICHMAN: God and God of our ancestors: Today we gather in pride and joy at the election of Anne Lazarus to the esteemed position of Superior Court Justice.

We are thankful for all that she has accomplished and confident of that which she shall yet achieve.

May God continue to grant to Anne Lazarus skill and understanding as she implements fairly and honestly the laws of the land.

God, please grant Anne Lazarus the wisdom needed to discern the complexities of issues she shall hear. Grant her the dedication necessary to uncover the truths which are often difficult to find.

May Anne Lazarus be filled with fortitude and steadfast faith in order to pursue justice in all cases for all people in our great country.

The Book of Psalms teaches us that Elohim nitzav b'adat el, b'kerev elohim yishpot: God stands in the Devine Assembly, God judges among the judges, and that any time judges gather to meet, the holy presence rests with them.

May Anne Lazarus continue to be blessed by the divine presence in all her duties.

From the Book of Proverbs we receive the injunction, Ha-Emet v'HaShalom Ehavu:

Love, truth and peace. When judges stand in dedication to our country and its laws, when they love truth and pursue it relentlessly, they are also loving peace in all its forms.

May truth, justice, and peace always surround Anne Lazarus as she continues to serve our Country.

And let us say Amen.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Lazarus, when you take the Bench today, you will join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is well established.

Your colleagues warmly welcome you, and we know that we will benefit from your legal scholarship, your reputation for integrity, and as many of us already found, your friendship. Anne, with close to eight thousand new appeal filings each year, we can really use your help.

Before we begin the official ceremony, I want to introduce and recognize the members of the Superior Court Bench who have traveled to Philadelphia today to take part in this ceremony to honor Judge Lazarus.

And most of the Superior Court judges are sitting behind me, and I will simply recognize them.

Judge Correale Stevens, Judge John L. Musmanno, Judge John T. Bender, Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Jack Panella, Judge Christine Donohue, Judge Jacqueline O. Shogan, Judge Cheryl Allen, Judge Judith F. Olson, Judge Sally Updyke Mundy, Judge Paula Francisco Ott.

The last three members are also joining the Court this year along with Judge Lazarus.

And we also have justice, former Justice of the Supreme Court, James J. Fitzgerald, III and Judge Robert Freedberg.

I know that you have gotten warm wishes from the other members of the Superior Court Bench who could not be here today. I know that Judge Susan Peikes Gantman would have liked to be here, but she is out of the country right now. And I know that the Senior Judges, Judges John T. Kelly, Zoran Popovich, Stephen J. McEwen, Bob Coleville, and John Cleland, have all sent their best wishes.

I also want to recognize before I go on, another member of the Appellate Bench of Pennsylvania who is present here with us today, Senior Judge Shelly Friedman.

It's nice to see you here, Shelly.

I would like now to introduce a friend and former colleague who serves with distinction as a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Mr. Justice Seamus P. McCaffery, to make remarks on behalf of Judge Lazarus.

JUSTICE SEAMUS P. McCAFFERY: Anne, I sit here so proud of you, I'm busting. I really am.

You and I both lost our first time out.

And for the members of the audience, my shvigger, my mother-in-law, if you will, always said there's a certain thing called bashert: It was meant to be.

Your election was meant to be.

Running statewide across Pennsylvania, especially as a Philadelphia democrat, is not just not fun, it's hard. In almost forty years, there's only been three Philadelphians elected to this prestigious body. Three. And that is Judge Klein – I believe Dick is sitting here in the audience

somewhere – myself, and now Anne. In forty years. That says a lot about how hard it is to run and win elections.

Edmund Spaeth was the last democrat from Philadelphia elected back in the early 1970s.

But, Anne, we all know how hard you worked. I watched from afar. We all watched you. Always with a smile, high energy, exceptionally positive. Everywhere I saw you, I kept saying, how are you holding up? Fine. How are things going? Great. Always upbeat. And you knew you were going to win. If not then, the next time. Luckily –

*(Laughter)*

JUSTICE SEAMUS P. McCAFFERY: Luckily there are no more next times.

I'm not so sure that your poor husband could have held up any longer.

But, ladies and gentlemen, this woman worked so hard and really deserves this honor.

On the topic of the Superior Court, the body of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania right now is made up predominantly of former members of that wonderful Bench: Justice Tom Saylor, Justice Mike Eakin, Madam Justice Joan Orié Melvin, and myself, all former members of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

And I want to tell you, Anne, for those of us lawyers who remember law school, the beauty of studying law is what you will find in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. It is a wonderful, wonderful court made up of incredible jurists with a great history.

It's the workhorse, literally the workhorse of the Pennsylvania judiciary. Their work product is second to none nationally. Its leadership is outstanding; and not a judge on that Bench is not ready, willing, and able to move forward and work hard.

So, again, Anne, congratulations. We're very proud of you. And I know you are going to do a great job. And I look forward to seeing you.

I believe you are going to be on the 1700 block of Market Street?

Okay. The Chief Justice is on the 1800 and I'm on the 1500, so we can all nosh together.

Mozeltoff.



*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Justice.

And it's wonderful to have you back with us.

*(Laughter)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: We miss him.

Also, I want to recognize, and I think Justice McCaffery did that a little bit, but I do want to recognize two former judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania who are here with us today. Judge Richard Klein, who we miss greatly and honored last night at the dinner, who has just retired from the Superior Court Bench, and Judge Phyllis Beck, the very first woman ever to be elected to the Superior Court, and she is here with us today.

So it's good to see both of you.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: I would next call upon for remarks for the Judge, the Honorable Legrome D. Davis, Judge of the United States Eastern District Court, to make remarks.

Thank you.

HON. LEGROME D. DAVIS: Thank you.

I may be a judge in the Eastern District, but I will tell you that I spent fifteen years in this building as a judge. And walking through this morning, I was just reminded of the rich experiences that I had and the good friendships that I developed. Which brings us to why we're here.

And for the members of the Bench, for the friends and family, and to our Chairman, Mr. Brady, or Mr. Representative, I'm not sure which you want to be called –

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT A. BRADY: Bob.

HON. LEGROME D. DAVIS: It's a pleasure. It's indeed a pleasure to be here and to talk to you very briefly about my good friend and former colleague, Anne Lazarus, who I know to be a person who always speaks her heart and her mind.

I remember clearly when I first began to develop the knowledge, familiarity, and respect for Judge Lazarus. In 1992, Judge Bonavitaola gave me the responsibility of administering the Criminal Division, which consisted of forty-six judges, and we annually processed about

fifteen thousand cases. And so our caseload was overwhelming, our procedures were antiquated, and there was a genuine challenge to seek to try to improve the way that the courts operated. But I was a young man then and I was bursting with energy and full of ideas, and many of my former colleagues here experienced some of my energy and ideas.

But, in any event, I thought that if I had a clear way, that we could improve operations. So what we needed to do was implement some of these good ideas. And I set about it with my very small team.

So very early in my tenure, I received a phone call from a new judge whom I didn't know, and that was Anne Lazarus; and she called and spoke to me in what I later learned was her very distinctive style, but she called to express disagreement with my carefully thought-out plan.

So we talked on the phone for a very long time and debated the pros and the cons; and Anne made her points sternly, thoughtfully, clearly and effectively. And rather than just simply expressing opposition, I couldn't help but notice that she very artfully presented an alternate way for achieving the same goal. And even though her approach might have been different, her comments were truly in the best interests of the court. And I knew immediately that this was a young judge who cared very deeply about the operation of the court and who recognized that every small thing makes a difference.

And so we continued our discussion. By the end of the conversation, Anne Lazarus had my respect. And I now know that this was the beginning stop of the long road to a very good friendship, you see, because I immediately respected her willingness to act on her convictions. After all, it's quite easy to silently disagree with someone. But Anne's intellectual courage compelled her to call me and to express her carefully considered views.

The other thing that stood out for me was her manner. Even though we saw things differently, she expressed her ideas with great passion. She was skillful, diplomatic, thoughtful, and respectful in advancing her views and exploring the alternatives. And I could see that her own spoken goal was to find a common ground with which we could move the court forward.

And when the conversation ended, I knew that I liked Anne Lazarus.

And so we worked together over the years, over the nine years that I was in the Criminal Division, and ours was a most satisfying, intellectual, and professional partnership. Anne received increasing responsibilities, and in each stop of the way, my appreciation of her skills and her commitment only increased.

She regularly brought the prosecution and the defense into agreement in the support of our programmatic initiatives. And for those of you from Philadelphia, we know that that's no small feat.

She really demonstrated tremendous skill; and, indeed, I learned from her.

So I truly enjoyed working with Anne because of her mind, and it is a very fine administrative mind, is always in motion thinking about ways to improve the court system and the delivery of justice.

I have long admired how she stands firm in her view of the just and the fair. I greatly respect her refusal to take the easy road and her uncommon willingness to support her ideas with substantial and special labor.

Anne Lazarus is one who strives to do the right thing for the right reasons. As a jurist and as a person, she has the strength to invoke.

So over the years, the nature of our friendship has evolved from the professional into the personal and has expanded to include our spouses, Mitchell and Sue.

And so right now, I don't know whether she's a better judge or a friend. All I can say is that she excels in both.

And so I am very pleased with her elevation to this Court. And although I will forever miss her as a colleague, I know that you will enjoy her because she is truly special.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge Davis.

And I think that all of us concur in all of your remarks.

As most of you are already aware, Judge Lazarus' judicial career has included her respected tenure as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County. Most recently, Judge Lazarus has served

in the Orphans' Court Division, but she's also taken over and served on something called the Rocket Docket. And we can't wait to hear what that is all about.

Here today to honor Judge Lazarus are distinguished members of the Philadelphia Trial Bench. And I would like to introduce them at this time, and there are several here.

We have Judge Sheldon Jelin, Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson, Judge Sandra Mazer Moss, Judge Mark Bernstein, Judge Marlene Lachman, Judge Jack Smith, Judge Bernard Goodheart, Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Judge Gary Glazer, Judge Matthew Carrafiello, Judge Denis Cohen, Judge Flora Barth Wolf, Judge Paul Panepinto, Judge William Manfredi, Judge Joseph O'Keefe, Judge Ramy Djerassi, Judge Theresa Sarmina, Judge Annette Rizzo, Judge D. Webster Keogh, and Judge Diane Welsh.

And I'm sure if other members of the Bench join us throughout the ceremony, I will be happy to introduce them.

And now I call upon the President Judge of the First Judicial District to make remarks on behalf of Judge Lazarus.

The Honorable Pamela Pryor Dembe.

HON. PAMELA PRYOR DEMBE: I'd like to start by just naming a couple other folks who are here.

We have Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell here. And we're delighted to see her here. She's been a great supporter of the court.

We have the special treat of having court reporter extraordinaire, Marge Kanyuk, down here taking down everything we say.

And a special hats-off to Ed Pawelec who really started Anne off on her legal career and fostered her love, I think, for the Orphans' Court.

Anne, as I think all of you know, in her career served in Criminal, Civil, and Orphans' Court. She took each assignment and did amazing things with it because she's smart, she's dignified, she's hard-working, and, as Judge Davis pointed out, she's thoughtful and follows through on things. And she did them all uncomplainingly, very well, and then finally got to go to her true love, the Orphans' Court.

While all of that was going on, she and her husband, Mitch, have been pillars of the Jewish community on many levels.

She's I think been the driving force in judicial ethics, and in pro bono work. Not that others haven't done an enormous amount, but Anne right from the minute she got on the Bench pushed those things, pushed them hard, and kept on pushing them, and even as other joined and left the Bench.

On top of that, she has the time to put her heart and energy into her family, her wonderful husband and her beautiful daughters. And I'm glad to see that they are here.

On top of that, she's a great cook, her house is beautiful, and her clothes are always stunning. I actually began following her around in hopes that that fashion sense would rub off. Sad to report it was a complete failure.

*(Laughter.)*

HON. PAMELA PRYOR DEMBE: I have to confess, if I didn't love her, I'd hate her.

*(Laughter.)*

HON. PAMELA PRYOR DEMBE: I'm just so blessed to have her friendship. I guess we have known each other since the mid '70s when we were at Temple Law School.

Yes, there was a law school back then, boys and girls.

And it's a friendship that I think I've gotten much more from than I've been able to give.

And I just hope that now that you've poached one of our very best talents, that I won't lose her entirely and that the wonderful friendship will continue.

I'm so proud of you.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: We have some more judges. I want to make sure I include anyone who is available.

Judge Glynnis Hill, Judge Joel Slomsky, retired, Judge Barbara Joseph.

I'm getting these fed to me on the Bench.

Judge Slomsky who is with the Eastern District Court of Appeals.

JUSTICE SEAMUS P. McCAFFERY: That's like being retired, right, Judge?

*(Laughter.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: I apologize, I had no idea you were still working up there.

Apparently you are going to be working very, very hard, according to Legrome.

And our Court Administrator is here today, Court Administrator David Lawrence.

And I'd like to say a special thank you to Mike Spaziano. He's done a fabulous job of setting everything up and keeping us all in line. And I thank you very much. And I appreciate it.

Now, our next speaker we are honored today to have with us – and I have to do this formally, Bob—Congressman Robert A. Brady. I'd like to call upon you for remarks, but I also want to say that we are very pleased that you are here. There are obviously several members and people on this Bench and members of the Bench sitting out there that owe you a deep debt of gratitude.

And it's nice to have you here, Bob.

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT A. BRADY: Thank you, Your Honor, and thank you for recognizing that.

*(Laughter.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: And you applaud.

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT A. BRADY: I love the ambition. But ambition has known me.

Good morning, everyone, ladies and gentlemen, all the members of the various Benches of judiciary, and to the family.

It's my honor and my pleasure to be here and to congratulate the newly elected Superior Court Judge Anne Lazarus.

And I'd like to congratulate her for her persistence. There is nobody I know who is more persistent. Anne ran citywide, and she ran for retention, so she ran citywide twice. And she came to me and told me what a tough thing it was and not complained but talk about how much help she needed and what she was doing and how hard she was working.

And then she won in the Court of Common Pleas, and she said what a great experience it was that she had the chance to get out in the City of Philadelphia to meet all people, not just to stay behind closed

doors, but to get out and to feel and touch and get the flavor and the feel of the people, the people that would come in front of her with various problems, and it gave her a great education, as it does all judges, I believe, a great education for the feel of what we do.

And she came on to run statewide. And she did. And she did a great job, and she should have won. There are a lot of different reasons why people don't run for office, and one of them is territorial efforts at the time, if there's a bigger race happening in one part of the state other than in the other part of the state. None of which had to do with quality or ability, which she has, without question, an abundance of.

The second time was a charm. She ran again and came again and said she wanted to do this, and we got behind her and supported her wholeheartedly.

And with that, I'd like to also recognize all of the members of the ward leaders that were behind her in the City of Philadelphia for the Court of Common Pleas, not just statewide.

Would you please stand up.

I know I see Mattie Myers and a bunch of them back there.

Thank you for all you've done to make this day possible.

I also see John Cordisco, Chairman of Bucks County.

John, thank you.

We also have our Auditor General, Jack Wagner.

Thank you Jack, for taking he trip down and spending some time with us.

In running statewide, I learned something this weekend, that you have to have patois.

Anybody know what that means?

Well, I was criticized because I had patois and didn't know what it meant. It's a dialect. If you can understand my dialect.

And Anne found out that there's a dialect in different parts of the state. We probably have the only state, and I can appreciate being in congress with a whole bunch of other members of different parts of the country and different states, that we're probably the only state with our own patois, our own type of language.

When you run in Greene County, you're Balb. When you're up in Allegheny County, it's Baub. When you're up in Lehigh County, it's something else. But she was able to do that and bring that all together. And, again, from her first experience from running in the City –

Here's Alan Butkovitz. City, Controller, Alan Butkovitz.

Hello, Alan. Thank you for coming by. Thank you for your help up in the Northeast and for helping us be here today.

And it was that patois that you need to get together to wrap your arms around to get folks from all different parts of the state to be able to become a judge statewide.

And she won. And then they call a recall. Anne's stuck in the middle of a recall.

About ten days, three weeks after the election, I got a phone call, and I picked it up – I answer all my calls personally – and I heard “pew”, and I knew who that was. And I said congratulations, if anybody, anybody around in the State of Pennsylvania deserves to be sitting on the Superior Court.

And not to make any kind of a correction of any justice or the judges, it may not be her last statewide run. So you never say never.

But if anybody deserves that and deserves to be a judge, it's Superior Court Judge Anne Lazarus.

So with that, it was my honor to fly a flag over the United States Capitol in your honor yesterday. And I just had it shipped this morning and I hope you keep it in your office as a reminder, in remembrance of me.

Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Very nice remarks. Thank you, Congressman.

We also want to recognize Judge Bob Matthews, and as the Congressman mentioned, City Controller Alan Butkovitz is here.

And I apologize, Auditor General Jack Wagner, I didn't realize you were back there. So welcome, and it's nice to have you here.



I would next call upon Attorney Sayde Ladov, Immediate Past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, to come forward and make remarks on behalf of Judge Lazarus.

SAYDE J. LADOV, ESQ.: Thank you.

May it please the Court, Justice McCaffery, President Judge Ford Elliott, President Judge Dembe, Judge Davis, all the members of the Superior Court, Common Pleas, Municipal Court, honored guests, friends, welcome to the Pittsburgh Ladies, we're so glad you're here.

On behalf of the thirteen thousand members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, it is a special privilege to be here today to extend heartfelt congratulations to Judge Lazarus on this wonder occasion.

I feel truly honored to be here today because I have the unique opportunity to speak not only about the highly impressive accomplishments of an exceptional jurist, but also about the wonderful person I know as my friend Anne.

Judge Lazarus' nineteen years of outstanding contributions to our justice system and the judicial community have truly distinguished her in a multitude of ways. She is a career public servant who has worked collectively as a law clerk, counsel to the court, and judge for more than three decades.

During that time, she has tried enumerable cases and taken advanced law degrees. Her education, teaching, pro bono work, Law Review articles, and her trial experience make her exceptionally qualified to serve on the Superior Court.

But I can think of no better example of Judge Lazarus' selfless dedication to our profession than her numerous and profound contributions to our Bar Association.

When the Philadelphia Bar Association calls, Judge Lazarus has never said no. She has taken her superior knowledge and unique experience within our legal community and has given freely to our Bar Association to not only improve the quality of lawyering, but to strengthen the very foundation of our practice.

She has dedicated herself to countless Bar Association initiatives through our sections, committees, and task forces. As a member of the

Board of Philadelphia VIP, she remains fully committed to the provision of pro bono services to those unable to afford legal assistance.

Just recently she was instrumental in recruiting lawyers for VIP's effort to help more than fourteen thousand potential clients who live in homes titled in their deceased relatives' names. Without the critical trial assistance they could otherwise not afford, these clients could not enter into payment agreements for delinquent real estate taxes or obtain free repair services from the City and faced losing or abandoning their homes.

Judge Lazarus puts a premium on performing community service and has made a priority of encouraging pro bono work among the lawyers who practice before her. She reminds us in this critical economic time when it's even more difficult than ever to provide free legal services, as professionals we have an obligation to help those who need our services more than ever.

But Judge Lazarus always remembers her main responsibility is to the people of this Commonwealth. While on the judicial campaign trail, she was quoted as saying, I believe that judges remember always that they are solving real problems for real people.

She has chaired the First Judicial District Judges Pro Bono Committee and among countless awards she has received over the years, is most proud of her recognition by the Pennsylvania Bar Association as the first-ever recipient of the Judicial Pro Bono Award.

But allow me to speak for a moment about the woman who I am fortunate enough to call friend.

Judge Anne and I come from a generation of women who can do it all and who have no problem saying it all. Prior to joining the Bench, Judge Lazarus worked for fifteen years and had a demanding career at a large law firm, coupled with the unique challenges of raising two daughters with the help of her wonderful husband of thirty-two years, Mitchell Klevan.

Her indomitable spirit allows her the strength not to be denied when she knows she has something to offer the community. She stood tall during her second run for our state's intermediate appellate court and emerged victorious in a recount required in a close race.

Judge Lazarus is a living testament to the fact that you really can have it all, because she has done it all. Always while giving back.

Over the years she has mentored countless law students and young lawyers while advocating again for the importance of pro bono service.

But those among us who have benefitted from her wisdom and guidance are not limited to the newest members of the Bar.

I will always be grateful to you, Anne, for being there as a friend, sounding board, and even a release valve, especially when I ran for Chancellor. When I needed to vent, you stood by me. Even talking me down off the ceiling a few times.

In fact, over the last fifteen years, there has not been a time when Anne was not in my life. That is a true hallmark of friendship and it is a friendship that I continue to deeply cherish.

Many of you know that Judge Lazarus served as the first Chancellor of the Louis D. Brandeis Society. Before the Brandeis Society, I had the great honor to serve with Judge Lazarus as a member of the Tau Epsilon Rho Law Society. As strong as the organization was, Anne had the foresight to know it could be even stronger. Through her hard work, dedication, measured negotiation skills, the stars and planets aligned for her to do what needed to be done to better serve the needs of the membership.

You get that that's really a hallmark of who Judge Lazarus is. In every way possible, Anne was the driving force in building on a foundation of a tremendous organization and turning a new page in its history with the inception of the Brandeis Law Society.

Only you, Anne, could have done it.

Judge Lazarus has a wealth of experience. She has presided over complex cases, served in the various divisions of the Common Pleas Court, and most recently on her beloved Orphans' Court where she dealt with guardianships, trust cases, and failing nonprofits. She was the first woman in Philadelphia to handle the Rocket Docket to cut the backlog of cases, arguably the most rigorous docket in our court system.

Judge Lazarus chairs the Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Ethics Committee for all trial judges statewide. She is the ethics guru. She was appointed to the

Governor's Commission on Crime and Delinquency and also served as Chairperson of the First Judicial District Merit Selection Committee.

Those who have sought out the leadership of this remarkable jurist know that great things are possible when they are in your accomplished hands.

As America's first Bar Association and Pennsylvania's largest local Bar, the Philadelphia Bar Association is proud to be a keystone in the ongoing development of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania legal systems.

In this spirit, we applaud you, Anne, for your remarkable contribution to our justice system. We salute you for your dedication to ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for all, especially our most vulnerable populations.

Judge Lazarus, day after day, your leadership and service to the Bench and Bar has been a shining example of judicial integrity and dedication to the ideals of our justice system. Your commitment to public service stands almost two decades, and we know you will continue to serve the Commonwealth with honor and distinction.

On behalf of our Bar and the entire legal community, we thank you for your outstanding contributions to our profession and tireless dedication to ensuring fairness and equality in the courts.

It is our hope that today's Installation will inspire generations of attorneys, especially young women, who will benefit from your trail-blazing leadership and vision.

Anne, on behalf of David, Hillary, Lauren, and Selma, I wish you and your family, Mitchell, Larissa, Sarah, and your in-laws, Morton and Bea Klevan, and I know your dad is smiling, heartfelt congratulations.

Thank you and God bless.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Beautifully done, Madam Chancellor.

I would like to welcome Judge Patricia McInerney, Judge George Overton, Judge Diane Thompson, and Judge Leon Tucker, who just joined us.

And as a personal point of privilege, I want to recognize Carol Fitzgerald who is in the audience. She is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Society.

And sitting next to her is President Susan Rutt, who is President of the Democratic Federation of Women of Pennsylvania.

It's nice to have both of you here.

And, of course, to the Pittsburgh Girls, Bonnie DiCarlo and Jann Chiridon, not only Anne but several members of this Bench wouldn't be here without you.

I also, before I administer our oath and ask for the Commission to be read, I'd like you, Anne, to know that several people who are going to be working very hard for you on the court are here. Our Executive Administrator, David Szewczak, is in attendance, our Prothonotary, Karen Bramblett, and our Assistant Chief Staff Attorney, Len Blazick, are here to honor you, to welcome you, and you will find them invaluable.

I would like to introduce Mitchell H. Klevan, Judge Lazarus' husband and tireless fellow campaigner—I think, Mitch, you could be here as easily as Anne, you worked so hard—to present the Commission from Governor Edward G. Rendell.

MITCHELL H. KLAVEN, ESQUIRE: Thank you.

If it please this most honorable and distinguished assemblage of jurists, it is with great pride and admiration and love for our newest Judge of the Superior Court that I read this Commission.

But I just want to put into perspective what Anne has accomplished.

She will go down in history, the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as being the first woman from Philadelphia to win any statewide election for any office ever.

That is quite an accomplishment.

*(Applause.)*

MITCHELL H. KLEVAN, ESQUIRE: The other little interesting tidbit of trivia which I would like to give you is that in the history of our distinguished Superior Court, there have been three Jewish women on the Court: Judge Beck, Judge Gantman, and now Judge Lazarus. All three of these distinguished women are members of the same synagogue, Beth Hillel-Beth El.

So I don't know whether it's something in the Shabbat service, but if there are any Jewish women in the audience today with higher aspirations, I would suggest they consider their affiliation.

*(Laughter.)*

MITCHELL H. KLEVAN, ESQUIRE: Now if I may read the Commission:

Governor's Office  
Anne E. Lazarus  
Of the County of  
Philadelphia  
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Greetings, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law of the election held on the third day of November, two thousand and nine, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, That in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a

Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth, Third Priority of the Commission.

To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and ten, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

MITCHELL H. KLEVAN, ESQUIRE: My marriage license doesn't have that proviso.

*(Laughter.)*

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-second day of December, two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty fourth.

Edward G. Rendell, Governor.

Pedro A. Cortes, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

*(Applause.)*

HON KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Lazarus, as you take your Oath of Office today, I want to once again welcome you to a court which is steeped in tradition and wisely respected. We are all confident that your service on this Court will only enhance that reputation.

We are a court where friendship and collegiality run deep, and this will hold you in good stead as you bear the weight of the judicial duties as an appellate judge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

You know, as we do, that service as a judge is an honor and a privilege, but our Oath of Office reminds us what an awesome responsibility it is as well.

And now I would ask –

Oh we've already done this, but I was going to call upon Mitchell Klevan, Sarah and Larissa Klevan, and Mr. and Mrs. Morton Klevan, to arrive at the Bench to robe the Judge after I administer the oath of office.

Could we all please stand for the oath.

Raise your right hand.

HON. ANNE E. LAZARUS: I, Anne E. Lazarus, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge my duties as a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania with fidelity.

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Congratulations, Your Honor.

*(Applause.)*

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge, I would ask that you now join your new Bench.

*(Applause.)*

HON. ANNE E. LAZARUS: It's been a long time coming. And I've been on this Bench on several occasions with some of my colleagues, but it has an entirely different meaning today.

Dear family, friends, colleagues, thank you so much for being here to share this wonderful experience with me and thanks to each of the speakers who gave me a foreshadowing of what my eulogy is going to be. You all spoke so eloquently, I didn't know of whom you were speaking.

*(Laughter.)*

HON. ANNE E. LAZARUS: One of my favorite political heroes, Hillary Clinton, has often been quoted as saying, It takes a village to raise a child. It certainly takes way more than that to get a democrat from Philadelphia elected in the state.

I had the opportunity during my campaign to meet Hillary; and when she found out that I was running, she quickly inducted me into The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pantsuits and told me never to quit. So I didn't.

I'm so humbled and proud to be the first woman from Philadelphia to win a statewide election. Luckily I had a tremendous amount of help, and everyone in this room has aided me in some way.

I know I will leave someone out, so I ask your forgiveness in advance.

To get to this day, as you well know, it started several years ago. It actually began with winning my Common Pleas race with the help of Congressman Brady, who has so graciously spoken here today. When he gets behind you, he does so all the way. And I am so deeply grateful for his help and his very kind words today.

Thank you.

Of course, navigating through Philadelphia politics is not easy. I especially want to thank John Sabatina and other ward leaders in Philadelphia who made sure that I won this election.

When I decided to run, I spoke to one of my very good friends, Judge Shelly Friedman of the Commonwealth Court, and she told me that if I was going to run a statewide campaign, I needed to meet her dear friend, Bonnie DiCarlo. Bonnie and I met in Pittsburgh, and for more than three years, she has pushed, cajoled, and been my alter ego when I could not physically get to an event.



So I thank you, Bonnie.

She was helped by Jann Chirdon, who fits easily between a republican and democratic campaign, and just insists that she can believe in a candidate that she works for.

And I thank her for believing in me. I am so glad.

One thing no one tells you that when you're running a statewide campaign and you're a sitting judge, you still have all of your work to do. So I thank my two colleagues on the Orphans' Court Bench, Administrative Judge Joseph O'Keefe and Judge John Herron, for allowing me to impose upon them.

Thank you.

And especially my staff, who never let me forget my BlackBerry, kept the office running so well, and never let me get behind in my work.

Thank you Rose, Caroline and Charlie. Thank you so much.

I had the good fortune to run with six of the best candidates that you could ever wish for on the appellate court, and I'm sorry that I am the only one of the democrats who made it, but each of them made running in this election a joy.

Then there are your friends, really your family of choice. We know who you are. The ones who will speak on your behalf at a moment's notice. Even though they don't believe in the election of judges, they will stand on street corners and get signatures for you, they will entertain your spouse while you're trying to find your way to a Kiwanis meeting in Lycoming County. They are the ones who cheer you up when you lose and encourage you to run again.

And I have to especially thank Sandra Williams who has been with me for the last twenty-nine years helping me to run my household and helping me to raise my children and take care of my husband.

Thank you.

When you decide to run for office, someone needs to be the boss, and you're not it. You need someone who can help you keep track of the calendar, make the necessary calls, not based on emotion, but based upon what you have to do to win the election.

I had the best overall campaign chair anyone could ask for in Dan Fee. His staff, particularly Bridget and Jackie, worked tirelessly to make

sure I covered as many counties as humanly possible and got the literature out, ordered the signs, et cetera.

Even if you have the support of all of the county chairs, who are tremendous, and all of the ward leaders, particularly in Philadelphia and Allegheny County, and you have a great staff, you cannot win an election in this Commonwealth without the good support and, of course, the ability to raise the funds to get the message out.

So many people helped me in this arena, but I have to mention a few. Bill George, Pat Gillespie, Eileen Connelly, John Tafazio, Pat Eiding, Tom Herman, Danny Grace, John Meyerson, Dee Tancredi, Ted Hirsch, Jack Shay, always aided by Carolyn and Barbara in his office, and, of course, John Vento.

But without a doubt, no one in labor worked harder for me than Johnny Dougherty and Bob Henon and members of the Philadelphia IBEW. And I say that they were tireless and always there.

I have to thank the trial lawyers, particularly the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers, Laura Feldman, Rosemary Pinto, Bob Mongeluzzi and his office, Alan Feldman, Tom Kline, just to name a few, although there are so many more.

I also need to thank Bill Carocelli, Bill Petrogallo, and Cindy Danel in Pittsburgh. They were just great.

From the defense Bar, especially Peter Hoffman and James Rohn who were there for me.

And last, but certainly not least, Dan McCaffery. Without a doubt, I could not have gotten on TV without him.

And then God bless our election system. There was a recount. And we had to have a team to deal with that. So I thank John Gatoski, Irv Aaronson, and George Bochetto for dealing with whatever came up so effectively, that there were no appeals, lawsuits, et cetera, and that the election for all of the Superior Court judges was eventually confirmed.

I would be remiss if I could not thank publically Susan Gantman, who, although she cannot be here today, she called me every day and told me I had nothing to worry about, that if she can do it with twenty-seven votes, with twenty-seven hundred I was fine.

She is one of the best Superior Court mentors, along with Jack Panella, the people could have. But she is indicative of the Court of which I am now a member.

So many of you, my colleagues, have called, sent letters, e-mails, all welcoming me to the best court in the state.

Since Justice McCaffery is here, I won't speculate as to the truth of that statement, but he certainly didn't seem the worse for wear for being on that Court, did he?

And I have been so lucky to have been a part of such a wonderful collegial and wonderful Common Pleas Court, and I will miss everyone on that Court.

I need to remember on this wonderful day, my parents, Sydney and Esther of blessed memory, who endowed me with the grit that it takes to run a statewide election twice and keep smiling through it. I am sure that my father, who was born in Scotland and could not get into medical school because he was Jewish and there were quotas, never dreamed that his daughter could become a judge on an intermediate appellate court in the state.

And then there is the rest of my family. I'm an only child, so there aren't too many. But to Bea and Mort, my in-laws, for so much more, thank you for being there for the last thirty-two years and for going through three tough elections.

My mother-in-law, Bea, was at the polls in Montgomery County from sunrise to sunset. Even the republican committee chair was impressed.

And let's give my father-in-law, Mort, a hand, please. It's his birthday on Friday,

Doesn't he look good for eighty-five?

*(Applause.)*

HON. ANNE. E. LAZARUS: My sister and brother-in-law, Fred and Sandy, not only fund-raised for me but had a sign on their front yard. Probably the only time a democratic candidate had a chance for that.

Thank you Valerie Moore for also being there for me.

And then, of course, there are my children, Sarah and Larissa, who did so much. They called, hugged, e-mailed. They never minded, or at least they didn't show me that they minded, when I was distracted, out of reach, ought of sight, for so many days, when birthdays were missed or celebrated late.

Finally, there's my husband, Mitch. Not only is he an awesome lawyer, but a wonderful person. This was a terrible year for him, but he never let it stop him from encouraging me and keeping the time to speak to me when he needed to, and he could so little afford to do it.

Thank you for being my best and biggest fan always. I hope that the next thirty-three years together are as good as the last thirty-two have been.

*(Applause.)*

HON. ANNE E. LAZARUS: When I first got on the bench in 1991, Mitchell commissioned a piece of art that will hang in my new office and hung in my office, and to quote very loosely from Leviticus, it says: Don't judge the rich differently than the poor or the weak differently than the strong.

That is the motto that I have tried to live up to in the last nineteen years, it's the motto that I will live by for the next ten or however many years I will be on the Bench.

I just have to thank you all for allowing me to get to this day.

Thank you so much.

I will endeavor to make each and every one of you proud of your part in getting me elected to the Superior Court.

And now let's get a bite to eat.

*(Applause.)*

HON. ANNE E. LAZARUS: If you will, please join us for a reception in the Atrium of, in the words of Pittsburgh, what used to be the Wanamaker Building, and is now Macy's, right across the street.

Thank you very much.

HON. KATE FORD ELLIOTT: And I now call upon Mr. Morrissey to close this special Ceremonial Session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

COURT CRIER: This very special Session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

(Special Session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania adjourned at 12:15 P.M.)

**THE HONORABLE  
SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY**



*Assumed Office: January 15, 2010  
County: Tioga*

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF  
THE HONORABLE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY  
AS JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**

Tioga County Courthouse  
118 Main Street  
Wellsboro, PA

Friday, January 15, 2010  
11:30 a.m.

**PRESIDING:**  
HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

**SPEAKERS:**  
WILLIAM A. HEBE, ESQUIRE  
NANCY H. FULLAM, ESQUIRE

PRESIDENT JUDGE KATE FORD ELLIOTT  
JAMES F. MUNDY, ESQUIRE

## PROCEEDINGS

MR. SPICHER: The Honorable Judges of the Superior Court, oyez, oyez, oyez, let the ceremonial session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order. President Judge Kate Ford Elliott presiding.

Let all men or persons rise and attend, Let the family, friends and associates of Judge-Elect Sallie Updyke Mundy be joyful. Let the citizens of the Commonwealth be confident and sure as the Superior Court convenes for the administration to Sallie Updyke Mundy the oath of office in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Good Morning, everyone. Before we begin our official ceremony today, I would like to call upon all of us to take just a moment of silence in honor of Trooper Paul Richey who lost his life in the line of duty the other day. And it's tragedies like this that makes everyone in the justice system sit down and just pause. And so I'd like to do that if you wouldn't mind, just a moment of silence.

*(Moment of silence in Honor of Trooper Paul Richey).*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And now I'd like to officially start the ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in Tioga County today in ceremonial session to welcome to our bench the Honorable Sallie Updyke Mundy. I would like to call upon Tioga County Commissioner, the Honorable Erick Coolidge for the singing of our national anthem. Please let us all stand.

*(National Anthem Sung).*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you so much. I would ask that John A. Mundy and Ralph Daniel Mundy come forward. John, if you'll please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then we can be seated for Ralph to sing My Country Tis of Thee.

*(Pledge of Allegiance Recited).*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, beautifully done.

*(My Country 'Tis of Thee Sung),*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, Ralph. That was beautifully done. I would now call upon Reverend Peter A. DeVantier of the Trinity Luthern Church and School for our invocation.

*(Invocation Recited).*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you Reverend, for your blessing. Judge Mundy, when you take the bench today you will join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is well established. Your colleagues warmly welcome you and we know that we will benefit from your legal scholarship, your reputation for integrity and as many of us have already found over the years, your friendship. With close to 8,000 new appeal filings every year, we can really use your help.

We also cannot fail to observe your obvious ability to multitask. With your experience as a practicing trial lawyer, Bar Association leader and a cattle rancher, so I'm told, and mother of five, I'm not quite sure when you found the time to mount a statewide campaign, but you did, and you won. We are glad. And you have brought wonderful recognition to your home in Tioga County as the second appellate judge elected to the Superior Court in its history.

I did not know that until I was preparing my remarks and I listed yours the first but then went back and did a little homework and found out that in 1990, John I. Mitchell – I'm sorry, 1900 actually, 1900 John I. Mitchell joined the Superior Court after he had been elected. He did not serve long, only until 1902 because of illness, but I can say that you're the first elected woman judge for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania from Tioga County. So congratulations.

I would now like to introduce the members of the Superior Court who join me today to welcome Judge Mundy. I am President Judge Kate Ford Elliott. Also in attendance we have Judge Correale F. Stevens.



We have Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Susan Peikes Gantman, Judge Anne E. Lazarus, Judge Judith Ference Olson, Judge Paula Francisco Ott and Senior Judge John M. Cleland from right up here in McKean County, close by. I also want to make sure I introduce Judge Patricia A. McCullough who's joining us today from our sister appellate court, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. I want to especially recognize the President Judge of Tioga Court of Common Pleas, your own Judge Robert E. Dalton, Jr. and I must tell you, Judge, not only is this an absolutely magnificent courtroom, but this is the biggest gavel I've ever seen. You don't mind if I borrow this, do you?

I also want to recognize in attendance District Judges, Phillip L. Sweet, James E. Carlson and Brian Edgcomb. Also visiting from Potter County is Judge John Leete, and we are very pleased to have him here. Thank you for being here. At this time I would like to call upon Attorney William A. Hebe of the firm Spencer, Gleason, Hebe and Rague, to come forward and make remarks on behalf of Judge Mundy.

ATTORNEY HEBE: May it please Your Honors, may it please everyone. This may be the only chance I will have in my life to speak to appellate court judges and not be interrupted by questions. So I'm going to take advantage of it. If everybody would just pipe down back there. Boy, that felt good. When Sallie asked me if I would say a few things today, she said, well, it might as well be you since you know the good, the bad and the ugly. Well, Sallie, I don't know any bad. I sure don't know any ugly. So this is all going to be good.

In thinking about what Sallie has accomplished, a little geography lesson I think would be in order for those of you who may be from Philadelphia or Pittsburgh or south of Interstate 80. So I brought along my official Pennsylvania map. You're probably familiar with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's a huge, huge state. If you look carefully up here, Tioga, and Sallie, I've highlighted Tioga in pink. To think about what Sallie has accomplished, coming from the Village of Tioga, launching a statewide campaign to be elected to Pennsylvania Superior Court you might ask yourself how has she done it. How has she done all that she has done as a daughter and as a mother, and has a husband, as an attorney, is a candidate for a statewide office and is now elected

to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. I ran across a quote, and I'll have to change the gender wording in this quote just a little bit, but it goes something like this. If a woman has a talent and cannot use it, she has failed. If she has a talent and uses only half of it, she has partly failed. If she has a talent and learns somehow to use the whole of it, she has gloriously succeeded and won a satisfaction and a triumph few people will ever know. Sallie, somehow you've learned to use all of your talent. And when I think about where Sallie has come from, and what she has done and where I think she is going, and sort of how she's done it, I can't help but think of her family, of Bud Updyke and Bonnie and growing up in Tioga. I grew up in Liberty, population 205. Sallie grew up in Tioga, I don't know the population but we always considered it a metropolis.

But one of the things, if you grew up in Liberty and you were a male, you were a volunteer firefighter. There was no choice in the matter. And in about 1964 the Village of Tioga and the Tioga County Firemen's Association started a fire school in Tioga. One of the things they did was build an old shack. Youngsters in tenth, eleventh grade in high school, would be handed a fire hose and guys like Bud Updyke would light a fire of tires and debris and say go in and put the fire out. That was 44, 45 years ago. I can still hear Bud Updyke directly behind me as I'm on my hands and knees wearing what was then called a Scott Air Pack for the first time going in this burning building and Bud saying, just keep your head down and keep going, and you know, for 45 years I remembered that.

There are times in all of our lives when there are bumps and grinds along the way. I thought back to those 45 years and Bud Updyke and that jaunty walk of his, kind of almost a cocky little walk, saying, Bill, just keep your head down and keep going. What a great life lesson. I have continued to know Bud all those years and, of course, I know Bonnie. When you think about waking up every day and going to work in a factory and raising children in the Community of Tioga, in a sense you say to yourself, how can Sallie miss.

The kind of an experience growing up in that kind of community I know what it's meant to me all my life growing up in Liberty and coming back home, and Sallie has come back home. Thomas Hardy

wrote *You Can't Go Home Again*. Well, Sallie, you've come home. We are so proud of you. We are so proud of your family. I know your family is indeed proud of you but in a sense given where you come from we would expect nothing less. So God bless you and good luck in your career. Bonnie and Bud must be so proud. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much, Mr. Hebe. I want to thank you also on behalf of all the members of the Court and the Bar Association for the wonderful reception last night for the Court. It was truly a lovely, lovely evening. Thank you.

Before we call upon our next speaker for remarks I want to just recognize a few public officials who are here today to honor Judge Mundy. We have Representative Matthew F. Baker from the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania who for 19 or 20 years you've been serving?

REPRESENTATIVE BAKER: Close enough

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: We also have along with Erick Coolidge who we just heard from and some other Tioga County Commissioners, Sue Vogler and Mark Hamilton. We welcome you and we thank you again for your beautiful interlude. I'll also recognize the husband, of Judge McCullough who is here today, Charles McCullough who is a member of the Allegheny County Council. He drove all the way up here from Pittsburgh. Now I'd like to call upon Attorney Nancy H. Fullam for remarks. How nice to see you here.

ATTORNEY FULLAM: Thank you very much, Your Honor, Greetings, President Judge and members of the Court, Judge Dalton, members of the Tioga County Bar Association who have turned out in full force. It's an honor to be among you and to be allowed to speak when so many of you I'm sure would do better. Most importantly, I thank you for the honor to the Updyke and Mundy families.

I am a trial lawyer and the first thing we learn to do is know when not to speak. Following the speakers who have been here so far and particularly, John and Daniel, I was just blown away, exceptional, exceptional with yet more to come.

Let me introduce myself. I'm Nancy Fullam and I've had the privilege of being Sallie Updyke and Sallie Mundy's friend for more than 20 years now. I've had the privilege of practicing law with her for almost

a dozen years. We refused to give up that privilege even when she did relocate to Tioga County and we have had the privilege of working with her right up to the end of the election as best we could. If I could have had a couple of words and not felt totally guilty, I certainly would have.

But I'm here I think to really just speak about my perspective on how fortunate the Court is to have Sallie joining them as one of its newest members. I say that with humility because I've had the privilege of knowing many of you actually over the course of my career and I have just an enormous respect for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, for its integrity, for its hard work, for its great intelligence and its burgeoning female ranks which I think speaks to the quality of the Court. I can say that as a female. No disrespect is intended. I'm the daughter of a male judge so I have a chance to get a little bit even with that.

Sallie actually has prepared herself for this position I think from the time that she was in law school at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a very goal-oriented, very private and a very unassuming, very humble but very, very focused woman and attorney and now Judge. She has, like when you started to mention geography, Bill, I got nervous, because I thought there goes a big chunk of what I was going to say. But Sallie is familiar with all parts of the state. She's lived in Pittsburgh when she went to law school. She came from Tioga, although I notice that you were born in Elmira, which I wondered about the hospital here at that time. But in any event, you've lived in Tioga. You've lived and worked in Southeastern Pennsylvania for many years.

She was an attorney for a long time and growing her career in State College, Pennsylvania. Sallie has acquainted herself with all parts of the state. She's immersed herself in friendships and professional relationships with attorneys and judges across the Commonwealth. She has focused her practice not on one area of the law which many of us have done, including myself, but she started as a law clerk. Then as a civil defense attorney, trying major cases within a few years of her graduation from law school which some of you may not realize was an enormous honor and privilege and a sign of respect for her professional accomplishments, abilities and just tenacity to take on the toughest and most experienced opposing counsel without blinking, without losing ground

and doing it with a degree of grace that brought her to the attention of many very early in her career.

I got to know Sallie when she was first involved in the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Her qualities and leadership were recognized through her role in the Young Lawyers Division. She was selected for what was considered a privilege in the Bar Trust which oversaw the insurance and insurance relationships and professional responsibility obligations to the bar for all the lawyers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She served as a member of the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association as well. And through a variety of ways and a variety of capacities then came to the attention of my old friend, Jim Mundy, who has probably the greatest coup of his entire life getting Sallie Updyke's attention. And the rest is history.

But it was a result of that great love that she was brought to South-eastern Pennsylvania at least for a period of time. And after she worked in the professional responsibility field as an attorney at the Schwartz, Campbell and Detweiler firm for so many years, we were able to persuade her to join our firm where we do a lot of labor-related work and also civil litigation in the professional negligence area.

I think Sallie allowed us the privilege of getting to know her in that capacity because of her recognition of where she wanted to be. She wanted to be a lawyer and a professional who would have a perspective of all aspects of the Bar and the practice of law. She's done that both by being a defense lawyer and a plaintiff's lawyer knowing that this day might come if things worked well for her. She had the good fortune to achieve this position.

She made an effort to seek out attorneys and practitioners and areas of law that she had limited exposure. There are an awful lot of judges who have had to pick up the ranks of responsibility as a judge without any exposure to criminal law. Sallie made an effort to make sure that when it was her turn, that would not be true.

But as her friend, let me speak beyond the issues of her perspective on training for this day, and to let you know that I think that her qualities, character and personality are the things that make me most

proud to know her. They also make me personally recognize what great strengths she brings as a judge.

Sallie never personally distinguished between the most powerful among us and the least among us. Sallie always knows something personal and a great deal of personal things about anyone that she meets. She can tell you about their kids. She can tell you about their families. She always knows something. Why is that? Because she's genuinely interested in people. She's one of the best listeners I've ever met. There are so many people in our profession when after you spend a half hour with them you know all about them, their greatest accomplishments, their most wonderful trip, you know, their greatest sports accomplishment. You spend a half hour with Sallie walk away and ask yourself, what she did to brag about herself, what she did to express interest in you and the people around you and her family and touting the accomplishments of others. That is not coming from a person without her own accomplishments which I hope everyone will recognize. She's very collaborative.

We've worked on major cases together. She steps forward with motions that with my own quite different personality perhaps would not have been nearly as successful, but she has a special ability with people. On a court with three-judge panels and other panels, the ability to listen to others, to work, to extend ideas, to be respectful, to never cut loose your goal. Those are critical to success. I've had the privilege of knowing Sallie long enough to know that she has that in Spades, so to speak.

However, if you look at her and say, wow, what a lovely young woman, she's so graceful and she's graceful in barn clothes I might add. Don't underestimate her resolve. She is a force of nature and she is on if it's something important, if it's a point of privilege, if it's an issue of integrity or character. If it touches her deep moral compass nothing in the world would make Sallie Updyke Mundy budge, I think that when it comes to what's right, what's fair, what's just, which is what we hope for in any member of our bench whether in trial or the appellant level, Sallie has those qualities of integrity, of character, of caring, and she'll never lose them.

I think it's really this community in many ways that we all have the opportunity to thank for being part of shaping and reinforcing the

qualities of character that she has for strengths of leadership and fortitude that have made her the tremendous mother, tremendous spouse and tremendous friend that I have a brief moment to get to thank and honor today. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Mundy, as you know, we are, of course, 15 judges in the Commission. You are now one of them and five senior judges. I know you have heard from several members of our court who were unable to be here today because of very personal reasons. I just want you to know that I have heard from them. I know you have heard from them and we do welcome you. In reference to something that Attorney Fullam just said, it is an interesting situation that the court now has because when I joined the court in 1990 I was only the second woman ever elected to the Superior Court in its history, and it was founded in 1895. We now have ten women and five men sitting in Commission. So as I said at our last court, we are willing to have counselors on standby if any of you want to discuss this. But it seems to be working out very well, so that's wonderful.

I also want to introduce before our next speaker just some additional members of the family of the Superior Court who are here that you'll get to know quite well. We have our Executive Administrator, David Szewczak, who is here. We have our Deputy Prothonotary from the Middle District seated in Harrisburg and that's Milan Mrkobrad. And we also, as you know, have our Court Crier here, Gary Spicher. So they are there, call upon them if you need them.

The court now wishes to recognize a former President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the husband of our newest judge and a friend to many of us on this bench, Attorney James F. Mundy to make remarks.

ATTORNEY MUNDY: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please Your Honor and all the members of the Superior Court, all the members of the judiciary who are here, all of our honored guests, all of our friends. I feel a little bit like Mr. Hebe because this is the last time I'll be able to make an address in front of my wife. You know, John I. Mitchell that was mentioned earlier who was the last was quite a man. He hailed from the Tioga section of our county where Sallie came from. He was

a lawyer in Wellsboro. He was the District Attorney of our county. He represented our county in the State Legislature.

He represented our county—by the way, I'm saying our county now, did you hear that—in the United States Congress. He was a United States Senator. He was the President Judge of our county, and then at age 62 he ran for and was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. That is the last time anyone from the great northern tier of Pennsylvania had won that office until today. The drought is over.

I used to be known as Jim Mundy until the last year or so. The last year or so I've been know as Mr. Sallie Updyke Mundy. But I've had the great honor and the great privilege of escorting Sallie as she traversed this great Commonwealth, length and width, putting 70,000 miles on our Yukon, new set of brakes, new set of tires. It was a campaign that had a hard time getting started. You see, when a woman from Tioga County was calling up around the state to leaders saying I want to run for the Superior Court, nobody called back. Tioga County, this woman wants to run for the Superior Court? It wasn't happening.

So remembering that all politics are local, we turned to our good friend, State Representative Matt Baker, and Matt Baker made the calls. Then people started listening and the campaign got started. It really got started that second week of December of 2008 at the meeting of the Pennsylvania Society in New York where we were the guests of my lifelong best friend since meeting him in Sister Bernardy's seventh grade class at Westside Central Catholic High School, Patrick O'Connor, who hosted us at that dinner. He took on the most thankless job there is, that of being a campaign manager for a statewide candidate. It's all sacrifice and no glory. Also in New York we learned of and hired though we had not met the best Republican campaign strategist in the state, Ray Zaborney. We got really lucky because his equal or superior to him, his wife, joined him in the quest that we hired him for which was to get Sallie elected and I'm going to ask for your help on this one. As we were also in New York standing in our hotel room in front of the mirror Sallie said for the first time, remember, on Tuesday, vote Mundy!

I think Matt Brann might be here today. Matt Brann is the head of this, what's called the Northeastern Caucus. He's the Chair. He's a



lawyer in Bradford County. He has the gift of enthusiasm, contagious enthusiasm. The first time he heard that, he went ballistic. He said, "that is the greatest slogan I have ever heard, it is fantastic, to think you just came up with that, if you hired an agency you would spend a fortune and they wouldn't have done anything nearly as good as that, you're so lucky." I'm listening to him and I'm thinking does this man realize to get that slogan, this woman had to marry me for 14 years and have five children. That was chump change.

But you know we came back and there were some wonderful memories. We went to Clarion County and met a lot of folks who said you've got to come back a second time because we have a thing called an Autumn Leaf Festival and it's a parade like I had never known existed in Pennsylvania. I felt like it was VJ Day and I was on Fifth Avenue in New York. It was amazing. There is also a thing in Greene County called Rain Day. If you want to have some fun, go to it. You don't have to worry about getting the right one, there's only one in existence in the world and it's in Greene County where they celebrate rain. It's on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. For 113 years it has rained on July 29<sup>th</sup>. That is 113 out of 135 years it has rained on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, so they celebrate that out there.

On July 29, 2009, it rained buckets from the minute we got out there until night. She stood out there soaked to her underwear, greeting people for ten hours, even though I was trying to tell her there are as many Republican votes in Greene County as there are Democrats in Potter. But there were wonderful moments. One I'll never forget, is when we drove from Erie to Monroe County, that's the entire length of the state, to make a prayer breakfast where 700 people assembled before 6:00 a.m. for this. Tickets for this are harder to get than Philly playoff tickets. If every year they have a speaker who's as awe inspirational as the one they had in our year, then I think we'll go back, even though we're not on the campaign trail any more.

So these were the great moments and there were many of them. But you know, every campaign is a roller coaster. You go down and you go up. There were down moments as well as up moments. When those down moments would come, if you don't call Sallie back, whether there

would be a women's lunch, county Republican meeting, there would be a dinner, there would be a speaking opportunity, there would be a senator's event, there would be a Tom and Deb Rudy fundraiser, sponsoring a fundraiser for us. Whether you saw her down the street at Trinity Lutheran, the school that I love, or at Dunham's independent department store across the street, remember that, that's a blessing you have. On the streets of Tioga, you would find her and you would convey your feelings, it would be something that would recharge her and get her back when things were really down. I can't tell you how much we appreciated what you did over and over again. We even had a catch phrase for it when we would be leaving town after you had restored her, reinvigorated her, one of us would say to the other, you know, I feel a breeze at our backs, and that was you.

Now, these little boys and this little girl over here deserve some recognition. So I'm going to ask James Patrick Mundy to please stand. Ralph Daniel Mundy please stand, and John Andrew you get away—come on up here. I want you to turn around so the people can see you guys. Now, you can't run a campaign as a family without a family. These boys wanted to be part of that campaign. So the first stage of the campaign is to get the endorsement. That happened at a meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg the second week of February, and we decided to bring these boys.

My job was to baby-sit them while Sallie went downstairs to six different caucus breakfasts and then to the ballroom where a meeting with 500 or so committee people would take place. They turned to me that morning and they said, "you don't have to be at attention, you'll be at ease." They said "Dad, we're watching television here, you don't have to be here, you do down to be with mom." I believed them. I grabbed my other jacket and went downstairs. Well, they had another plan. We heard about this all the way through the campaign wherever we went. They manned the elevators and the conversation went like this, "Are you running for Judge, no, okay, then you can vote for our mom, her name is Sallie Updyke Mundy and she'll be a brilliant Judge."

That wasn't the only time we had this resource. When we had a – we were put on the spot for comedy night for charity in Pittsburgh,

actually, it was Homestead. We turned to each other and said “hey, look, we’re not doing this. We’re having a hard enough time trying to become politicians.” So we put them on the spot and you’ll hear how they entertained that audience in a few minutes. The hardest thing we had to do was I had to drive four hours to get here to pick up Sallie to drive her four hours to wherever we were going. We did that all through the first half of the campaign. I don’t think I’d be standing here now if they weren’t willing to do what they did which was to leave their school, leave their friends, leave their home and everybody moved in my house in Media and we ran the second half of the campaign from there. We probably wouldn’t be here yet if they hadn’t done that. So boys, I want to thank you publicly for what you did. We love you. We’re very proud of you and now you can sit down.

Now I know you’re going to think that this is an embellishment but it isn’t. Temp Smith is here, our running mate and our good friend, he can verify what I’m going to tell you. Bonnie Kate, come forward, please. You’re not going to believe this one. You turn around and let people see you, okay? You can come up here, too, come on up here. There was an event called the Italian Festival in Scranton in September. Beautiful sunny, sunny day, half of Lackawanna County was there. It was a big event. It just so happened I had selected a jury on the Friday before and was to start at trial on the Monday after. So I had a hotel room, I said, Sallie, bring the kids, if there’s a meltdown, I’ll just take them to a hotel.” So they came, Bonnie and John. It was a wonderful day, bands, music, dancing, singing everything was great except for one thing, these people wanted no part of a politician. They wouldn’t take her brochures. Sallie tried to hand them a brochure, and Matt, I know you’ve seen this happen, they were turned off.

So, after about an hour and a half Sallie came back to me and said “this is not working, I think we’re going to go home.” Now, Bonnie heard that because she misses nothing. Absolutely nothing. In her mind it meant that because people wouldn’t take the brochures, she was going to have to go home. She grabbed the brochures and she walked up to people, stuck a finger in their belly and then handed them the brochures. And they’d take the brochures. I called it poke and stroke. She’d

go back to her mother and get more brochures. In 40 minutes she gave out 250 brochures and people were gathering all around Sallie.

Well, I wanted you to know something, little girl. Your Mom got the most votes of anybody in Lackawanna County. You did it. And this little boy, this is Cullen. But I want you to see one thing. From the time he was born, maybe because he's the fifth, he's known how to cock his head, roll his eyes, and give you a turned-up smile that would melt you. He's our secret weapon for the women voters.

So now very briefly, I'm going to tell you what kind of judge you got. I've been trying cases for 40 years, all within this jurisdiction and beyond. I've tried against some of the best lawyers there are. Pennsylvania Lawyers are the best. But in the early '90's I filed a medical negligence case against the Hershey Medical Center and the firm McQuaide Blasko unleashed a tornado named Sallie Updyke on me. There are those who to this day insist that I created a conflict just to keep from getting my rear end booted from one end of that county to the other.

Well, I'll never admit to that, but I will admit that the day I got her to say "I do", I outkicked my coverage. Nancy Fullam said, and she couldn't be more correct, this woman does not talk about herself. It's not just in legal settings, I mean, she just doesn't. I found that out the hard way. We were dating. We were at a swimming pool. I bet her that I could swim across that pool faster than she could. I dove in the water, I looked up, and she was standing on the other side. I looked for Mr. Scott. There had to be a transporter. Then I made the mistake of saying okay, double or nothing, we'll go underwater. I watched this torpedo go right by me, and then I found out that she was the captain of her swim team.

I did find out some things in this campaign because when a reporter would ask her a question, she would give the answer. So I'll tell you a couple things I found out in this campaign. First, when she was the age of Bonnie Kate is when she had a dream of helping people by becoming a lawyer. That was her dream and she had it way back then. She took that dream to her English teacher at Williamson High School and she said you got to go to W&J because of the record that school has of placing its students in graduate school, particularly law school.

It was also in response to a reporter's question in this campaign that I found out that when she came back after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and clerked with Judge Dalton's predecessor, Judge Kemp, the President Judge of Tioga County at that time, the dream evolved into one day reaching the highest pinnacle of our profession, become a judge. Today, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 2010, in the building where the dream evolved, the dream has come true. It's a fitting ending to a long quest that everyone in this room was a part of. We will never forget your contributions to her success. Sallie, your family loves you and we're very proud of what you've done.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much, Jim. We would now like to have a musical interlude by James Patrick Mundy and Ralph Daniel Mundy by singing John, The Revelator.

*(Interlude Performed).*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Very, very nice. I have to commend you, Judge Mundy, 20 years ago when I had a three year old, he had to be physically ejected from the courtroom. You've done a wonderful job.

Now, I don't know how you're going to follow this, Judge Dalton, it's a tough act, but it is now my pleasure to call upon the President Judge of Tioga County, Robert E. Dalton, to read the petition from Governor Edward G. Rendell.

JUDGE DALTON: Thank you, President Judge, Kate Ford Elliott. All my colleagues and members of the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court, Magisterial District Judges, Common Pleas Judges and, of course, all the Bar Association members who are here today. This truly is a historic occasion for Tioga County. To my knowledge of a Superior Court panel, a group never sat in any kind of session in Tioga County in this special occasion today and special session of the Superior Court is just unique and like I said, it's very historic.

I first met Sallie many years ago when she came to work for Judge Kemp, my predecessor. I didn't know her before that. And she was a fine law clerk and I know helped Judge Kemp tremendously. Judge Kemp, for those of you who remember him, died a few years ago. He was a very practical man, practical judge, always seemed to arrive at the right

decision but occasionally this decision would get appealed to the Superior Court. Once in a great, great while his decision would be reversed by the Superior Court, and I have to say, he never took it personally because he said they never reversed him on the same facts that he heard. I don't know, maybe the Supreme Court.

Sallie is going to be a fine addition to the Superior Court. We are so proud that somebody from Tioga, a local attorney, is going to have that opportunity. She will serve all of Tioga County and indeed all of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with honor. I commend her, congratulate her, Jim, all the children and family who are here today for this very special event and I'm very privileged and honored to be able to present her commission.

I have to read it into the record here today for her and for all of us, On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from the Governor's Office, Sallie Mundy of the County of Tioga in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings. Whereas it appears by the certificates and returns made according to the laws of the election held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November Anno Domini 2009 you've been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, know ye that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the said Commonwealth in such case may have been provided, I do by these present commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have and to hold said office together with all the rights, powers and emoluments thereunto or by law in any way pertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of January, 2010 if you shall so long behave yourself well. Given under my hand and great seal of this state from the City of Harrisburg this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December in the Year of Our Lord 2009 and of the Commonwealth to be 234, Edward G. Rendell, Governor.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge. Judge Mundy, as you take your oath of office today I want to once again welcome you to our court which is deep in tradition and widely respected. We are all confident that your service on this court will only enhance that reputation. We are a court where friendship and collegiality runs deep and this will hold true today as you bear the weight of

your traditional duties as an appellate judge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a Superior Court judge you will sit and hear appeals from every county, every city, every known town and township across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Day in and day out you'll make very important decisions involving other peoples' lives and you'll do it one life at a time. That is weighting work in deed.

Service as a judge is an honor and privilege but it is our oath of office that reminds us that it is also an awesome responsibility. I will now ask James Patrick, Ralph Daniel, John, Bonnie Kate and Cullen if he's still around to step forward and assist your mother as I administer her the oath of office. The judge will be robed today by Bonnie Updyke, her mother and brothers, Alan Updyke and James Updyke. Now I would ask that we all please rise.

*(Oath is Administered by President Judge Ford Elliott.)*

JUDGE UPDYKE MUNDY: I am honored and I'm humbled that all of my family and friends have come to celebrate with me here today. Whether you walked across the street or you've driven half way across the state, whether you're my children's bus driver, friends I've met at Apple Fest in Venango County, friends I've met in Clarion County, you have all touched my life. I thank you for your support. I thank you for your love. I thank you for your encouragement. I thank you for your friendship.

There is one person that is glaringly absent from the courtroom and this person was and remains to be a huge figure in my life. He was a huge figure in our community, in this county and in this Commonwealth, and that's my father, Bud Updyke. There are those who say that I won this election on the coat tails of my father. And they're absolutely right. I was such a fortunate girl to be born in Tioga County and raised in this beautiful county by two wonderful parents who worked so very hard to make a living for me and my family. I was raised to believe that whatever goal is set, I could achieve. That I was always the captain of the ship and I was always the master of my fate. So I thank you Mom and Dad, because I would not be here today but for you.

I also would like to introduce my two brothers, James Updyke and Alan Updyke who traveled from Florida and California respectively to

be here today with us. I thank them for instilling in me that sense of competition. It started very early, who could run faster and jump higher and it progressed to who could water ski better or snow ski better. And it still continues today. Don't be surprised if you hear of an Updyke taking out Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger or somebody from Florida running for President.

I do want to thank my husband. He did drive me all over the state with me constantly reminding him that he was either going too slow or he was going too fast. I'd also like to thank my children. My son, Daniel said "during your speech, make sure you tell them it was because of us you won the election." And it's true. My children campaigned for me, they sang for me, they went to different schools for me. You're the best kids and I love you very much.

With that, President Judge, I am ready to discharge the duties of a Superior Court Judge for the people of this community and the people of this county and the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Therefore, Judge Sallie Updyke Mundy, would you please come forward and take your seat on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Would you all remain standing. As we conclude our ceremony today, I want to extend to all on behalf of Judge Mundy an invitation to attend a reception to follow immediately at the Penn Wells Hotel. Mr. Spicher, would you now officially close this special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

MR. SPICHER: This special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

EXAMINATION CONCLUDED 12:20 P.M.



**THE HONORABLE  
JUDITH FERENCE OLSON**



*Assumed Office: January 7, 2010  
County: Allegheny*

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY  
OF THE HONORABLE  
JUDITH FERENCE OLSON**

**JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**

**JANUARY 7, 2010**

**BEFORE: THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF PENNSYLVANIA  
And  
THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

**REPORTED BY:**

Janeen E. Foley, RPR  
Allegheny County  
Official court Reporter

**PRESIDING:**

HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

**SPEAKERS:**

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK  
THE HONORABLE MAURICE B. COHILL, JR.  
PAUL H. TITUS, ESQUIRE  
THE HONORABLE MIKE TURZAI

**PROCEEDINGS**

**THE COURT CRIER:** The Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania:

(Whereupon the Judges of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and the Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania were seated.)

Oyez, oyez, oyez, Let all family, friends, colleagues of the Honorable Judith Ference Olson, witness the administration of the Oath of Office and her installation on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

May all participate in this special session at this, of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, here holden this day. That having to do with this joyous business come forth and appear, and they shall be heard.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

The Honorable President Judge, Kate Ford Elliott, presiding.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT:** Good afternoon, everyone.

**THE AUDIENCE:** Good afternoon, Judge.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Mr. Carey (*Discussion held off the record.*)

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Good afternoon, everyone. The Superior Court of Pennsylvania sits in ceremonial session today to welcome to our bench the Honorable Judith Ference Olson, A.K.A. our own Judge Judy.

*(Laughter)*

To begin our session today, I ask Grant Alexander Olson and Sophia Marie Olson to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and I ask that we all stand.

*(Whereupon Grant and Sophia Olson led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance).*

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands: One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you.

I would now call upon, and it is my honor to do so, the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, for our Invocation.

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK: Let us pray.

Father almighty, Lord of heaven and supreme law giver for all creation, we ask you to send your spirit of wisdom and justice, counsel, and fortitude upon us as we gather in recognition of the Honorable Judith Ference Olson, as she now is sworn in as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We ask you, dear God, to bless all of us here, especially those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching of the law, the practice of the law, and the interpretation of the law.

And in a special way, Lord, we ask your blessing upon our new Judge. Give her the wisdom of Solomon and the judgment of the prophet Daniel.

Empower her with the spirit of justice, so that the law and order of our society may truly benefit from her judgment. Enlighten her with knowledge and understanding that is so necessary to perceive the most difficult and profound of human situations, and continue to instill in her

a sense of fairness that is so necessary to attain and preserve the quality of freedom upon which our society is built.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is just judge and prince of all.  
Amen.

THE AUDIENCE: Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Bishop Zubik.

Judge Olson, when you take the bench today, you will join the group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice to the citizens of Pennsylvania is well established.

Your colleagues warmly welcome you, and we know that we will benefit greatly from your legal scholarship, your reputation for integrity, and, as many of us have come to know, your friendship.

I would like to – and with 8,000 by the way, with 8,000 appeal filings a year, we’re really lucky to have your help.

*(Laughter)*

I’d like to begin our ceremony today by introducing the members of the Superior Court who are here today to join in welcoming you.

I don’t know, I’m not going to do it in any order, because everybody is surrounding the bench. But I have Judge John Musmanno who is here, Judge John Bender, Judge Mary Jane Bowes; Judge Christine Donohue, Judge Jacqueline Shogan, behind me is Judge Cheryl Allen, and next to her is one of our newest members of the Court, Judge Anne Lazarus, who was sworn in just the other day on – yesterday, as a matter of fact.

I also know that you have heard from several members of the Court who are not able to be here today. I know Judge Gantman has been in touch, as well as our senior judges who are unable to be here, and they also, I know, have welcomed you with warmest wishes.

I want to also recognize, and I believe she is somewhere here in the audience, a retired member of the State Superior Court, Judge Maureen Lally-Green, Hello, Maureen, wonderful to have you with us.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And I also want to make sure that we recognize other members of both the Third Circuit, the U.S. District Court, and the Commonwealth Court, our sister appellate court, who are here today.

I have a list here that indicates Michael Fisher is here. Judge Fisher, is he here? I don't know, but I see Judge Hardiman. Pleasure to have you here. I see Judge Terrence McVerry from the U.S. District Court. I see Judge Nora Barry Fischer, a good friend to us all. I know that Judge Maurice Cohill is going to be a speaker in just a moment. And I don't know whether or not Judge Lenihan is here or not, but she is certainly on my list.

I also want to recognize a member of the Commonwealth Court, one of their newest members, Judge Patricia McCullough, who I see is here. And I'm not sure if Judge Kelly made it, but he was on my list, at any rate.

I want to call upon the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., who is Senior Judge of the United States Western District court, to come forward and make remarks on behalf of Judge Olson.

Judge Cohill?

JUDGE COHILL: Thank you. Thank you. May it please the Court, ladies and gentlemen, judges, other public officials.

I can't tell you what an honor and a privilege it is to participate in this ceremony.

Judith Olson was my law clerk from 1982 to 1984. And if I had my druthers, she might still be my law clerk.

*(Laughter)*

In those days, I only hired clerks for a two-year period, and anyhow, I'm sure by now she would have been sick of me if she had stayed on.

Incidentally, when I heard that she was running for judge, I resolved that I would never call her Judge Judy.

*(Laughter)*

But like most of my resolutions, this was also abandoned.

The relationship between judges and law clerks is a unique and a very special one. Whenever I hired a new law clerk, I'd give them a little instructional guide that I call "Clerking for Cohill," and it generally

described our office procedure and what was expected of a clerk. And what I'm going to read now is written by one of my clerks; not Judy.

"The job of law clerk to a federal judge entails being part Oliver Wendell Holmes and part Radar O'Reilly.

While a law clerk should be a research and writing whiz, she must also anticipate the judges' needs and whims, handing him papers two seconds before he requests them, being concerned about the physical and mental comfort of the judge.

Common sense and sensitivity are both needed. A law clerk should not discuss a case at 4:55 p.m. after the judge has had an (indicating air quotes) eventful, in other words, bad day, when the matter can wait until another time.

Never keep the judge waiting. A law clerk's primary goal is to make the Judge's life easier and, therefore, a law clerk should be both an expert in the law and a valet."

*(Laughter)*

Well, I must say, I never asked a clerk to be a valet, to hold my coat, or to brush me off, at least in a literal sense. But it's a pretty good overall description of what a good law clerk must do.

I have two criteria for a law clerk, which are chiseled in stone: They must be smarter than I am, which is not too hard, and have a sense of humor.

Judith scored high on both counts. She arrived on my doorstep in 1982 at a time when I had several major criminal cases on my docket, in addition to the infamous Allegheny County Jail case, which had begun in 1977 and was destined to drag on until 1998, when the new jail was finally completed. She lightened my load considerably.

I also appreciated her down-to-earth view of issues, although at times I had to sensor some of her comments.

Across one particularly bad brief that an unwary lawyer had submitted, Judith had written, "Cow pucky!"

*(Laughter)*

I had never heard that expression before, and I don't think I've heard it since. It did describe that particular brief.

*(Laughter)*

She's also strictly Western Pennsylvania, although I know her horizons have been broadened greatly since she worked for me.

A law clerk who shared duties with Judy for the '83/'84 term is Diana Reed, now an attorney with PPG. And Diana came as a rather sophisticated native of Washington, D.C. Her father was in the State Department, and Diana was a graduate of Bryn Mawr, where she had majored in Latin? Does anybody major in Latin? Maybe Bishop Zubik.

*(Laughter)*

Recently Diana told me that shortly after she came to work for me, Judy told her that she had to "redd up" her office. Now this sent Diana to the dictionary, where she actually found the word.

I'm sure everyone from Pennsylvania, Western Pennsylvania, knows what it means, but if you don't it can be traced to a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Norwegian word meaning "to clear an area."

*(Laughter)*

Judy was a ray of sunshine in my office, and her outstanding career in the 26 years since she left me speaks for itself. She had a brief tenure of a little over one year on the Common Pleas bench here, and from all reports I receive there, her work was outstanding.

Judy is my third law clerk to arrive on the bench. She's been preceded by Judge Judith – Jill, not Judith – Jill, excuse me Rangos, of the Court of Common Pleas, who's here, and Judge Jackie Shogan, also a recent addition to this Court. I call them my Three J's: Jill, Jackie and Judy.

This Court, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, is one of the busiest courts in the nation and is known for its hard work, quality output and its collegiality. I know Judge Judy will fit right in and hit the ground running.

My mentor and preceptor was the late Justice Thomas W. Pomeroy of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and when I first went on the bench, he presented my commission at the inauguration ceremony and then he gave me a book, which contained guidelines for a judge. And on the fly leaf he wrote this: "Do justice and fear only the Lord."

I'm sure Judith Olson will live up to that counsel. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Judge Cohill. Let us know when the next law clerk starts with you, and we'll sort of anticipate them starting on the bench.

Now, as most of you are already aware, Judge Olson's judicial career began with her appointment to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. I did not personally know Judge Olson when she was first appointed to the bench. However, I soon became aware of her reputation through the praise and recommendation of so many of her colleagues, whose opinion I hold in high regard.

I think I speak for so many of my Superior Court colleagues when I say that I now understand exactly what they were talking about. Here today to honor Judge Olson are distinguished and respected members of the Allegheny County trial bench, and I'd like to introduce them to you.

We start with President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel. We also have the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division of Allegheny County, Judge Gene Strassburger. And we have the Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division of Allegheny County, the Honorable Lawrence O'Toole.

We also have in attendance the Honorable Christine Ward, the Honorable Phil Ignelzi, and I offer my congratulations to the Judge, because he was just sworn in this morning, the Honorable John McVay, the Honorable Joseph James, the Honorable Alan Hertzberg, the Honorable Kathleen Durkin, the Honorable Jill Rangos, Judge Michael Marmo, Judge Arnie Klein, Judge Thomas Flaherty, and the Honorable Kathryn Hens-Greco. Welcome to all of you. We're glad you're here today.

Representing the Allegheny County Bar Association today is the President, Attorney Kimberly Brown, and the immediate past president, Jay Blechman. Welcome to you, too.

I also note the attendance of the Sheriff of Allegheny County, William Mullen, who is here, and District Magistrate Anthony Saveikis.

I would now like to call upon Attorney Paul H. Titus, counsel to the firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis for remarks.



MR. TITUS: May it please the Court, President Judge Ford Elliott, members of the Superior Court, distinguished judges from various courts, and friends and family of Judge Olson.

You know, this majestic courtroom in which we are assembling this afternoon contains many symbols of the centuries old tradition that we participate in in these ceremonies.

On the ceiling above are pictured some of the great law givers of history. We have Hanmurabi, who gave us the Babylonian code; Justinian, who gave the code named after him, the code of Roman law; and of course, in the middle, we have Moses, who gave us the Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments.

We have William Penn, who founded the colony of Pennsylvania and made it a place where his fellow Quakers and others could worship in freedom.

And William Pitt. It's not just that Pittsburgh was named for him. In history, he is important because, in his later years, he stood up against the tyrant George III. He backed the colonists on taxation without representation, and he even urged that Britain recognize the Continental Congress. He failed on that, but nonetheless, he is a symbol, an important symbol, of someone dedicated to the rule of law.

And, of course, in these kinds of surroundings, we naturally assume, and on this kind of occasion, that a person who's assuming this office probably is a cut above some of us; that this person may not share some of our faults or some of our foibles, and certainly not mine.

In fact, as I prepared for this, I was told by a confidential informant that several years ago, in the midst of a protracted case being tried in the County courthouse – lasted for months, Judy had many co-counsel – they began to call her “Sister Mary Holy Water.”

*(Laughter)*

Which is certainly someone who is without faults and foibles.

But, unfortunately, in the last several days, several stories have come to me under the door, one way or another, that I feel compelled to report.

*(Laughter)*

Now, I am reciting these, I'm sure you know, Your Honor, only to be fair and balanced.

*(Laughter)*

I do have sources that indicate that Her Honor did not always approach every matter with pious detachment. I was advised by an anonymous source that, in the course of one deposition, the witness used some scatological language, and Her Honor responded in kind. Now, I haven't read the transcript, so that's purely hearsay.

It was also reported to me that in the course of a long and nasty trial where opposing counsel was a prominent Midwestern woman lawyer, that Her Honor referred to opposing counsel as a witch, although my informant kept telling me it was spelled with a B.

*(Laughter)*

Fortunately, fortunately, Her Honor was sufficiently gender conscious that she didn't refer to her as a son of one of those.

*(Laughter)*

I thought, perhaps, setting aside the world of litigation, that her foray into the genteel world of electoral politics might put something else in perspective here.

I spoke with a very experienced political operative and, of course, as we know, there can't be a more reliable source than a political operative. And I was told by this person, who realized about this time last year that things were lining up so that Her Honor was most likely to get the endorsement of her party before the spring primary, and so the operative reached out immediately and said, "You need a slogan. It should be 'Elect Judge Judy!'"

And the response was "No way! I would never use that slogan." Within less than a month, the printing presses were cranking out "Elect Judge Judy" signs.

*(Laughter)*

And finally, I should mention that there are even eyewitnesses who are in this courtroom who saw Her Honor in a saloon in Homestead, dressed elegantly, leaning against a piano, singing to the patrons, I guess in the hopes of getting a few votes.

*(Laughter)*

So, I've realized, President Judge Ford Elliott, that I probably made a mistake in not asking this court to enter an order authorizing me to

take some depositions to prepare for this talk. One of the things that would have given me is subpoena power. That means I could get the story from a reluctant witness, like, perhaps, a spouse who otherwise is going to clam up and not spill the beans.

*(Laughter)*

The other thing that would have enabled me to do is to have them under oath, and then we would know that what I've just recited, we'd know whether it was true or not. But, unfortunately, I think we're left to speculate as to whether these stories are true or whether they were apocryphal.

Now most of us are lawyers, and that's not our analysis; that's not our language. That's the sort of things that scriptural scholars do. And they distinguish between what's genuine and what's apocryphal. So we may have to, perhaps, have a scholar, perhaps, at some point – Bishop Zubik is a scriptural scholar – to help us on that.

But for today, I think that we can be certain of one thing that all of us know, and that is that this wonderful woman will be an exceptional judge. She's clearly, as they say, learned in the law. She possesses integrity, intelligence, and the good judgment needed to fulfill her duties.

She will, using some words of another, she will “truly judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or alien, and hear rightly between one person and another, whether great or small.” These were the words Moses used in commissioning the first judges.

Judge Olson will be hearing cases, drawing out criminal laws which protect all of us, cases deciding difficult disputes that sometimes tear families apart; cases that determine whether contracts have been broken; wills should be upheld; whether wrongs are entitled to redress.

But beyond deciding these individual cases, Judge Olson understands, as the French philosopher Jacques Maritain stated, “The true dignity of the state comes from its exercise of justice. And the most important role of the law is to encourage and nourish a society which is open to the transcendence; a society in which each of us can serve one another and work out our own personal destinies in accordance with our conscience.”

So that, on behalf of all of us, I can say to you, Judy, as you assume the responsibility of these new offices, for your willingness to do so, on behalf of everyone, I say, thank you.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much, Mr. Titus.

I've been asked to note that – apparently present Justice Seamus McCaffery – I don't know if you're here present, I didn't see you – but I certainly want to welcome you if you are here.

I also neglected to mention, and I'm looking over here, that Judge Don Walko is here, who was installed last week to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

And before I go forward, Judge Olson, I just want to recognize some people you're going to be working very closely with over the next several years. They are members of our administrative office on the Superior Court.

We have our Prothonotary here, Karen Bramblett. We also have our Deputy Prothonotary for Pittsburgh, Eleanor Valecko, and we have our Chief Staff Attorney, Ernest Gennaccaro, here present.

I also want to recognize the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican Party, Mr. Robert Gleason, Jr., and also I believe Mary Beth Buchanan is in the audience, former U.S. Attorney for the Western District.

I would like to now call upon Representative Mike Turzai, Republican Whip of the House, to read the Commission from Governor Edward J. Rendell.

REP. TURZAI: Thank you very much, President Judge Ford Elliott. It's an honor to be here today in front of this illustrious bench and the members of the Judiciary and all the guests of Judy and Jim Olson.

Judy, to your family, congratulations. You will be outstanding.

“From the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Governor's Office, this is to Judy Olson of the County of Allegheny in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Greetings. Whereas it appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, Anno Domini two thousand and nine, that you have been

duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

“Therefore, know ye, that in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these present commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, first priority of commission. To have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining, for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and ten, if you shall so long behave yourself well.”

No problem!

*(Laughter)*

“Given under my hand in the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-second day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and thirty-fourth. Governor, Edward G. Rendell, and Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pedro Cortez.” Judge, I congratulate you with this commission.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Olson, as you take your Oath of Office today, I want to once again welcome you to a court which is steeped in tradition and widely respected.

We are confident that your service on this court will only enhance the reputation. We are a court where friendship and collegiality run deep, and this will hold true as you must bear the weight of your judicial duties as an Appellate Judge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As Mr. Titus so eloquently described it, the business of courts is making very important decisions about other peoples’ lives, and we have to do it one life at a time.

You know, we do that service as a judge as an honor and a privilege. But it is our Oath of Office that reminds us it is also an awesome responsibility.

And so, in administering the Oath of Office, I would now ask Grant and Sophia Olson and Mr. James Olson to come forward to assist the Judge as I administer the Oath and I would ask that we all might stand.

Judge Olson, if you will raise your right hand.

I –

JUDGE OLSON: I, Judith Ference Olson.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE OLSON: Do solemnly swear.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUDGE OLSON: That I will support, obey and defend.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE OLSON: The Constitution of the United States.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE OLSON: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And that I will discharge my duties

JUDGE OLSON: And that I will discharge my duties.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: As a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

JUDGE OLSON: As a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: With fidelity.

JUDGE OLSON: With fidelity, So help me God.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Congratulations.

*(Applause)*

(Whereupon Judge Olson took the bench with the Superior Court.)

JUDGE OLSON: May it please the court, President Judge Ford Elliott, distinguished guests, wonderful friends, and dear family.

I am here today before this esteemed court in this magnificent courtroom where the most eloquent attorneys argued monumental cases; where the wisest jurists contemplated issues of great importance; and where history echoes from every corner. And I think, “Oh my gosh. What am I doing here?”

*(Laughter)*

I am overwhelmed, and I can't help but recall the very first time that I stepped into this beautiful courtroom. It was in the fall of 1982, I along with over a hundred other young men and women, stood here and took the Oath of Office to become lawyers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I remember looking around this room at the time. I was in awe of its beauty, significance and majesty. And I said to myself, "How blessed I am to be here."

Needless to say, I never imagined that I would be here 27 years later, as one of the newest judges on this esteemed court. And again, I am saying, "How blessed I am to be here."

And I pause to think about what brought me to this point on this very special day. An ancient Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu, said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

The journey that brought me here today began that day in 1982 when I took that single step and became a lawyer. I must say, I had no idea where that journey would lead. More importantly, I could never have imagined how many people would help me along my journey.

When I look around the room at the people gathered here, I realize that you are the reason that I am here today.

When I became a new lawyer, I really had no idea what I was doing. As a graduate of St. Francis College, now University and the Duquesne University School of Law, I knew that I had a great education.

However, as anyone who graduates from law school knows, you need a lot more than a good education to be a good lawyer.

As I began my journey, as a lawyer, I was very blessed to have the best teachers, mentors, and role models a person could have.

Upon graduation from law school, I was so fortunate to become a law clerk for Judge Maurice Cohill. Thank you so much for your kind words and for taking time to be here today, Judge. I am so honored.

If you called central casting and asked for the best person possible to play a judge, they'd bring you Judge Cohill. Judge Cohill is everything a judge should be: Intelligent, thoughtful, compassionate, patient, and fair. Combine that with a quick wit, humility, and a genuine interest in

people, and you have Judge Cohill. Thank you, Judge, for taking me under your wing and giving me the best foundation possible to become a lawyer and now a judge. If I am half as good a judge as you, I will be very blessed.

The next stop in my journey took me to private practice, where I was hired by the esteemed firm of Dickie McCamey & Chilcote. There, I truly learned to be a trial lawyer.

David Armstrong, David Fawcett, Dan Stefko, and all of the incredible lawyers with that firm were the best teachers a young lawyer could ever hope to have. I learned my craft from the best, and I will always be eternally grateful to all of you.

I continued to learn from the greatest trial lawyers throughout my career. Clayton Sweeney, George McGrann, and so many others.

In 2000, I joined the distinguished firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, where I was so lucky to work with so many gifted men and women. So many of them are here today. I love each and every one of you and will always be proud to say that I was one of you colleagues.

It was through my work at Schnader that I was so fortunate to be able to work with one of the greatest, Paul Titus. Not only is he a brilliant lawyer, but he is a consummate gentleman. Thank you, Paul. Thank you for teaching me to be a better lawyer, and more importantly, a better person. Thank you for your patience and advice. Thank you also for your kind words today. I will always love you.

In 2008, my journey took an unexpected detour. Out of the blue, I received a call asking whether I'd be interested in being considered for an appointment to fill the seat of the Honorable Eugene Scanlon, who had retired. With no expectations whatsoever I decided to give it a try.

I was honored yet very astounded when a merit selection committee chaired by the esteemed lawyer, Evan Rose, recommended me to Senator Jane Orié for the position. With the unwavering support of Senator Orié and Senator John Pippy, I was nominated by the Governor to fill the vacancy and was fortunate enough to be unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate.

I was truly honored and privileged to serve on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County for the past year. To my colleagues on



the bench, as well as the incredible – and I stress incredible – people that staff the court, thank you for everything.

I will always appreciate the wonderful opportunity that I was given to learn from you, and I will take all that I learned with me as I start the newest chapter of my life.

Most importantly, I want to thank Judge Christine Ward. Chris, there are not enough words in the English language to thank you for your friendship, guidance, patience, advice, and willingness to always be there for me. For many years, Chris and I have been called Lucy and Ethel.

*(Laughter)*

We never figured out which one of us was Lucy and which was Ethel, but no matter, it's been a real joy to be your sidekick all these years.

Well, that brings us to the start of the most incredible part of my journey, my journey to the Superior Court.

Last year at this time, I was planning to run to keep my seat on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Several very wise people suggested that I should consider a state court run, but I decided against it. I had no idea how to do a county-wide campaign, yet alone a state-wide campaign.

So, after much thought and consultation with people whose opinions I respected, I said I was going to run for the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

That was until that fateful day, exactly one year ago, when I received a call from Representative Mike Turzai. I've known Mike and his wonderful family for many years, and I was always appreciative of his advice and wise counsel.

But on this particular day, I thought he was a bit crazy. He said, "Judy you have to go to Harrisburg tomorrow and meet with the Republican Central Caucus so that you can run for Superior Court."

I told him I appreciated his advice, but that I had made up my mind to run locally. Mike refused to listen, and I continued to argue my case. But, apparently, I'm not as good of an advocate as I thought I was. To

those of you who know Representative Turzai, you know that he can be rather tenacious.

Needless to say, off to Harrisburg I went, and the rest is history. Thank you, Mike, for being so insistent, and thank you for being here today. It means so much to me.

Although Mike helped start me on the path to today, I successfully reached this point in my journey because of so many, and I need to thank some of them now.

To the Pennsylvania Republican Party: Chairman Rob Gleason; and Vice Chairwoman Joyce Haas; Luke Bernstein; Bob Bozzuto; Mike Downing; Mike Barley; and the entire staff at Headquarters and throughout the field, including Ben Wren; and members of the State Committee; thank you for your support, encouragement, and incredible efforts. You always believed in me.

To Attorney General Tom Corbett, I thank him for all that he did. I've known the General for a long time. In fact, we both had black hair when we first met.

*(Laughter)*

And his support meant so much to me.

Mr. Jerry Morgan, political consultant extraordinaire. There's only one thing I can say about you: Unbelievable!

*(Laughter)*

I would never have achieved what I achieved if it weren't for you. You are the best. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. And as a small token of my appreciation, the entire Olson family will root for Alabama tonight.

*(Laughter)*

Chris Metz, A wonderful young man who worked tirelessly on my campaign. He drove this old lady so many miles, and I'm sure he wanted to throw me out at certain times, but he never did. He did everything that he was asked with no complaints and with a smile on his face. Thank you, Chris, for everything.

My campaign committee, Paul Titus, Chairman of my campaign, thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement. I was fortunate to have you lead the team.

Frank Rapp, my Treasurer, I don't know if he is here. Frank is always late. He'll get here about six.

*(Laughter)*

Frankie, if you're here, I met you the very first day of law school. We sat next to each other through all three years of school. He had my back then and he continues to have my back to this day. I sure do love you, Frank.

And Jennifer Callery, my Assistant Treasurer. I am very fortunate to have a big sister, but I never had a little sister until you came along. Your perseverance, dedication, hard work, and incredible sense of humor kept me going throughout this past year. Thank you.

To my Republican running mates, it was a true honor and privilege to run with you. I will always respect and admire each one of you. You have become like family to me.

To my colleagues on the Democratic ticket, what very worthy opponents. I knew that I had to give my campaign all that I could because you were all so very well qualified. Thank you for your professionalism, courtesy, and graciousness.

And to all of the other wonderful people who helped me this past year. There are so many that I'm afraid if I would name each of you we'd be here well into the evening and the snowstorm.

But to every person who contributed their time, talents, and treasure to my campaign, I can't thank you enough.

I'm here today because of all the incredible people who contributed funds, helped with fundraisers, put up signs, circulated my petitions, sent e-mails, covered the polls, even covered two buses – I had the "Judge Judy" buses on the road because of the Fullington Autobus Company – and all of the people who spread the word about me. My journey would have had a very different ending if it weren't for all of you.

To Judge Maureen Lally-Green, thank you for your encouragement. I regret that I will not be able to learn from you on the bench, but I am honored to have your chambers. I can feel your spirit through the office.

*(Laughter)*

And I can only hope that the decisions that come from those chambers now are as thoughtful and articulate as the decisions that came from those chambers when you were there.

Bishop Zubik, thank you for that beautiful Invocation. I am truly honored and humbled that you would take time to be here today. Thank you so very much for your leadership and guidance. We, in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, are very blessed to have you.

My dear friend, Father Joseph McCaffrey, also known as Father Mac, not only my pastor, but a true, true friend. Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and the many prayers that you said for me. I treasure our friendship and I always will.

And Father Gabriel Zeis – I know I pronounced it wrong – of Saint Francis University, the president of my alma mater, as well as the other priests, Father Daniel Straughn, that are here today. Gentlemen, I can't help but think that my wonderful Polish grandmother, Sophie, is up in heaven smiling down today. She is very happy that I'm a Superior Court Judge, but she's even more thrilled that the Bishop and all these priests are here.

*(Laughter)*

To my staff, Molly Thayer, Ned Spells, and Dan Cuneen, thank you for your patience as I struggled to learn a new job. You always made me look good, even when I didn't know what I was doing. I'm so thrilled to be able to have Molly and Ned join me, but there's no room for a Tip Staff at the Superior Court, Judge Klein, you have the best Tip Staff in Dan Cuneen.

My friends, I can't begin to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. Your help along this journey to today has been priceless. I feel like Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz." It was only because of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and all of the people that she met along the way that she was able to travel safely down the yellow brick road.

But like Dorothy said, "There's no place like home." And although, like Dorothy, I was so very blessed to meet people with brains and heart and courage that guided me on the path, it was the people at home that

sacrificed the most. And it is the people at home to whom I owe the greatest debt of gratitude.

To my parents, Alexander and Dolores Ference, how blessed I am to have you as my parents.

My dad's parents immigrated to this country from Russia. They came with nothing. They couldn't even speak the language. Shortly after my dad was born, his mother died, leaving my dad's father to raise my dad and his sister.

My grandfather did the very best he could, taking whatever work he could to support his children, working in mills, on the railroad, and on barges. They were extremely poor. Yet my father was raised with love, respect, and a deep faith in God.

My father worked to put himself through college so that he could have a better life for himself and his family. My father is the most decent, hard working, and honest man that I know. Dad, you couldn't be at my last installation, but I'm so thrilled that you're here now. Thank you, Dad, for being such a shining example and for teaching me the importance of treating people at all times with respect.

*(Applause)*

My mom was raised above a bar in the Woods Run Section of Pittsburgh. Her father was orphaned at the age of 12. As a result, he found himself living on the streets, sleeping at night under bridges.

With grit, determination, drive, and hard work, he made a good life for my grandmother and my mom.

My mom went to nursing school when my sister and I were little. She was a bright, caring, and compassionate nurse, but she was always a better mom.

I always knew that my mom loved my dad, my sister, and me more than anything. Thank you, Mum, for your faith, your encouragement and your grace.

*(Applause)*

Thank you, Mum and Dad, for always loving me no matter what. I would never have achieved a thing if it weren't for you.

Oh, and thank you for having the foresight to name me Judy. It really helped with the campaign!

*(Laughter)*

To my big sister, Lynn, throughout my life, no one has been more protective and supportive than my sister. As little girls, she would walk me to school safely, holding my hand. Today she is still there to hold my hand and make sure I reach my destination safely. Thank you. I love you.

To my incredible children, Grant and Sophia, I know there were times this year when you thought you were orphans. My children have memorized the phone numbers of every pizza delivery restaurant in the city.

Although this year has been difficult on them, they never complained, even when they had to wear my “Judge Judy for Superior Court” T-shirts.

I am so blessed to be your mom, and you make me proud every day. I love you. You truly are my heroes.

Last, but not least, my amazing husband, Jim, also known as Mr. Judge Judy.

*(Laughter)*

I can't begin to thank you for being with me every step along the way.

I met Jim the summer before I started law school, and he has always been my greatest supporter. He was there for me through law school, through my career as a trial lawyer, and through my brief career as a trial judge. He never wavered, and no one was more supportive of my efforts as I campaigned for a seat on the Superior Court.

He was my campaign manager, scheduler, handler, strategist, and driver. We put 50,000 miles on the car together this past year. He was my drill sergeant when I needed to be toughened up, and my teddy bear when I needed a shoulder to cry on. When I wanted to quit, he kept me focused and marching forward. When I was discouraged, he gave me hope.

I am here today because of my wonderful husband. I love you so much.

*(Applause)*

Well, the journey of a thousand miles continues. I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve the people of this beautiful Commonwealth on the Superior Court.

To President Judge Ford Elliott I am truly honored and humbled to join your ranks. I look forward to learning from you, and I promise to do the best that I can to continue the proud tradition of this honorable and respected court.

Thank you, everybody, and God bless.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Those remarks are a very tough act to follow, but I need to recognize Judge Michael McCarthy, who I did not see until a few moments ago. And also, I wanted to recognize David Blaner, who is the Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association. It's nice to see you back there.

Bringing our ceremonial session to a close, Bishop, would you please favor us with the Benediction?

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK: Your Honor, Judge Ford Elliott, to all the members of the Bench and the Bar, all the distinguished guests who are gathered together in this room, if it pleases the court, I would like to offer just a comment.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Please, Reverend.

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK: To you, Judge Ference Olson: Dear Judy, we are all very much proud to be in this Courtroom today and to know that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is in even better hands because of you in so many ways.

You'll be standing forth to really treat each person as God intends people to be treated. There's no question that most of the people in this courtroom today recognize your legal abilities, but I know that I'm not the only one who also recognizes that you are a woman of faith.

And what connects those two important parts of yourself is the fact that you are a woman of integrity. You, in fact, are a woman of conviction, commitment and courage; commitment to the truth, conviction to justice, and courage to always preserve both.

And so, today, if it pleases everyone who is here, I'd like to ask our entire body to please stand.

(Audience complies)

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK: And it is the Judeo Christian practice to extend a blessing from God by the raising of hands, and I ask everyone who is in this courtroom who feels comfortable to do so to raise your hands and to repeat after me:

Judy, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

THE AUDIENCE: Judy, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

MOST REVEREND DAVID A. ZUBIK: May He keep His face upon you and His smile on you.

THE AUDIENCE: May He keep His face upon you and His smile on you.

MOST REVEREND BISHOP DAVID A. ZUBIK: May He keep you strong, wise and just.

THE AUDIENCE: May He keep you strong, wise and just.

MOST REVEREND BISHOP DAVID A. ZUBIK: Amen.

THE AUDIENCE: Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you, Bishop. Court will close. Would you like to send an invitation?

JUDGE OLSON: Yes, I would love for everybody, if the snow has held off, please join us for a reception in the rotunda of the Family Division, which is the old Allegheny County Jail. And I thought it was so appropriate because I started my career with Judge Cohill in the Allegheny County Jail, and I am now reaching this level of my career back at the Allegheny County Jail.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOT: Mr. Carey, would you now close the ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania? And I would ask that everyone remain in the courtroom while the judges leave. Thank you.

THE COURT CRIER: The special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is adjourned.

(At 4:02 p.m. the ceremony was concluded).



**THE HONORABLE  
PAULA FRANCISCO OTT**



*Assumed Office: January 5, 2010  
County: Chester*

**PRESIDING**

HONORABLE KATE FORD ELLIOTT

**SPEAKERS**

DEACON CLEMENT J. McGOVERN, JR.

JOHN S. HALSTED, ESQUIRE

HONORABLE THOMAS G. GAVIN

JAMES I. McERLANE, ESQUIRE

HONORABLE MAUREEN LALLY-GREEN

**PROCEEDINGS**

THE COURT CRIER: The Judges of the Common Pleas Court  
of Chester County.

The Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

O yea, o yea, o yea, let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order, President Judge Kate Ford Elliott presiding.

Let all manner of person rise and attend. Let the family, friends and associates of the Honorable Paula Francisco Ott be joyful. Let the citizens of this Commonwealth be confident and sure that the Superior Court convenes for administration to Paula Francisco Ott for the oath of office in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

Please be seated.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Good morning, everyone – or should I say, good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you Mr. Morrissey.

THE COURT CRIER: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: The Superior Court of Pennsylvania sits in ceremonial session today to welcome to our Bench the Honorable Paula Francisco Ott.

Before we begin our session, I would like to call upon the Honorable Clement J. McGovern, Jr., for an invocation.

DEACON MCGOVERN: Remembering that God is always in our presence, let us pray.

Almighty God, Author of the Universe, Creator of this diverse planet, Father of us all, we come together to honor, to participate with and to pray for the Honorable Paula Francisco Ott and her elevation to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. May she be blessed with wisdom, armed with courage and filled with a passion for justice, all of which has spawned her integrity while on the bench, all of which has supported her achievements in the past, and all of which will fuel her success in the future.

We pray that her friends will remain her friends and increase. We pray that her compassion will continue to mark her notable character, and we pray that your peace will be her peace and that her peace will envelop those about her.

We pray, Dear Lord, that compassion will continue to follow her in her new responsibilities. We pray that her understanding will continue

to infuse her decisions, and we pray that her happy disposition will infect those about her. We know, Lord, that you are the source of justice, of unity and of peace and we pray, therefore, that you will inspire us to greater with the responsibility of enforcing it and of interpreting it.

We pray, Lord, that you will give us the vision to see the compelling necessity of unity here on earth so that when we are one caring family we can be that in heaven with you as our Father.

We pray, Lord, that you will bless us with your peace, the peace that brings us to live in harmony with ourselves, with one another, with nature and most especially with you, our God and Father.

We pray, too, Lord, that you will return home soon and save all those who have been called abroad in the service of their country.

And now, Lord, I pray for each one here and their loved ones, that you will bless them and keep them, let your face shine upon them and be gracious to them, that you will treat them with kindness and give them peace.

Amen.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE (*in unison*): Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much.

Judge Ott, as you take the bench today, you will join a group of judges whose work ethic has been nationally recognized and whose dedication to the fair and efficient administration of justice for the citizens of Pennsylvania is already well established.

Your colleagues warmly welcome you and we know that we will benefit from your legal scholarship, your reputation for integrity and, as so many of us have already discovered, your friendship. And with close to 8,000 new appeal filings this year, we welcome you.

Before our session begins, I'd like to quickly introduce the members of the Superior Court who are present here today and who have traveled in to honor our newest colleague. We have, to my right we have Judge Correale Stevens. To my left is John L. Musmanno and Judge John T. Bender. And behind me, and I'll start at the right, is Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Jacqueline O. Shogan, Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen, Judge Judy Olson – and I apologize, Judge Christine Donohue.

We are also here today in Chester County to celebrate the installation of Judge Ott, but this is a very busy week for the Superior Court, and an important one, and one we look forward to, and I want to introduce for you the three newest members of the Superior Court who will be installed over the next week or so, and that is, along with Judge Ott, Judge Judith Olson, Judge Sally Mundy and Judge Anne Lazarus.

Also with us today is a Senior Judge of our Court now, but a former Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Judge James J. Fitzgerald, III. Jim, I think you're here.

And I would be very, very negligent and rude, and would never forgive myself if I didn't immediately acknowledge our colleague of until about a week ago, Judge Dick Klein, who is present in the audience with us today. Thanks for being here, Dick.

I also want to acknowledge other members of our Court, who are former members of our Court who are here. You will be hearing from Judge Maureen Lally-Green in a few moments, and she is here and we're delighted to see her.

And I believe also Judge Phyllis Beck is somewhere in the audience. Thank you for being here, Phyllis.

Other retired Justices and Judges who are here, I recognize Justice William Lamb, who is in the audience and present. We are delighted to have you. As I mentioned Judge Beck.

We also have Judge M. Joseph Melody, Jr., from Chester County; Judge Lawrence E. Wood from Chester County and Judge Thomas A. Pitt, Jr., from Chester County.

I want to introduce other dignitaries who are here but I would ask your indulgence and I will do that as we proceed through the ceremony.

The next person – oh, I'm sorry, I also wanted to make special mention of Judge Juan R. Sanchez of the Federal District Court. He is here. Thank you very much, your Honor.

At this time I would like to introduce Attorney John S. Halsted of the firm of Gawthrop, Greenwood and Halsted, for special remarks on behalf of Judge Ott.

MR. HALSTED: Good morning, your Honor.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Good morning.

MR. HALSTED: President Judge Ford Elliott, President Judge MacElree, members of the judiciary from just about every level I can conceive, honored guests, family of Paula Francisco Ott, fellow members of the Bar and friends of Judge Ott, I come before you today as a senior lawyer.

Now, when I started at the Bar there weren't any senior lawyers, they were either older lawyers, old lawyers or those guys. I think that the Bar Association decided that the old lawyer section didn't sound too good, so they created what is called senior lawyers. But regardless of what tag you might give me, I have earned the right to reflect upon the past.

And my past with Judge Ott starts at an Easter vacation, I am going to gather about 1970 or 1971. At that time I was what they call an Area Chairman in the Republican Party of Chester County, and there were 14 areas at that time, and within my east area was East Marlborough Township and the little crossroads then known as Willowdale. I got a call during that vacation time from a student at the University of Delaware who wished to have a position with the County for the summer.

In those days a position with the County required that you visit your Area Chairman and committee people for their endorsement. That's a process which is now probably politically incorrect and not followed, but then it was not only politically correct, but politically necessary. I was happy to sign this young Paula Francisco's application as she had already been vetted by her committee people, which meant that she would be okay. I think she worked in the Tax Lien Office maybe that summer, or one of those offices like that, and I believe that that was the first political and public office or job that she held.

The next that I heard of her she had become an assistant district attorney under then Bill Lamb, now Justice Lamb, where she stayed with them and prosecuted criminals and did all that was bid her to do. Then she left the criminal life and I was fortunate, and the County Commissioners of Chester County were knowledgeable enough, to appoint her my first full-time assistant solicitor, and that was a wonderful thing. She proceeded in that job for several years.

And then I was lucky again to persuade her to join the firm of Gawthrop, Greenwood and Halsted as our very first lady lawyer. As such, she became – well, at that time our senior partner was Robert S. Gawthrop, and he, when he had a task that he didn't wish to pursue, would say, well, I'll have one of my boys do it. Well, Paula became one of Bob Gawthrop's boys. While she was with our firm she went and got her master's degree at Temple and became an expert in matters of the orphan's court, knowledge which I'm sure has and will put her in good stead as she moves up the judicial ladder.

After being with our firm for I think maybe eleven years, she decided it was time to get involved in matters judicial and she did indeed become the first lady judge of the Court of Common Pleas of this Court. Shortly after that – well, not shortly, but five years ago almost to the day, I believe, I had the opportunity to make a few remarks in Old Courtroom Number 1 up the street on the occasion of her elevation as President Judge of this Court, another first, first for our Court, certainly, and I think second or third in the State. She was, during that time, very involved in the creation and construction of this courthouse and this courtroom, which I think reflects nicely on the County and all who use it.

Last July, I believe it was, Judge Ott called me and said that she had an opportunity possibly to run for the Superior Court. I thought about that and I thought about the political landscape in Pennsylvania, and it was 2009. We had a conference with our good friend Jim McErlane, and I'll have to tell you at that time I was not particularly encouraged about the chances of obtaining the position that she was seeking. But then, through the good auspices of Jim McErlane and Skip Brion, and a lot of very energetic and knowing people across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, she did indeed attain her goal. And, knowing her presence and directness, I shouldn't have been surprised that that happened.

You may have read in the papers that Judge Ott is, I think, the third judge from Chester County to be on the Superior Court. Her immediate predecessor was John B. Hannum, who then went on to the Federal Court. John B. Hannum's sons, Jock Hannum and Buzzy Hannum, are members of this Bar.

Prior to that, in 1922, Judge Robert S. Gawthrop was appointed to the Superior Court. Judge Gawthrop was the father of President Judge Gawthrop of this Court, the grandfather of Robert S. Gawthrop, III, of this Court and the Federal District Court, and was my step grandfather.

The thing that you probably also read was that Judge Ott is the first judge from Chester County to be elected to the Superior Court. Judge Hannum did not succeed. Judge Gawthrop was the victim of an internecine fight in the Republican party in which the Republicans in the western part of the State were unhappy with the Republicans in the eastern part of the state – sometimes that is not unique – and as a result of that unhappiness I understand there was about 100 or 150 ballot boxes which found their way into the river never to be seen again.

Well, I know everyone here and throughout the County, are very proud of what Paula has accomplished for us and we know she will accomplish that at the next level. Personally, I fondly remember the days when she didn't wear black to work every day and occasionally would make coffee. I hope, I would like to send this message out beyond this courtroom to the citizens of Chester County, and indeed the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that we here are sending to the Superior Court a very superior person and judge.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much.

You know, Mr. Halsted, I must tell you that I'm sure it was an accident because we have a lot of rivers out in Pittsburgh and those things happen.

And as always happens when you're working from two separate lists, you forget people, and I have to tell you that I could be in trouble on this one, because it's one of my colleagues, and that is Judge Robert Freedberg, who is sitting directly behind me, for some reason I didn't have him on my list.

I also want to just make mention for you, Judge, that I'm sure you received notes of congratulations from several of our colleagues who were not here today, most especially Judge Gantman, who I know you are good friends with and she had to be away with her family, Judge Panella had a family situation he needed to take care of, and Judges

Kelly, Popovich, McEwen, Colville and Judge Cleland I know have all sent you their very best and they were unable to make this trip.

And most of you who are already aware, Judge Ott's judicial career has included her respected tenure as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County. Here today, along with our next speaker, to honor Judge Ott are distinguished members of the Chester County Trial Bench. There is the new President Judge succeeding Judge Ott, Judge James P. MacElree, II, Judge Thomas G. Gavin, who we'll be hearing from in a moment, Judge Robert J. Shenkin, Judge Howard F. Riley, Jr., Judge Jacqueline Carroll Cody, Judge Katherine B.L. Platt, Judge William P. Mahon, Judge Anthony A. Sarcione, Judge Phyllis R. Streitel, Judge Edward Griffith, Judge John L. Hall, Judge Ronald C. Nagel, Judge David F. Bortner and Senior Judge Charles B. Smith. And I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

I did also want to mention several Magistrate District Judges who are also present today to honor Judge Ott, Judge Jeremy M. Blackburn, and with him I think is John Cellucci, who is Chairman of the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board – I want to recognize you – Judge William Kraut, Judge Nancy A. Gill, Judge Michael Cabry, Judge Grover Koon, Judge Gwen Knapp, and Judge Chet Darlington.

Also having traveled a few miles especially to be here are judges from outside Chester County. We have present here today Judge Jeanine Turgeon of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas – hello Jeannine, good to see you – Judge Kathrynann W. Durham of Delaware County, President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe of Philadelphia County, Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson of Philadelphia County, and Judge Pete Drayer of Montgomery County. You are all welcome and it's wonderful to have you here.

I now would like to call upon the Honorable Thomas G. Gavin, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County to make remarks on behalf of his now former colleague.

JUDGE GAVIN: Please excuse my back.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: No problem, sir.

JUDGE GAVIN: President Judge Ford Elliott, members of the Chester County Bench, Deacon McGovern, Ray, Mr. and Mrs.



Francisco, members of the Ott and Francisco families, distinguished guests too numerous to acknowledge individually, Paula's many friends and colleagues and, of course, Judge Ott, I am honored to have a role in this great day for Chester County.

I will try not to be too serious, too mundane, too personal or too long in my comments. However, I intend to recognize Judge Ott's many accomplishments, to reflect on her contributions to our community, Bar and Bench, and to accord her her place in our legal history.

We have a rich legal history and tradition here in Chester County which I am going to incorporate into my comments as I find the parallels between the past and present striking.

A good starting point is Deacon McGovern, who gave the invocation. Full-time religious work is a second career for the Deacon who previously was, like Paula, an attorney and later a distinguished trial judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County.

Chester County has its own judge turned clergyman, Byrd Wilson, who served between 1806 and 1817. Judge Wilson's father James was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his grandfather Mark was the founder of Hopewell Furnace in the northern part of our County. Hopewell Furnace supplied Washington's Army with cannons during the War of Revolution. Judge Wilson was, like Paula, President Judge of this Court. He left the Bench and became a distinguished Episcopal Clergyman in New York City. He, like Deacon McGovern, ministered to a parish for years and ultimately taught in the Episcopal Theological Seminary. I hope that Deacon McGovern's physical presence and Byrd Wilson's historic presence serve as a reminder to all judges that moral and ethical considerations should have a significant role in judicial decision making.

There is another historical parallel more closely aligned with Paula that I will touch on later in my comments. For the moment I want to fast forward in time from 1817 to 1981 and reflect on comments made then that are equally applicable today.

United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall said, "Judges must never forget that the only real source of power that they can tap is the respect of the people." As I look around this crowded

courtroom, it is clear that Judge Ott enjoys the respect of a broad cross-section of the people of Chester County. If history is the guide I believe it is, she will tap that source of power not to benefit herself, but rather to benefit the people she will now serve on a state-wide level. I am certain she will quickly earn their respect just as she has earned ours.

If I were to ask why she enjoys that respect, I would need look no further than the comments made by another justice of the United States Supreme Court, Justice Potter Stewart, a mere two weeks before he retired from the court. Interestingly, his comments were also made in 1981. He said, "The most important judicial qualities are competence, temperament, character and diligence."

I have known Paula since 1975 when she began her legal career here as an assistant district attorney. She was one of the first female assistant district attorneys in what was then truly a male bastion. She hit the ground running, asked for no quarter and gave none, both in the courtroom and the give and take that is part of the practice of law. She quickly demonstrated the qualities mentioned by Justice Stewart, qualities that were evident at every stage of her career, both as an attorney and a judge.

Later, as you heard from Mr. Halsted, she practiced civil law at Gawthrop, Greenwood where she had the good fortune to work not only with Mr. Gawthrop but Mr. Greenwood. The noun gentleman is over-used today and has become more of a salutation than a measure of a man's character. Those present who knew Mr. Greenwood knew him as a polite, gracious considerate man with high standards of propriety and behavior who loved and, more importantly, respected the law and its role in the lives of the people. I am told that it was actually a pleasure to be his adversary, a comment unlikely to be heard in today's practice environment that is more reflective of a business operation than the practice of an honored profession.

Mr. Greenwood's persona obviously rubbed off onto Paula who, no matter how rancorous things get, remains gracious and who has always held herself and other practitioners to the highest standards.

Paula, like Isabel Darlington about whom I will have more to say in a moment, recognized that community involvement was and is

important, and that lawyers have much to offer civic organizations. I will not attempt to catalog the groups she has been involved with over the years, but note their representatives are in the audience.

Paula was more than just a joiner of these organizations; she was a doer, an active participant. In fact, she put into practice what Isabel Darlington had long ago put in writing. Isabel wrote, “A lawyer always has many social, educational and political duties to perform for the community in which he” – she did not use the female – “he lives, and I have tried to do my share.”

I now want to go back in time to 1897 when Chester County admitted its first female practitioner, Isabel Darlington. The Darlington family was already well known in the legal community. Isaac Darlington was the first President Judge of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District having been appointed in 1821. At that time the district consisted of Chester and Delaware Counties, which enables me to claim that perhaps Deacon McGovern should be viewed as the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District’s second judge turned clergyman.

Isabel Darlington had a successful civil practice for almost 50 years and was elected President of the Chester County Bar Association in 1941, no mean feat considering she was the only female member of the Bar. In 1941 we admitted a second female practitioner to the practice of law in Chester County. Those of you who think the practice of law is lonely, imagine Isabel 1897 to 1941.

Isabel’s accomplishments put the first cracks in what today is known as the glass ceiling, a ceiling Paula can be credited to shattering here in Chester County. In 1975 there were a handful of female practitioners whose numbers steadily grew in the ensuing years. As their numbers increased, so did their leadership roles in all areas of the community and our Bar. It was fast becoming clear that a woman should be on the bench. Like Isabel Darlington, Paula’s abilities were recognized not only within the legal community, but among the public at large resulting in her election as our first woman judge in 1991.

Judge Ott is the fourth member of the Gawthrop firm to become a judge of our Court, and the second member to become a Superior Court Judge. As indicated, Robert Smith Gawthrop was initially appointed to

the Superior Court in April of 1922. Like Judge Ott, he did not have to run in the primary, just the general election. It is my hope that today's Daily Local will say of Judge Ott that, and I quote, "Her election is an honor to the County and she will no doubt fill the place most acceptably," as it did when it reported on Judge Gawthrop's appointment.

Just as she did when she joined the District Attorney's Office, when she joined our Bench, she hit the ground running and has never come up for air. Paula shouldered her share of the caseload from day one and still found time to remain active in her various civic organizations as those of us who have been cajoled into speaking before those groups well know. She can be very persuasive when she wants to be.

Her boundless energy was soon vested in the Conference of State Trial Judges. The Conference offered her the opportunity to keep her campaigning skills honed when she ran for and was elected as officer and ultimately President of the Conference, where she spoke for all of Pennsylvania's trial judges. They, like the citizens of Chester County and now Pennsylvania, recognized her competence, temperament and diligence, and wisely put her to work for them.

As President Judge she has led our Court these past five years. She has been as effective a leader as any of her predecessors. This magnificent building and courtroom we are assembled in was conceived when Judge Riley was President Judge, but delivered by Judge Ott. Whenever a construction issue arose, she would don her hardhat for a hands-on site visit. Try as I might, though, I never could get her to trade in her high heels for construction boots. Whatever her attire, I think it fair to say that everyone is pleased with the finished product.

It seems like yesterday that Paula told us that she had the opportunity to run for a Superior Court seat. We said, go for it, we've got your back. I remember Judge Sarcione's glee in describing her campaign banner as it floated over the Jersey shore beaches on Labor Day. He extolled the virtues of getting the most bang for your bucks and the thousands of people who must have seen the banner. We became familiar with some of the more remote areas of the Commonwealth and shared laughter over campaign miscues.

Paula poured her energy and talent into the campaign and the people liked what they saw and heard, and here we are today celebrating her election to the Superior Court. I have to admit that today is bittersweet for me, and I imagine my colleagues. We are losing not just a colleague but a valued friend, someone who always had our backs.

Paula, in a few minutes you will no longer have to dream the impossible dream. Your dream has come true. May it be everything you have imagined it to be. Congratulations.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very, very much, Judge.

Before I introduce our next speaker, I would like to take note of several public officials who are present today to honor the Judge. We have Frank McElwaine, Clerk of Courts; Valentino DiGiorgio, Controller; Dr. Steven Dickter, the Coroner here in Chester County; Joseph Carroll, the District Attorney; MiMi Sack, the Jury Commissioner; a personal friend of mine, Martha Smith, Jury Commissioner; Bryan Walters, the Prothonotary; Ryan Costello, the Recorder of Deeds; Paula Gowen, Register of Wills; Carolyn Bunny Welsh, the Sheriff; Ann Duke, Treasurer.

Also in attendance is Les Neri, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, and George Zumbano, Esquire, President of Chester County Bar Association. Welcome to all of you.

It is now my pleasure to call upon attorney James E. McErlane of the firm of Lamb and McErlane for remarks.

MR. McERLANE: Thank you. We welcome the Superior Court President Judge Ford Elliott. We thank you all for coming.

At this time last year we had Judge Jackie Shogan and Judge Cheryl Allen sitting on a panel of arguments in our historic courthouse, and we welcome you back. I know many other, like Judge Musmanno, have been here before.

When we had Bill Lamb's installation for the Supreme Court in 2003, we invited the Supreme Court to come back to Chester County for oral arguments. They never came. I want to compliment the wisdom of the Superior Court.

I congratulate Judge Olson, Judge Mundy, Judge Lazarus on their election and ascendancy to the Superior Court.

We are delighted to be here as a County, as individuals, collectively.

We're happy to see Judge Juan Sanchez come back. Judge Sanchez spent seven and a half years in the higher calling of the Chester County Court before he went to the other system in Philadelphia, the Federal District Court.

When Judge Sanchez took office in 1998, Paula Ott was his big sister on the Court. Paula had, I think, seven years, eight years experience, and they were very close. And when Judge Sanchez was going through the process of nominating, through the labyrinth of Washington, Judge Ott was there side by side and it's great to see Judge Sanchez back today.

Judge Joyner, Curtis Joyner, was expected to be here but he has a month long trial in Philadelphia, and he asked me last night to make sure I convey his best and on behalf of Mitt and he, they offer their congratulations.

Paula started her legal career as a young girl when she and sister Brenda would go up to Foxburg in Clarion County to visit family. In Foxburg Grandmother Panton was the town librarian, Grandmother Francisco was the post mistress, Grandfather Panton was the town lawyer. Now out of a town of 236 that pretty much covers it.

Paula started her legal career with her grandfather's seal, her grandfather's big seal that he would attach to documents like deeds and other documents, and Paula offered to help, and so she put the seal on every piece of paper he had on his desk and in the office.

Paula, as John told you, was an assistant county solicitor. And when she started, on the same day – the County was moving offices around, the Solicitor's Office was on one side and across the hall was the Chester County Planning Commission. Now, Ray Ott is a planner by profession. He has his master's degree and has practiced planning for 30-some years. So immediately, since Ray started that same Monday morning, he started planning the rest of his life. So the marriage made in heaven started in the Chester County Courthouse.

We are delighted that Paula is on the Superior Court, but I can say without fear of contradiction that no one on January 5, 2009 expected to be attending the swearing in of Paula Ott on January 5, 2010.

In the fall she considered running for the Superior Court, but as President Judge she had responsibility to oversee the massive transfer of operations from the, what I'll call the old courthouse to the new courthouse, and she declined to go into the arduous process which usually takes about 15, sometimes 18 months to go through to build up the committee endorsements, to build up for the primary and general election.

But then in May Judge Maureen Lally-Green, who graces us here today, announced that she was resigning effective July 31, of 2009. As John Halsted briefly summarized, we started talking, Skip Brion and others.

Skip and I accompanied Paula to a screening meeting of the Republican State Committee chaired by Rob Gleason, who's here today, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, and then on August 8<sup>th</sup> Rob chaired a meeting of the State Committee which endorsed Paula Ott on the first ballot for nomination to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, so that the 15 month campaign became three months.

Now, there are a lot of people sitting behind me, there are a lot of people sitting over there, and there are a lot of people sitting out there who are wondering, how the heck did she get to do it in three months. I'm sure people are thinking, as did the prophet Isaiah when he spoke of the Chosen People coming out of captivity, upon you the Lord shines.

It was an aggressive campaign. Chairman Rob Gleason mobilized his forces, and many of those people are here today. This campaign covered 67 counties in Pennsylvania and 9,316 voting precincts, all of which had a plan of action.

Pennsylvania elects its judges today. That may not be the case in the future. I know Chairman Gleason favors a merit selection system. But this was an election and this was what we had to do to win. The election was complicated because there were nine candidates for four positions. But across Pennsylvania, the Republican State Committee under Rob Gleason, Chester County under Skip Brion, gave the message that

Paula Ott was an excellent judge with a distinguished record, and with all of that a lady of grace and distinction.

Paula traveled hard. She did her share. She went all over the Commonwealth. And when she did that she spread her enthusiasm, she showed her class everywhere she went, and she engaged the people. Paula Ott captured 57 of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania on her way to victory.

An election is similar to a trial, you know. There's preparation, there's strategy, there's execution and most of all hard work. But it was the outstanding leadership of Rob Gleason and the driving energy of Skip Brion and others that made it happen. It may look effortless from the outside, but underneath there was an engine running hard and fast and running 24-7. Thousands of volunteers were mobilized by people like this who worked hard for their candidates even though very few of them have ever met the candidate. So today we celebrate the electoral process, we introduce Pennsylvania to merit selection Chester County style.

Judge Ott has big shoes to fill. Maureen Lally-Green was a bright star of the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts. She is a woman of great intellect, boundless energy and remarkable achievement. Paula, you're a wonderful heir and successor to that Maureen Lally-Green tradition.

When Judge Lally-Green took her office in 1998, she said that Judge Ford Elliott was her coach. Judge Ford Elliott has coached many jurists on the Superior Court and others, and we know you will benefit from her coaching as will the other new judges on the Superior Court.

So, Paula, today we are here and everywhere in Chester County to celebrate your induction to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, we know how proud the Francisco family and Ott family is, and we're pretty proud, too, Paula. God bless you.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT:** Thank you, Mr. McErlane, for your very gracious comments. We appreciate it.

And fortunately, I think the Superior Court, all the members of the Superior Court feel very, very fortunate that, even with all the problems connected with the election system, the way it worked this year, we



have four outstanding additions to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

Before I continue, Judge Ott, I just want to introduce some people you're going to be working with in the very near future. We have our Executive Administrator here, David Szewczak. We have our Prothonotary, Karen Bramblett, who was lining us all up in the back. And we have our Assistant Chief Staff Attorney – and you'll find out a lot about Central Legal Staff – Len Blazick, who is in the back.

And I also want to let President Judge Dembe know that we did introduce you. Thank you for being here.

It is now my pleasure to introduce someone who is an old friend to the members of this Bench, our former colleague, the Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, and we ask that she come forward and please present the Commission from Governor Edward G. Rendell.

**HONORABLE MAUREEN LALLY-GREEN:** May it please this Honorable Court, and each one of my former, extraordinary and wonderful colleagues, what a pleasure it is to be here today.

To the distinguished members of the judiciary that have been so wonderfully announced, family and friends and to my dear friend Paula Ott, it is my distinct pleasure today to announce the oath of office for you, but before I do, can I just take a moment to share the great joy that it was you, Paula, who is taking my former seat on this extraordinary, wonderful Court.

We have been friends and colleagues for many years, for as long as I have been in the judiciary, and so today I have to tell you it's just an amazing way that life unfolds itself.

Much of the time we're safely ensconced in our professions, in our personal boats, safely adjusting to the rise and fall of waters, and we do it well. And then, perhaps, just once, once in a lifetime, we venture onto a year felt like that, didn't it? What a breathtaking experience, maintaining the proper balance, staying aware and away from dangers, and keeping focus, focus on that shoreline. But when our toes hit that shoreline and we've arrived safely, what exhilaration. It's an indelibly etched memory, maybe one we never want to do again, and I

don't think you ever want to run this way ever again, but you made it, and you did it.

So too, was Paula's life this past half of the year, and it was caused by me, so I take personal responsibility for that. But I watched, I talked, I was with you all the way, and you took the challenge and you rode the wave and you stayed focused and you made it.

So today we all celebrate together as Paula Ott assumes the responsibility of Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Of course, we celebrate your exceptional professional career, we celebrate your reputation for honesty and excellence. You will bring restraint to the powerful and hope to the humble, and we celebrate today as citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that we, we are blessed with the talents of Paula Ott on the Superior Court.

So as you embark on your next journey in your career, know that you will be occasionally riding a challenging wave, and know that we have unquestionable confidence that you, again, will ride whatever wave it is with grace, with balance and with integrity.

There is a glow in this room. It's a rich, warm, happy glow, and we all sense it here, and it's called absolute joy. Congratulations, Paula.

And so with that, I will read the oath of office: "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office. Paula Ott, of the County of Chester, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greetings:

"Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the third day of November Anno Domini, two thousand and nine, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

"Therefore, Know Ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, third priority of commission."

"To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first

Monday of January, two thousand and ten, if you shall so long behave yourself well.”

That’s in the oath.

And it’s signed by Ed Rendell.

Congratulations, Paula.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Judge Ott, as you take your oath of office today, I want to once again welcome you o the Court which is steeped in tradition and widely respected. We are all confident that your service on this Court will only enhance that reputation. We are a Court where friendship and collegiality run deep, and this will hold you in good stead as you must bear the weight of your judicial duties as an appellate judge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You, as do we all, know that service as a Judge is an honor and a privilege, but it is only when we take our oath that we understand its awesome responsibility.

And I would ask you to now please stand for your oath of office, and I would ask everyone who is able to please stand in the courtroom.

Judge Ott, please raise you right hand. And state after me,

I –

JUDGE OTT: I

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --Paula Francisco Ott –

JUDGE OTT: --Paula Francisco Ott –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --do solemnly swear –

JUDGE OTT: -- do solemnly swear –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --that I will support, obey and defend –

JUDGE OTT: --that I will support, obey and defend –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --the Constitution of the United States –

JUDGE OTT: --the Constitution of the United States –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --and the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

JUDGE OTT: --and the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --and that I will discharge my duties –

JUDGE OTT: --and that I will discharge my duties –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --as a judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania –

JUDGE OTT: --as a judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania –

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: --with fidelity.

JUDGE OTT: --with fidelity, so help me God.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: Thank you very much. (Whereupon Robing of Paula Francisco Ott performed by Ray H. Ott, Jr.)

JUDGE OTT: Thank you. Thank you. This is truly overwhelming.

President Judge Ford Elliott, members of the Superior Court, my colleagues on the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County and Federal Benches, those of you who have come from other Courts of Common Pleas, the minor judiciary, public officials, family and friends, thank you for coming today to help me celebrate this momentous occasion.

Thank you, Judge McGovern, for your invocation. He was a founder of the Southeast Bench Bar Conference which promoted cooperation between judges and attorneys in the given counties of the Southeast Region, and that is how I came to know him and respect his abilities.

Chester County has sent many of its judges and attorneys to the federal bench, but few have gone to the appellate courts. Perhaps they thought a federal background check and a senate confirmation was less daunting than a statewide election. I think they were right.

On occasions such as this, one reflects on the people of your life who have influenced you and helped you achieve your goals.

Since I was in the seventh grade I wanted to be an attorney like my Grandfather Panton, and I was sworn in today on this Bible.

My parents, Jack and Janet Francisco, were always loving, supportive, encouraging, and made certain that the money was there for my education and my sister's. Mother was even passing out campaign literature this fall in their retirement community. I am so happy that they are here today, as well as Ray's father and stepmother, Ray and Beverly Ott. Given our age, Ray and I are very fortunate to have all of our parents

alive. And his mother is in Hawaii for the winter with his sister, and she was campaigning for me in West Chester before she left for Hawaii.

I would like to take a moment and introduce the other members of my family. My sister, my dear sister Brenda and her husband, Bob Graupensperger, and her son Kurt Graupensperger, and his wife Megan, and they are expecting in March. And then just so those of you who weren't really sure that I had roots in Allegheny County, my cousin from Allegheny County, from Bridgeville came, Carol Shartner, and I was in her wedding when I was about eleven years old. It was quite an occasion that she came today.

When I graduated from law school I had no connections in the legal community in Chester County and Bill Lamb took a chance on me and hired me as an assistant D.A. Judge D.T. Marrone, who many of us know and love, took me under his wing and made certain that I did not make any major mistakes as a trial attorney.

John Halsted, my second boss and my later partner, has been the most important person in my legal career. He epitomizes the meaning of mentor, a wise and trusted counselor, and I thank him for speaking today.

When I was elected judge in 1991, I was accepted as an equal on our Bench. Judge Wood assigned me cases in Orphans' Court and I have loved that area of the law ever since, with a notable recent exception which some of you in the courtroom know about.

The lawyers of our County and the Chester County Bar Association have been so supportive of me, and many of those friendships go back to my days in the District Attorney's Office.

Over the past 18 years I have always been able to go to Judge Gavin for advice. I must admit his Marine personality was a little scary at first, but I persevered and I found that he was a true friend and counselor, because what he always made you believe as a judge is, you were to do what you believed was right and fair no matter what anyone else thought of your decision. And I value that advice. I could not have dealt with some of the construction issues that I have encountered in this building without his help, and I thank you for speaking today.

Only other judges can truly understand the interrelationship of legal and human issues that a trial judge must address. And I want to thank my fellow judges from Chester County, including those who went on the Federal Bench, for your friendship, for sharing your thoughts and experiences. By doing so, we all became better judges.

Through our State Trial Association I have made many friends throughout the State and I am so pleased that so many of you took time to be here today to share this moment with me. And I promise to remember what we all said about the Superior Court Judges.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: We'll talk.

JUDGE OTT: I was intending to finish my second term as a trial judge when I received a call this summer from Jim McErlane and my life changed. Jim and Skip became my political mentors and were invaluable to me as I ran for this seat. Jim and Skip, thank you for your incredible support and for believing that I could resurrect my political skills.

I thank Chairman Rob Gleason and the Republican State Committee, people who believed in me and nominated me to fill this vacancy.

Dick Flannery, a State Committeeman and friend from New Castle County helped me in the Western part of the State.

Vince Galko, my political consultant, did a tremendous job with the assistance of Greg Francis, Christine Thomas and Cuyler Walker, my treasurer.

Bob Bozzuto and Luke Bernstein were helping all judges running statewide, and they did a tremendous job.

Sheriff Bunny Welsh, my Campaign Chair, was very instrumental in gaining support for me across the State, as was Les Neri, the President of the State FOP. The Chester County FOP also endorsed me. As a criminal court judge, I was so pleased to have the support of law enforcement.

So many of my friends in Chester County and across the State, Republicans and Democrats alike, stepped up to help me win in November. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and for coming here today to share this celebration.

Two people who I haven't mentioned yet have always been there for me, my husband Ray, and my secretary Susan.

Ray has been the perfect spouse. He has counterbalanced my Type A personality. His humor, enthusiasm and inquisitiveness offer a much needed reprise from the responsibilities of a judge. His initial reaction to my announcement of running statewide was that I was crazy, but he became an ardent supporter and was even passing out literature when he was backpacking in Tioga and Sullivan Counties.

Sue and I have been together since Gawthrop, Greenwood and Halsted. Her abilities and patience were challenged sorely over the past five years when I was President Judge and she came through with flying colors. And I am so pleased she is able to go with me to my next position, as is my law clerk, Gloriana Maenner.

As I start this new phase of my career, I am proud to represent Chester County by taking a seat vacated by my friend and a quintessential Appellate Court Judge, Maureen Lally-Green. I promise to do my best to make Chester County proud.

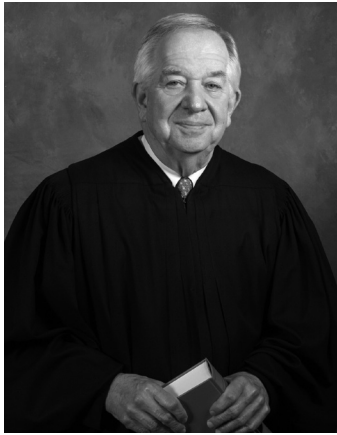
Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE FORD ELLIOTT: And with that, I would ask Mr. Morrissey to close the ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

COURT CRIER: This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

(Conclusion of proceedings.)

## THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. PLATT



*Assumed Office: January 3, 2011*  
*County: Lehigh*

### BIOGRAPHY

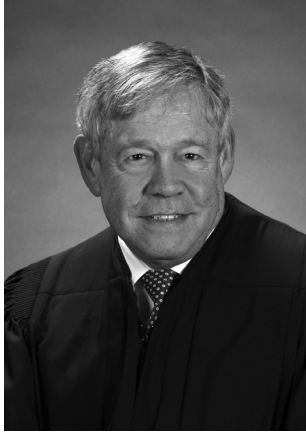
Judge William H. Platt is a graduate of Emmaus High School, Dickinson College (A.B., Honors in Economics, 1961), and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania (J.D., 1964). He served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps from 1964 to 1966. From 1976 to 1991, he was the District Attorney of Lehigh County, and before that, the Lehigh County Chief Public Defender. From 1994-1996, he was the Allentown City Solicitor. Judge Platt has published numerous legal articles, including a practice handbook on Pennsylvania Eyewitness Identification. He was Chairman of the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1986 to 1992, and a member of the Committee beginning in 1982. Judge Platt is a past president and lifetime honorary board member of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, a past president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys' Association, a member of the National District Attorneys' Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Education



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Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and the Lehigh County, the Pennsylvania, and the American Bar Associations. He has been a member of the Executive Board of the Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A., since 1990, and, from 1991 to 1995, served as their legal counsel. Immediately prior to his election to the Court of Common Pleas, he was the partner in charge of the Allentown office of a Pittsburgh-based national law firm, a member of that firm's litigation department and the Coordinator of its White Collar Crime Practice Group. Before becoming District Attorney, he was in private practice with the late Howard Yarus, Esquire, from 1967 through 1976, in a firm which ultimately became Yarus & Platt. Judge Platt was elected to two terms as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County. The first term began in 2002 and the second in 2008.

**THE HONORABLE  
EUGENE B. STRASSBURGER**



*Assumed Office: January 3, 2011  
County: Allegheny*

**BIOGRAPHY**

Judge Gene Strassburger graduated from Yale College and Harvard Law School. After clerking for 2 years for Justice Henry X. O'Brien on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, he was associated with the law firm of Strassburger & McKenna and served the City of Pittsburgh Law Department. His most notable achievement in the Law Department was arguing and winning in the United States Supreme Court the Pittsburgh Press Want-Ad Discrimination case. That case resulted in the elimination of gender-segregated want-ads.

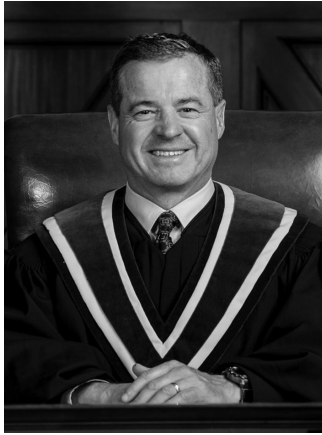
Judge Strassburger was appointed to the bench in 1978, elected with the nominations of both parties in 1979, and retained in 1989, 1999 and 2009. He served in the Family Division for fifteen (15) years, the last four (4) as Administrative Judge. From 1994 through 2009, he served in the Civil Division. He was the Calendar Control Judge from September,

1999 through 2010 and was Administrative Judge of the Civil Division from 2008 through 2010.

Judge Strassburger was assigned to the Superior Court as a Senior Judge on January 3, 2011.

Judge Strassburger's wife, Dr. Phyllis Kitzerow, is a sociology professor. They have three children and five grandchildren.

## THE HONORABLE DAVID N. WECHT



*Assumed Office: January 4, 2012*  
*County: Allegheny*

### INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE HONORABLE DAVID N. WECHT

Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

January 4, 2012  
City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### ORDER OF CEREMONY

**Opening of the Court:**

Pat Carey, Court Crier

**Presiding and Opening Remarks:**

Hon. Correale F. Stevens

President Judge Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**Invocation:**

Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld  
Chabad Fox Chapel – The Jewish Center

**Remarks:**

Hon. Max Baer  
Justice Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.**

Former Commissioner, Allegheny County  
Former Coroner and Medical Examiner, Allegheny County

**Presentation of the Commission:**

Sigrid R. Wecht, Esquire

**Administration of Oath of Office:**

Hon. Correale F. Stevens

**Robing:**

Valerie G. Wecht  
Assisting – Nathan Wecht, Jacob Wecht, Alexander Wecht,  
and Emma Wecht

**Response:**

Honorable David N. Wecht

**Benediction:**

Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld

**Closing of Session:**

Pat Carey, Court Crier

## PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT CRIER: The Honorable Judges of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez, all manner of persons having business to come before the Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, here hold in this day, let them come forth and appear, and they shall be heard.

May all family, friends, colleagues, and Associates of the Honorable David N. Wecht, come forth to witness and celebrate this joyous occasion, the installation of the Honorable David N. Wecht on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court. You may all be seated.

JUDGE STEVENS: Good morning and welcome. My name is Correale Stevens of the Superior Court. I would like to start out with the Pledge of Allegiance, and we are going to call on guests of Judge Wecht today, Nathan, Jacob, Alexander and Emma Wecht. Would you please stand with all of us, and we will do the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.)*

THE COURT: Please be seated for the invocation. I will call on Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld.

RABBI ROSENFELD: Honorable Judges, distinguished leaders and esteemed citizens, a number of years ago a man who had just been appointed to the High Court of the State of New York came to visit the saintly Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, also known as the Lubavitcher Rebbe, a Prominent Jewish leader of our time, to seek the Rabbi's blessing in advance of his ascension to the Bench.

The Rabbi blessed the Judge with wisdom and courage to adjudicate fearlessly and honestly, so his efforts would achieve the true and ultimate objective of any system of justice, which is not that of meeting out punishment, but of preventing wrong-doing in the first place. In other words, effectuating a moral and ethical society.

At its core, the law is not intended as a hammer, but a fence to protect humanity from its own potential pitfalls, directing man to reach for the highest and noblest aspirations, rather than to sink to its basest inclinations. In the spirit of this idea, I offer the following invocation.

Sovereign of the Universe, we beseech you in your abundant mercy to bless this esteemed assembly of your humble servants, who aspire to the standards of justice and righteousness that you have ordained as the essential building blocks of any civilization, upon which your providence and grace is to rest, guide the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to uphold the laws of this region and this country, the United States of America; to be ever-mindful and respectful of the rights and needs of their neighbors, and to be true to the commandments, which you set forth as a universal code of ethics for all mankind, including the establishment of the Courts of Justice.

Teach us to conduct our lives with love, decency, dignity and generosity, so that we may be your family on earth, as you are our parent in heaven. Bless with success the efforts of your servant of distinction, the Honorable David N. Wecht, as he is installed as a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, having been elected by the people of this great Commonwealth. Grant him the wherewithal to discern wisdom, adjudicate with integrity, and administer with compassion, so that he may be worthy of the high esteem, which you confer upon those who hold such office.

As is stated in your Book of Deuteronomy, "Judges and officers shall you appoint in all your cities, and they shall judge the people righteously; righteousness that you shall pursue."

As the sages of the Talmud tell us, the world stands upon three pillars: Truth, justice and peace. It is axiomatic that none of these three principles can flourish in the absence of the other two.

May the proceedings we celebrate here today inspire us all to greater regard for truth and justice so that we may reap the blessings of peace: Peace in our homes, peace in our communities, peace in our cities and states, and by extension, peace throughout the whole world.

In the words of Prophet Zecharia, "The Lord shall reign over all the earth, and on that day the Lord shall be one and His name one."

Amen.

JUDGE STEVENS: Thank you, Rabbi. This is a great day in Pennsylvania. It's a great day in this community. It's a great day for the Wecht family, and I would like to say it's a great day for the Pennsylvania Superior Court and Judiciary, because Judge Wecht brings his intellect, his love of family, his sense of community, his sense of justice, his desire to improve the quality of life, to his desire to administer justice in Pennsylvania.

We welcome you, Judge Wecht, and in keeping with his personality, he would like to share the day with you, and I would like to introduce some special guests. I hope I have every one.

I would start with the Superior Court, and I will go on each side of the room here. To my right is our former President Judge, Kate Ford Elliott, and Judge Mary Jane Bowes and Judge Jack Panella. To my left is Judge John Musmanno and Judge Susan Gantman. In the back row we have Senior Judge Bill Platt, Judge Judy Olson, Judge Cheryl Allen. Back here we have Judge Gene Strassburger, Judge Bob Colville, Judge Anne Lazarus and Judge Christine Donohue.

From the Commonwealth Court we have Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer, Judge Hannah Leavitt, Judge Kevin Brobson and Judge Patricia McCullough. From the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas – we all had an interesting ride in yesterday, as I'm sure you can imagine—we have Judge Paul Panepinto.

From the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas the President Judge is Donna Jo McDaniel. We have David Cashman, Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, Guido DeAngelis, Kathleen Durkin, Tom Flaherty, Alan David Hertzberg, Paul Luty, Donald Machen, Jeffrey Manning, Anthony Mariana, Michael Marmo, Michael McCarthy, John McVay, Lawrence O'Toole, Jill Rangos, Kevin Sasinowski, Christine Ward, Dwayne Woodruff, Tim Patrick O'Reilly, R. Stanton Wettick and Robert Gallo.

We also have some Magisterial District Justices here. We have David Barton, Dennis Joyce and Thomas Miller.

Now, you will also be meeting the family members. I would like to mention them. When I met with Judge Wecht to talk about the



program, he said that Cyril Wecht would be here and my immediate reaction was, "How did you get him?" He looked at me like I was from another planet. So you will be hearing from Cyril Wecht and David's mother, Sigrid Wecht. You will be meeting and seeing Valerie Wecht, his wife, and we have done the Pledge with Nathan, Jacob, Alexander and Emma, his children. Doctor Daniel Wecht, his brother, is here, and his wife Anna and Ben Wecht, his brother, is here, and his wife, Flynnne, and their sister, Ingrid Wecht.

We already did the invocation. You will be hearing from Supreme Court Justice Max Baer in a few moments. I understand Justice Orie Melvin is here. I believe I got most of the guests. Give me a moment here. Okay, from the Common Pleas Court we have Judge Lawrence O'Toole and Judge Bigley and Susan Evashavik and Judge Arnold Klein.

From the United States House of Representatives we have Congressmen Mark Critz, Jason Altmire and Tim Murphy. From the Pennsylvania House of Representatives we have Bill Kortz, and I understand our Pennsylvania Auditor General, Jeff Wagner, is here. I apologize if I missed anyone.

At this time, I will introduce one of our speakers, Supreme Court Justice Max Baer, who is a graduate from Pitt. He got his Doctorate of Law from Duquesne. He has a Masters in Tax Law from the Robert Morris School of Law. He is a former Deputy Attorney General. He served on the Court of Common Pleas, and he was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2003. He has received numerous awards, and he is especially a champion of children.

Justice Baer has done a wonderful job, and is doing a wonderful job, in protecting the rights of juveniles and children, and he is known for his innovation in juvenile law. He is a wonderful person, and it's my privilege to introduce Justice Max Baer.

**JUSTICE BAER:** Thank you very much. Where is Susan Evashavik? They are east of the Susquehanna. Alex Bickett, I apologize for not making your swearing in. It was because of a death in my family. The best to you, and I look forward to getting to know you.

Judge Stevens and all the members of the Superior Court, all my fellow jurists, Judge Wecht and Doctor Wecht, it's my pleasure to be

here. I bring greetings from Debra Todd, who has pneumonia, and was going to try to get out of her hospital bed this morning and get here, but she could not, and she sends her regrets for not being here, and she also sends her best wishes.

I talked to Ron Castille and Jeff McCaffery yesterday, and they asked me to remember them to you. They are sorry they couldn't be here. Also, all the members of my Court who aren't here are here in spirit, and they asked me to represent them and wish you well. This is a wonderful culmination.

Let me take you back to April, 1989. David you were a relatively young Yale lawyer, clerking for a prestigious Federal Judge in D.C. and gaining accolades. I was a candidate for the Allegheny County Trial Bench, and it was the primary election night, and we had a headquarters down at Fourth and Wood Street, and I believe Frank Lucchino described it as a downtown billboard, because the lights were on and the signs were blazing and we had a TV.

I had run what the Post Gazette described as a flamboyant campaign, replete with the fighting bear. You might remember that. It was a Teddy Bear in judicial robes and boxing gloves with a reference to Max Baer, the great fighter, for those of you that are ancient, and we had coloring contests and other kinds of attention getting devices.

Well, there were two commentators on TV that evening, one whose name I don't remember, and the other one was the renowned forensic pathologist and astute political commentator, Dr. Cyril Wecht, and I remember- I suspect that Cyril being plenty sharp also remembers this – the other commentator – when we are done could you tell me who it is, if you recall – he looked – I had won in a landslide on both tickets – and he said the people of Allegheny County were fooled, and now what are they going to do with this joker, and Dr. Wecht flabbergasted me, because I didn't know he knew I was alive, and he rebuked his fellow commentator on TV.

He said, "I don't know why you would say that. The judicial race is a name recognition race, and Judge Baer" – I was Judge Baer all of six minutes and not yet sworn in – "Judge Elect Baer did an unbelievable

and marvelous job in getting his name around, and he prevailed on that. From what I know about him he will make a fine judge.”

I said, “Thank you God and Cyril Wecht for protecting me,” because as I was getting started, I hadn’t even angered the first person with my first decision, and he was nice enough to say that, and I appreciated it, and the next day I dropped a note, and I didn’t know Doctor Wecht even knew I was alive, and I said, “Thank you so much for recognizing what the campaign was about, and why it was necessary, and for being willing to stay so in what was a gentle controversy with your colleague.”

To my shock, I got a note back from this renowned man saying it was his pleasure, and it was accurate, and he wanted to have lunch. I’m looking over my shoulder as to who he wants to have lunch with. That was my first glimpse into the Wecht family’s compassion, and the gentleness that is absolutely there.

There is also the zeal to do the right thing every time that is there. It was not the last time our lives would intertwine. Then about five or six or seven years later Dave and Val, who know the story too well, but I will share it with all of you -- it’s perhaps my one opportunity, and one never knows, to speak on David’s behalf.

I’m now the Administrative Judge in the Family Division, and we are out in Oakland in a horrible place, but that’s another speech. I’m walking down the steps, and one of our really bright and competent juvenile probation officers is walking up the steps. I say, “Good morning, Val,” and she says, “Hey Judge, how are you?” We stop and talk for a second, and she tells me out of the blue that she has a blind date that evening with David Wecht, but she is going to cancel it. I said, “Val, I wouldn’t cancel that. I have gotten to meet David a few times” – I met him a few times after he returned from D.C. – I said, “I know his father a little bit,” and I was thinking back to 1989, and I said, “Lovely family; warm and gracious people, and David seems to be a top flight person, and I think you might enjoy the date.”

Little did I know that four kids later that she enjoyed the date just fine. To the extent that I had anything to do with that, you are welcome.

Then you go forward seven or eight years, and it’s 2003, and I’m running for the Supreme Court, and David is running for the Allegheny

County Trial Court. David is the hardest campaigner in the world. In fact, some said that he reminded them of Max Baer, which I don't know if that's a compliment or not. He was everywhere shaking hands and kissing babies and talking to people throughout Allegheny County. I was everywhere except Allegheny County. I had lived here, and I had been a trial court judge for 13 years, and I figured the people of Allegheny County would vote for me or not vote for me on the basis of that and over on the other side of the Susquehanna they didn't know my name, so I'm over there shaking hands and kissing babies and trying to get acquainted with those folks.

So what I did in Allegheny County was I had two surrogates. I had my son, Ben, who was 22, and my son, Andy, who was 19. They were everywhere in Allegheny County. That's a daunting task for a 22-year old and a 19-year old to go out and represent an incumbent judge, a judge who has been sitting for 13 years, because I never met anybody that lost a case in front of me that thought I was right. That's part of the job. They are angry and annoyed, and yet they are out in the public, and they may come to the meeting because they want to yell at you, which is okay, but I didn't want them to hurt my kids.

Truly, the champion that stepped up for my kids was David Wecht. He didn't let anybody hurt them. When they were in tight spots, he got them out. When somebody was saying something inappropriate, he stepped in. He introduced them and encouraged them and turned them into veteran campaigners.

I was talking to your dad about looking at adult kids, and how you can be proud of your adult kids, and I will be forever grateful for your empathy and support, and anything I can do for you goes back to your stepping up for my guys.

I also have to share with you my son, Andy, the 19-year old, I talked to him yesterday, and I never give a speech and don't talk about my kids, because I'm so proud of them. Ben is an Assistant D.A. in Allegheny County trying cases and doing well. Andy, who I want to tell you about, is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, who I heard Doctor and Mrs. Wecht met. He flies a refueling plane. He left February 28<sup>th</sup> for his seventh tour of duty in the Middle East. He was on the Pakistani-Afghan border

when we took down Osama Bin Laden, and he was a part of that mission. He was flying a refueling plane. Thank God, he didn't have to go in, because we got the helicopter out.

The reason I tell you that is Andy began to refer to David as Hollywood Wecht. I called him last night, and I said, "Where did that nickname come from?" Are you aware of that, David? He said, "Dad, you are like Jerome Bettis. You would hit the line and there would be three yards with dirt in your face mask and your uniform stained and shirt untucked, and then you would stagger back to the huddle and come back and hit that line again for another three yards or five yards, and at the end of the day somehow you would push through." He said, "David, to me is Tom Brady." So, Val, I guess that makes you Giselle, his wife. He said, "He has time. His uniform isn't dirty. He's beautifully dressed, and his hair is gorgeous, and he goes back and flicks his wrist, and there are three touchdowns on the board, and it's all over." I said, "Thanks, Andy, I appreciate that."

There is something to combining great style and great class with great ability as Tom Brady does, and David does also. I'm not sure I like my comparison much, but I like yours.

We touched again when I was on the Supreme Court, and we were looking for a new Administrative Judge for Family Court, and we appointed David. So we have these personal and career intersections. I start Allegheny County Trial Bench in Family Court, and I became the Administrative Judge and then went to the Civil Division and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. That was 13 years before I arrived at the Supreme Court. David started in Family Court, and he became Administrative Judge, and he now finds himself going on to the Superior Court. He did that in nine years, and he has three or four years, if he wants to move on.

However, I'm not sure if he wants to move on. If I had run for the Superior Court, I would be very happy to be sitting there today. As Paul Chryst said – I bleed Blue and Gold – he views the Pitt job – and I view the Superior Court the same way – as a destination job and not a way station job, as Todd Graham viewed the Pitt job, who then moved on to other pastures that I trust won't be greener.

The Superior Court is a great Court. It's the busiest Court in the nation and as someone that has to read some of their opinions – they produce a ton of them – and as someone who has to study them and review them, I can tell you it's a fine Court. It's a brilliant Court, and it does a wonderful job. It matters to these wonderful judges how you perform. It matters because the reputation of the whole is made by its parts, and the reputation of the Pennsylvania Judiciary is made by our Court and your Court and the Commonwealth Court, and all the trial courts who work hard throughout the Commonwealth.

Judge Correale, Kate, John, and everybody up there, you are going to be well pleased, because your new colleague is going to add to the fine state of your institution and add to the body of law, which you create, and in large measure, the Superior Court creates the law in Pennsylvania. We don't take the case unless there is something very special about it, if they got it right, and we tend not to take cases for a long time even if they have gotten it wrong, because no one filed an allocator petition or a procedural difficulty that kept it away from the light. In a very real sense, the Superior Court is the law giver in Pennsylvania, and it's an important Court, and as I said, it's a destination court, and it matters to all of us who join it.

I think you will be well served on this Court, and your opinions will be read in every nook and cranny of Pennsylvania and scrutinized. They will be read by your colleagues and scrutinized. You have to get used to that. You can't do this job unless you can take criticism, and I think it is a match made in heaven. I think for you it will be stimulating and challenging and thought provoking and worthwhile, and for this very fine Court it will add to who they are and what they are, so I congratulate you.

If I was swearing in somebody I didn't know so well, or giving a charge to somebody I didn't know so well and didn't already have confidence in their having the essence of what it takes to be a judge, I would talk to them about being a judge, and most of which is to have courage and do the right thing every time, but I won't do that.

I will be so audacious to leave you with a quote from the Old Testament that I know is near and dear to you. It's from the Book of Micah,

one of the minor prophets in the Old Testament. As you proceed on this great career with this wonderful Court, "Always do justice, show mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

Congratulations.

JUDGE STEVENS: Thank you, Justice Baer, As you all may know, the Supreme Court reviews our decisions to decide whether we should be affirmed, agreed with or reversed, so I will issue an order from the bench to the court stenographer to send a transcript to the Supreme Court Justices, and put in extra bold that Justice Baer said we are a fine Court and a great Court. I think I heard him say he wouldn't reverse us. I would also mention that Judge Arnold Klein is here, and as to Judge Evashavik, Justice Baer is correct that I need to get out of northeastern Pennsylvania, I apologize.

Welcome to everyone that is here. It is my great honor and privilege to introduce David's father. He was born in Bobtown, Pennsylvania. He was Concert Master with the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra, earning his B.S. from the University of Pittsburgh. His Medical Doctorate degree is from the Pittsburgh School of Medicine. His Bachelor of Law degree is from the University of Pittsburgh Law School. He wasn't done yet. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Maryland Law School.

His forensic cases include Robert Kennedy, Sharon Tate, John Kennedy, Elvis Presley, Nicole Smith and many others. He is a wonderful representative of not only Allegheny County but of the entire State of Pennsylvania, and his expertise has been requested all over the country. At this time for remarks, I would like to introduce Cyril Wecht.

CYRIL WECHT: Thank you, Your Honor. Justice Baer, Justice Melvin, President Judge Stevens, distinguished members of the Superior court, President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, and distinguished members of the Court of Common Pleas and distinguished members of the Commonwealth Court, Congressman Altmire and Congressman Kortz, Jack Wagner and officials of the State and County and City of Pittsburgh and some surrounding communities, and to any of the distinguished members of the Bar, who have been such good friends and allies and supporters of David, and to all the people who have appreciated

what the judicial system is about. Thank you for coming here today to share in this very significant and propitious moment for our son, David.

I have the distinguished opportunity by virtue of simply being the eldest in the family to speak for everyone: My lovely wife, Sigrid, who I met in the Air Force; my children, David and Dan, who is a neurosurgeon, and Ben, our son who is Program Director for the Forensic Science Program at Duquesne University, and I offer my apologies for the absence of my daughter, Ingrid Wecht, who is delivering babies at West Penn Hospital while her brothers enjoy themselves – you can think of her when you are drinking good coffee and hot chocolate and eating cookies upstairs while your sister is sweating away in the delivery room at the hospital – my wonderful grandchildren, Nathan, Jacob, Alexander and Emma Jane, and the other seven who could not be here, because they are in school.

It's a wonderful opportunity, and as I was thinking about some of the remarks I would be making, I thought about what would have been a magnificent moment for the entire Wecht family if my parents would have been able to be here and Sigrid's mother, all of whom were born in Europe. My father was born in Lithuania, and my mother from a small town in the suburbs of Kiev, and they had the first mom and pop grocery store in Bobtown, to which Judge Stevens alluded.

My father would have been so proud of David as he ascended through his political and judicial career with this being the highlight of that wonderful career. I think, David, you probably would have reached a point – it's questionable and I'm not certain of it, and I never like to overstate something – where I think Poppy might have forgiven you for not becoming a doctor. I never had the opportunity – from the time I was a day old, I knew that I was going to be doctor, and as an only child, that was it.

The history of the family is like that of so many other families in Allegheny County. It has been a wonderful experience, as I reflect upon it, growing up. I don't remember that year in Bobtown, but I remember my earlier years in McKees Rocks, and the many years thereafter that followed, from the age of seven in the Lower Hill District by Mercy Hospital. I think of all the people, many of who were first generation



Americans, and most of them were I think at that time, and I think of the families that parallel ours, coming from the various countries through Europe, and some from Africa and Asia, and I think about what it has meant to grow up in America in this milieu, and in this social and political environment, which has provided an opportunity for my children and your children to achieve things that would never have been dreamt of from the countries from which they emigrated. It really is a golden era, and one can only hope with what is going on in the world that this will continue.

We are very proud of David's achievements, and I shall not reiterate the touchstones that our dear friend, Justice Baer, has already commented on, but David has shown the scholastic ability and the kind of intellectual acumen and the inquisitiveness and a high degree of leadership from the time that he was a child. The first demonstration of that was at the age of five or six when his two brothers, each about a year plus younger than he, and his sister, who was three or four years younger than he, came under his strong leadership as they proceeded to the bathroom where he made sure they washed their hands.

We saw clear evidence that one day he would move on to demonstrate that sort of leadership ability as he proceeded through and compiled one fine record after another, through his years at Yale undergraduate and law school, and then his clerkship with the Senior Judge of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, and his stint at the prestigious law firm of Williams and Connolly, and then back into Pittsburgh and moving into the political arena, and then into the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, and his record speaks for itself.

We are very proud of David, and on behalf of my wife and his siblings and the other relatives that cannot be here with us today, and they are cousins with my wife and I being only children, we thank you for coming today. We are all so proud of you, David, and we look forward to your many years on the Bench of this distinguished Court.

I would like to observe for evidence and corroboration – not that one should never be so audacious and presumptuous that he or she could suggest the need to corroborate anything that emanates from a Supreme Court Justice – but for emphasis, I would say to you, Max,

that your comments on this Court and President Judge Stevens were appropriate. Thank you, Judge Stevens, for your gracious reference to me before your colleagues.

In speaking to someone that is one of my oldest and closest friends, he asked me to extend his greetings and warm regards to all of you and to the members of the judiciary and to many of the attorneys, some who have been around long enough to know his name, Judge J. Aldisert, and I have maintained contact with him despite the spread of 3,000 miles, and I called and spoke to him many times. He has been very helpful in his suggestion and advice.

This wonderful gentleman is now nearing his mid 90's, and he is sitting as a Senior Judge and going to the office four days a weeks, and taking off on Thursdays to play golf. He seems to have no regard for his sense of responsibility. I think he should be reported to the U.S. Supreme Court. He commented quite spontaneously, and I have reflected on it, and he indicated that this is one of the most dynamic and important courts, and he made the same comment as Justice Baer did that there is a relatively small percentage of cases that move onto the Supreme Court, and he complimented how this Superior Court is so fantastically important.

I knew this, but I hadn't thought it through to that extent until I heard it from Judge Aldisert, who is one of the most eminent jurists to have ever come from Allegheny County. I think about judges, many of whom I know personally that are here today, and some who I know well enough, and I am emboldened to call them by their first name when nobody else is around, and I have had the pleasure of working with them as trial attorneys and consulting with them on legal cases in Civil and Criminal Court, and on all the matters they deal with and then into the appellate courts, and there is nothing more important in society than justice.

We don't have to make a choice – and I would agree with the wonderful reference that Justice Baer made from the Old Testament about the three pillars of society and the Rabbi's wonderful references, which were so very important – but I think if I had to make a choice for some reason, or for the sake of intellectual discussion, or maybe

even as an intercollegiate debate argument, as to what's the number one or most fundamental attribute or significant pillar of society, it has to begin with justice.

If you had to choose between health or peace or justice, if you don't have justice, then what's the meaning of what's the significance of society? How can you live with yourself and the people around you?

I have had the opportunity – I shared this with my children when we have traveled, and David being the eldest has had perhaps more opportunity to see justice administered in countries around the world. As I thought about it – after having the opportunity to testify in Canada, Taiwan, Australia, Israel, Brazil and the Caribbean – about the different kinds of justice, and everywhere where I have seen it played out, and in whatever form, I thought about how key and vital it is to that society, whether it was in People's Court, in China or listening to a bus driver about how he had gone over the line and killed somebody in what we would characterize as a vehicular homicide, or standing in a courtroom with an interpreter in Israel, or standing in Canada, where I learned a lesson early on about being friendly as a foreigner and smiling to the jury, and that's something only my dear friend, Doctor Henry Lee, can get away with. He can walk in and always stop short of shaking hands with the jurors as he proceeds to testify. No one can do that but Henry.

The attorneys apologized for me having to stand. I said something – trying to show I was a regular guy – I said, “No, that's okay, I can deal with it, “ or something like that, and the judge in his magisterial robes and wig, as I recall, and in the sternest of voices said, “That is why we call it the witness stand.”

Well, after I got out from under my chair and back into the seat, I thought I learned a lesson. Just walk in, look as dignified as you can, and look reasonably friendly and in your countenance, but don't push it, you aren't there to be a comedian.

When I think about the law and also the manifestations in this democracy of ours, there are two things that come to mind that set forth to some extent the challenges that our judges face, and perhaps more so, for our wonderful members of our Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County, the trial judges, to be able to be patient, to be

generous, to be gracious, and yet to constantly pursue that wonderful concept, that ethereal concept of justice..

I remember as a law student sitting in contracts class, which was not one of my favorite classes, and I don't know how many of my classes were favorable to me. I had to come down from my full-time residence at the V.A. Hospital in pathology, and my toughest chore in those days was finding a parking place, as I ran down and had to be back up to the V.A. Hospital on the hill behind Pitt stadium, and I was sitting in contracts class and I was in the back row since we were seated alphabetically, and David Washington, a good friend of mine for many years, would sit back there, and we would tell jokes when things got a little dull.

I remember in contracts class that someone asked distinguished Professor Brown a question, and – it was obviously frivolous and absurd. I will never forget Professor Brown, who had three or four waddles of subcutaneous tissue beneath his mandible, and he appeared to be grumpy, but he wasn't, and he would shake when he disagreed with something, and he said, "You can sue the Pope for fornication and bastardly, but that doesn't mean you will prevail." I never forgot that. Judges have to separate out the wheat from the chaff.

The other story I remember, and the Rabbi made reference to the Talmud, that my father loved and always quoted, which is that great body of knowledge of sagacity and of religious philosophy, and it was the story about the Talmudic scholar, who goes to learn in an internship with a distinguished rabbi, and in those little settlements and those small towns the rabbi dispenses justice and makes decisions by himself. He was all the courts wrapped into one. The Talmudic scholar is there, and he is standing next to the rabbi, and the rabbi is listening to all the disputes that come before him, and Mr. Goldberg comes in, and he tells us his story, and he argues his case, and the rabbi sits there, and he is stroking his beard and listening, and he finishes, and he says "Goldberg, you are right," and Goldberg leaves, and in comes Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Cohen, who is on the other side tells his story, which is the direct antithesis of what was just presented, and the rabbi was sitting there stroking his beard, and he listens, and he says, "Cohen, you are right," and he leaves.

Well, after some minutes the Talmudic scholar gets up enough nerve to question the rabbi. He says, "Rabbi, I don't understand, you told Goldberg he was right after listening to his story, and you told Cohen he was right after listening to his story, and you told Cohen he was right after listening to his story, and he said to the scholar, "You are right." I think it's so important that with the Yiddish decision you point out that justice is not always so simple. It is not.

I won't get into my experiences in forensic medicine. David prevailed on me that I couldn't have an hour and a half to talk about the J.F.K. assassination, and I promise I won't, but sure enough, there is an editorial in the New York Times today, and – this is true – it's talking about justice and the kinds of problems that our learned judges and appellate courts have to deal with, beginning at the trial level. A woman was convicted of murder, a grandma of an infant, under the shaking baby syndrome. She was convicted for a homicide, and received a sentence of 20 years or so. The Ninth Circuit reversed it after she was in jail for ten years or so, saying it wasn't a proven concept; a subject for another day and an internal question and problem for those of us in forensic pathology, and the United States Supreme Court overturned the decision, and the woman is back in jail. The point of the story is not what the subject matter was, but think how these different courts interact, and the significance of their decisions on human lives.

I think David Wecht will meet these challenges. I believe he has the erudition and the intellect, and I believe he has the acquired knowledge, and most importantly, that which his mother and I have been most proud, he has a sense of fairness and justice, and although I haven't been in his courtroom, certainly not as an attorney and not as a witness in any case, but I have heard from many people about the fact that he is patient and gracious, and that he is not condescending, and he is not insulting to litigants and attorneys, and I can appreciate that, being someone who has been kicked around in the length and breadth of this country, from the lowest levels to Federal Courts in more than 30 states and hundreds of jurisdictions, as to the significance of that, and I know what it means to me as a bit player in the overall drama when you have a judge who is fair and intelligent and gracious and who listens, and in whom you

know justice will be served, whether you agree or not with the ultimate verdict, which is an entirely different matter, or how an appellate court may decide.

I personally have significant disagreements with some of the political philosophies of Justice Antonin Scalia, but I have been amazed at his scholarship and his ability, and I listened to this man present the keynote address at Duquesne University's wonderful anniversary celebration as to how gracious and pleasant and wonderful a human being he is, so people can differ and judges can differ, but I think it is important to always be gracious and be thoughtful.

So, David, as you embark on this career with this wonderful Court and these great judges, many of whom have traveled significant distances to be here in this less than pleasant weather, along with your mother and I and your siblings and their spouses, Anna, Flynnne and Harold, and obviously your children, we wish you the very best. We are so very, very proud of your achievements. We literally Kvell, that wonderful word that defies full translation into English, at what you have accomplished, and we think of how fortunate you are to be able to sit down with these wonderful judges on your Court and to deal with matters on the civil and criminal side and dispense justice.

We know you will do this, whatever it will be, and without any taint and without any hint or any intrusion of any kind of ethnic, racial, religious or national bigotry or bias. We know that will be always in the back of your mind. We wish you well, and we will be happy to continue to see you in Pittsburgh much of the time, and maybe even come to visit you in the other cities.

Judge Stevens, thank you for presiding over this ceremony, and I thank all of the Justices and Judges that are here today, and all the officials and all of David's friends and supporters and all the members of the Bar for coming and participating in this event. We appreciate the support you have given David, and we look forward to being with you on similar happy occasions in future years.

**JUDGE STEVENS:** Thank you. At this time I would acknowledge Judge Jackie Shogan from our Court is here. I would acknowledge Michele Usilton from our Philadelphia office. Michele puts the details

together in making sure everything is done properly for today, and we appreciate that.

I would mention the Superior Court staff and department heads are also well represented. We have our executive administrator, David Szewczak, Prothonotary Karen Bramblett. from Allegheny County, we have the Chief of Legal Staff, Ernie Gennaccaro.

From Philadelphia, we have the head of our Technology Department, Julia Varano, and my Administrative Assistant, Philip Yoon, so we are well represented here.

I now call on Attorney Sigrid Wecht, who will present the commission, and after that I will ask David to come up here.

SIGRID WECHT: This Commission reads, "Greetings: Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the eighth day of November, Anno domini, two thousand and eleven, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, know ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these present commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and twelve, if you shall so long behave yourself well. Given under my hand the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-first day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eleven and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-sixth. Tom Corbett, Governor and signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth."

Congratulations.

JUDGE STEVENS: As David comes up, I would mention that David was elected twice as Allegheny County register of Wills. He was Suma Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Yale, National Merit Scholar and Editor of the Yale Law Journal, and as his dad and Justice Baer pointed out, he brings so many wonderful qualities, and being a former judge in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court is of great benefit.

David, I will administer the oath of office and then I will call on Valerie and Nathan, Jacob, Alexander and Emma to come up and assist in the robing. You can sit and give your remarks, but don't get used to the chair.

I, state your name.

JUDGE WECHT: I, David Wecht.

JUDGE STEVENS: Do solemnly swear

JUDGE WECHT: Do solemnly swear

JUDGE STEVENS: That I will uphold and defend.

JUDGE WECHT: That I will uphold and defend

JUDGE STEVENS: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE WECHT: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE STEVENS: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

JUDGE WECHT: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

JUDGE STEVENS: And I will perform my duties.

JUDGE WECHT: And I will perform my duties.

JUDGE STEVENS: With fidelity.

JUDGE WECHT: With fidelity.

(The robing of Judge Wecht was performed by Valerie G. Wecht.)

JUDGE WECHT: Thank you, President Judge Stevens and Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts and of the Courts of Common Pleas and of the Magisterial District Courts.

The danger of being seated like this is I might take a longer time than if I was standing. I promise to only take a portion of the day. In fact, when I asked my wife what I should say and what I should do, she said two things. She said I should be brief, and don't try to be funny. I will try to remember those two things.

I want to primarily say thank you. I want to acknowledge that so many people have taken time from their busy schedules to be here: The Justices of the Supreme Court and the Judges of the Superior Court and Commonwealth Courts and Judges of the Common Pleas and Magisterial Courts, and members of the United States Congress and members



of the Pennsylvania Legislature and County and Municipal officials. I greatly appreciate everybody's presence in the room.

I have a long prepared speech, and I promise not to give it. I primarily wanted to say thank you. There are so many people to thank, and the major concern I had as I thought about it is I can't really call it preparation when you are busy trying to learn about how the Superior Court works, and dealing with one of your kids getting a concussion, and spending until two in the morning at Children's Hospital – that's Alex – and all the things that go on in life and family, but it did occur to me that the main thing I wanted to do was mention some of the debts I have in terms of gratitude to groups and people.

One of the problems in so doing is that it is inevitable that one leaves people out. I apologize in advance for omitting to mention someone. There was a very high standard set in this category by my friend and colleague, Arnie Klein, because for those of you that were here, he went on for hours and hours, and there is really not anybody in the County of Allegheny that hasn't been thanked. If you are an Allegheny County resident, I should thank you, and if I forget to thank you, consider that a friend of Arnie is a friend of mine. That's good for ten years.

I have to begin with my family, my wife, Valerie, and my wonderful children, Nathan, Jacob, Alex and Emma, and for those of you that live in a media market where I was able to make a TV purchase, you saw them on TV, and it was no accident that the media experts chose to have the kids talk and not me, and perhaps that was one reason for my success.

It is also a wonderful thing to have my parents here and have them participate, and that's a memory for all of us that we will always cherish, and I'm grateful for that. I'm also very grateful that my brothers could be here and one of my sisters-in-law and my brother-in-law, and they are all very busy in their lives, and I'm glad they could come down.

Their kids, unlike my kids are in school. Mine are playing hooky this morning, but I was told this is a proper excusable absence, but they will be back around lunchtime. I don't know if it's a reflection on what they think of their dad, or maybe it's better viewed as a reflection of how

much they enjoy school, but they each asked me, “Dad, how soon can we get back to school?” They seem to want to be there for lunch. They knew there would be food upstairs, but they seem to want to be back.

My family is the core of my life, and I’m grateful they could be here. I’m grateful that Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld could be here to do the invocation and benediction, along with his wonderful wife Ms. Sheri Rosenfeld. The Rosenfelds do so much for the community, and they are so committed to the children and the families, and I’m deeply grateful for their friendship and guidance.

The campaign was run by a one-person show, and his name is Michael Dineen. Mike is a young man. If you saw him a year ago, you would say he was a younger man then. He suffered all the misfortunes of having to work with me many times a day, and he did a great job. Helping Mike were so very many volunteers, and I can’t begin to name them, because it’s inevitable that I will leave somebody out. Mike was the only staff person. It wasn’t possible otherwise to make a go of it without an enormous number of really committed volunteers, all of who do other things in their lives. Let me do it this way. If you volunteered on my campaign, would you stand up?

A lot of them couldn’t be here, and a lot of them have forgotten about me, and some have moved on to other campaigns. I heard something about that. The campaign was also enormously benefited by the tremendous work of Ken Smukler, who is the greatest media expert anywhere as far as I’m concerned. I don’t know if Ken made it into town. There he is. Thank you for coming in, Ken. He made it in from Bala Cynwyd. Chuck is my Welsh expert. Is that the right pronunciation? Thank you, Ken. Ken worked and was assisted by Maura Dougherty down in D.C. Maura is here. Would you stand up? Thank you. They are tremendous.

As anybody that worked on a campaign knows, the production of a 30-minute – excuse me, a 30-second television spot involves essentially a day of work, and that’s just on the talent end. As far as the production end, it involves much more time than that. I’m grateful to both Ken and Maura, and for all the people you worked with. Thank you for your help.

I want to thank my friend and colleague and boss, Justice Baer, for his guidance through the years, and his advice and friendship, and those were wonderful words that the Justice gave today. I'm deeply grateful Justice, for that, and also for not putting the kibosh on what turned out to be a pretty good marriage. Thank you.

I heard the story, and it becomes embellished with each retelling, and that's part of the fun of it. I want to thank the Pennsylvania State Democratic Party and Jim Burn. I don't know if Jim was able to make it today. Jim is a tremendous public servant. He also is the immediate former President of the Allegheny County Council and a fantastic attorney. He is the Chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, and through my election, he was the Chair of the Allegheny County Democratic Party. How many other hats have I forgotten Jim wears? He was a tremendous support and friend, and he does so much for Allegheny County residents and Pennsylvania residents in general.

In addition, there are a number of chairpersons and state committee persons here who supported me, beginning in the snowy days a year ago, and I have found memories of all the work they have done and all the help I have gotten from the Pennsylvania Democratic Party members, and I want to thank them very much for their help. One of those state committee members, who slipped through our list earlier, who is an elected official, my friend and colleague, Carol Ruckert Fiorucci, the Register of Wills of Beaver County. I'm ambling around a bit. Forgive me.

This time, as opposed to nine years ago when I was sworn in, I'm not balling and crying my eyes out, so I'm ambling a bit. With respect to the Register of Wills, it was serving as Register of Wills that gave me the bug and got me interested in being a judge, because at that time in Allegheny County the Register of Wills adjudicated will contests, and I enjoyed doing that in the courtroom, dealing with the rules of evidence and procedure and wearing that funny suit we wear, and that got me interested in running for judge. That's how this whole thing got started.

At least one of my old friends, two dear colleagues that I have spent numerous hours with, Robin Parrilla, my chief deputy, and Dane Isaacs,

my officer manager. Dane, would you stand up? Dane is such a great person. He is still managing. He volunteered to help me put together the little reception today after this. The reason I picked him as office manager of the Register of Wills is because he's a tremendous organizer, and he's an enthusiastic person, so his the one that put together the reception after this.

I also want to thank you women and men of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association that gave me such tremendous support and guidance and help in my campaign. It's important that I acknowledge the support of the women and men of that fine organization there and their commitment to justice. I'm deeply grateful.

Speaking of justice, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice – or is it of justice – it's a new abbreviation, so I get it wrong. It's an organization to which I owe some gratitude. I know one of the former presidents is here, my good old friend, Chuck Evans. Will you stand up, Chuck? I wanted to mention Chuck because Chuck has been with me my entire judicial and Register of Wills career, helping me and giving me advice, and he's always available as a sounding board, and never saying no to any request I made, and I want to thank Chuck very much.

There are a lot of fine trial lawyers here that were supporters, and I'm grateful to each of you. Also, the men and women of organized labor. It's a strong temptation, but I will resist the temptation of going down the list. Again, I'm benefiting from the Klein proceeds. If you are a member of any organization or person that helped me, you are covered by the Klein gratitude. Let me say in all seriousness, that as I campaigned around Pennsylvania, I was mindful that as the women and men of organized labor in this Commonwealth helped me, that it was the hundred year anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, and that was probably the single greatest driver – that tragedy was probably the single greatest driving influence of the risks that workmen and women in this county face, and that they needed protection and needed safety, and that was something that did so much to inspire the organized labor movement, and I appreciate the support I got from around Pennsylvania from those individuals and organizations.

You know I have a few notes, and that's because years ago I was giving a speech somewhere, and I went through the whole set of remarks, and I sat down, and I had forgotten to thank and even mention my wife. I think it might have been Justice Baer that pointed that out. It might have been during his Supreme Court campaign. That's why I thanked my wife up front, and I wasn't about to forget to thank my wife and family.

However, I made notes because I didn't want to forget thanking my staff, Linda Alt, my secretary. Talk about a glutton for punishment. She began working for me while I was at the Wecht law firm, and she was silly enough to accept the job as secretary when I became a judge, and she was silly enough to accept the job as I move to the Superior Court, so thank you, Linda, for all you do.

I want to also thank Sue Hayes. Would you stand up? Sue Hayes, as all the lawyers in the region know, has been my remarkable tipstaff. She has done a great job of running my courtroom and keeping things moving, going on nine years now. Before that Sue worked for me in the Register of Wills office. Sue will be the other secretary in my Superior Court chambers, and thank you, Sue.

The work I do, if any of it has legal merit, a lot of that is because of my law clerk, Jennifer Forbes, Esquire. Jennifer, would you stand up? Jennifer has been with me more than five years now, and Jen will come aboard as my chief law clerk. I only had two law clerks. Jennifer Forbes, and before her, Sheila Flannigan, who about this second I think is giving birth to her third child up in Scranton where she lives now. I'm fortunate that I haven't had to replace clerks constantly, and I have had the benefit of wonderful clerks.

I have had the opportunity to hire more, and I have hired three additional law clerks, and I will ask them to stand. I'm looking forward to working with them. Josh Siebert, Matt Debbis and Maggie Kucera.

I also want to thank the Republican friends who helped me around Pennsylvania. I will say that just about everybody on this podium has been involved in campaigns, and you know you can't win Somerset County and Indiana County and Westmoreland County without a lot

of Republican people voting for you, so I thank my Republican friends as well, including my old friend, Jim O' Connor, who has been there every step of the way, helping me in all my campaigns.

Lastly, with respect to thanks, I want to thank the Bar in Allegheny County. I just had a drink with Bar Association President Howard Schulberg in Florida. That's how I know he has an excuse for not being here. The past President, Jay Blechman, is here. Thank you, Jay, for your support. We have a wonderful Bar Association, and it's because you have people like them that we have it. It's a great organization, and I thank all of you. I want to thank you colleagues on the Common Pleas Bench. It has been a great opportunity to serve with you, and an honor to serve with you. It will be an honor to serve with you in the Pennsylvania Judiciary going forward, and I have learned so much from you.

In addition to the judges, I want to thank the staff of the Court. The Court Administrator, Ray Billotte, who is here and might have had to leave, and his Deputy, Claire Capristo, and their staff of the Allegheny County Judicial District are fantastic, and they bring a level of excellence to this Court, and all of our judges are deeply in debt to these professionals that work in the Court.

Also, a number of officials from the Family Court have come over here today, and I won't name all of them, but as Justice Baer mentioned, I had the opportunity to be Administrative Judge of the Family Division, and there are no people in the Court system that work harder than the judges and staff of the Family Division, and they do critically important work for children and families, and they make a huge difference every day in our society, and not only in our courts but in society, and decades from now we will be reaping the benefits of their work. I thank them for being here and the work they do.

I said I would be brief. Let me say I humbly and eagerly look forward to this opportunity. I know I stand on the shoulders of giants, many of whom are here on the podium, and many who have gone on to their eternal rest. I have had the opportunity to meet some of them through my dad when I was a kid. Some of those judges have passed away now, and some of them are retired, but I continue to learn from

them by reading their decisions, and in some cases like Judge Tamalia's books. I thank them and the current judges, and I recognize as Justice Baer and my father both said that there is a critical role that is played by the Superior Court. I will work hard. I believe that's why the people of Pennsylvania elected me, to work hard, and I will do my best and be fair.

Those who have worked with me know that I subscribe to all the old fashioned adages regarding the law being a process and not a result, and about the due process of law and about our having a government of laws and not of men, and about the law not being a respecter of persons, and equal treatment under the law, and the right to a trial by jury, and these are all principles that I hold dear. I believe in the principles of a rules based regime and predictable and uniformly applied rules. I also hold to the procedures that allow all to be heard, and for ordinary justice to be done under law. I want to thank all of you in the room that have given me the opportunity to serve, and I want to thank my colleagues for the opportunity to serve with them and learn from each of them and learn from the wisdom they have accumulated over the years. I want to thank you.

JUDGE STEVENS: I can see I am not going to get him out of the chair. The refreshments will be on the ninth floor. I forgot to mention our Deputy Prothonotary, Ellie Valecko, from Pittsburgh was also here.

At this time I would again congratulate David and his family. We all look forward to working with him and I would call on the Rabbi to give the benediction, and will see you on the ninth floor.

RABBI ROSENFELD: Your honor, you asked me to say a few words, and I asked how long I should speak, and you said scripted and short. I guess you knew I had Yom Kipper to have my opportunity.

JUDGE WECHT: The Rabbi is being funny. I never presume to give orders to the clergy.

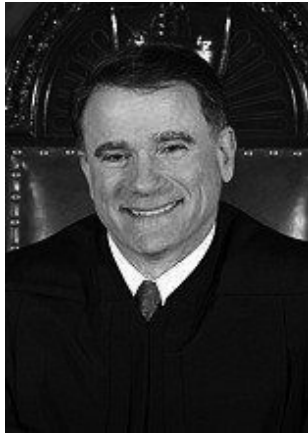
RABBI ROSENFELD: Inspired and emboldened as we are by the ceremony performed here this day, and the hallowed traditions they present, may we all go forth with renewed gladness of heart, richness of purpose and strength of resolve in our devotion to the sacred principles that stand as the hallmark of these United States of America,

one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. May shining lights such as the Honorable Superior Court Judge David N. Wecht, continue to illuminate the landscape of our communities and our lives. May the Lord bless you and watch over you. May the Lord shine his countenance upon you and be gracious unto you, and may the Lord turn his countenance toward you and grant you peace.

THE COURT CRIER: This special session of the Superior Court is adjourned.



## THE HONORABLE VICTOR P. STABILE



*Assumed Office: January 17, 2014  
County: Dauphin*

### **PRESIDING**

HONORABLE SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN

### **SPEAKERS**

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS – MASTER OF CEREMONIES

REVEREND LOUIS P. OGDEN

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JIM CAWLEY

MR. JOSEPH H. JACOVINI

DR. JOHN A. MAHER

HONORABLE ANNE E. COVEY

REVEREND CHESTER P. SNYDER

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR

## PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT CRIER: The Honorable Judges of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, Common Pleas Court of Dauphin County, District Judge of Cumberland County; U.S. Magistrates for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, U.S. Judges for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Supreme and Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez, let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order, President Judge Susan Peikes Gantman presiding. Let all manner of persons, friends, and associates of the Honorable Victor P. Stabile be joyful and the citizens of this Commonwealth confident and sure. The Superior Court convenes for administration to Victor P. Stabile the oath of office for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court. Please be seated.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Good Morning. I am Judge Susan Peikes Gantman, President Judge of the Superior Court. We are here today to welcome Vic Stabile who will become our newest Superior Court Judge. It is my pleasure to introduce the Judges on our dais.

Supreme Court Justice Tom Saylor, Superior Court Judges: Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Jack Panella, Judge Christine Donohue, Judge Cheryl Allen, Judge Anne Lazarus, Judge Sallie Mundy, the Honorable Pat Jenkins, the Honorable Justice Fitzgerald, and the Honorable Bill Platt.

For the Commonwealth Court, the Honorable Judge Kevin Brobson, the Honorable Judge Patricia McCullough, the Honorable Judge Keith Quigley.

For the United States Middle District, Chief Judge Christopher Conner, the Honorable Yvette Kane, the Honorable John Jones, the Honorable Matt Brann, the Honorable William Caldwell, the Honorable Marty Carlson, and the Honorable Susan Schwab.

For the Court of Common Pleas Dauphin County, the Honorable Lawrence Clark, the Honorable Bernie Coates and for Cumberland

County, the Honorable Christylee Peck. In addition, we have the Honorable Charles Clement. These are our Judges. We thank them all for coming and participating in this momentous event.

Justice is won only when there is fidelity to the law, when there is an unwavering commitment to truth, and then when there exists the tenacity necessary to bring that truth to light. May you have the wisdom and insight to adjudicate fairly and honestly the laws of the land, and may you have the clarity necessary to uncover the truths which often become obscured. We welcome you to the Court today. It is my pleasure to introduce Mike Morris who will be the master of ceremonies

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Thank you, President Judge. Judge Stabile has chosen as the person to provide the invocation today his local parish priest, Reverend Lewis Ogden. Reverend Ogden is a 1974 Trinity High School graduate. Reverend Ogden.

REV. LOUIS P. OGDEN: Let us pray. Almighty and ever living Father, you are the source of all wisdom whose will is good and gracious and whose law is all truth. We beseech you to guide and bless Your Honor Victor P. Stabile so that he will carry forth his supreme responsibility as Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania with a true spirit of all that is just, trustworthy, accurate, correct, and honest while always being attentive to the values of a rightfully formed conscience based upon your divine law.

Bless him and all other judges and magistrates so that they will constantly discharge the duties of their respectful offices with the guidance of your divine providence assisting them. Protect him and all of his family, most especially his wife, Victoria, and their daughters, Christine and Alexandra.

You, oh Heavenly Father, are great and worthy of all praise, and your wisdom is infinite. May we continue to praise you without ceasing knowing that you call us to delight in your holy name, for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in you to whom all glory, praise and honor is ascribed both now and forever more. Amen.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: If you please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, please, and be led by my own daughter and son, Katie Covey Morris and Michael Covey Morris.

*(Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance)*

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: If you please, remain standing, for the National Anthem as sung by Whitney Houston.

*(Playing of the National Anthem)*

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Please be seated. If you wanted to give a loud cheer at the end, certainly warranted because that was Whitney Houston's finest moment. That was from the Super Bowl where she sang the National Anthem. It's been voted on as being the number one rendition of the National Anthem.

Today is a very special day for Vic Stabile becoming a member of the judiciary of the appellate division. It is a very proud moment. He's worked a long time towards this goal, and in that effort we're so pleased to have so many dignitaries in attendance.

Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley is with us. Also here is the Honorable Glenn E. Moyer, Secretary of Banking and Securities; the Honorable George Greig, Secretary of Agriculture, Representative Glen Grell, Representative Sheryl Delozier, Representative Stephen Bloom, and Representative Mike Vereb.

In addition, members of the Judiciary have come a far way to be here today, members of the Superior Court, members of the Commonwealth Court, Cumberland and Dauphin Counties as well as members of the Federal Judiciary.

Vic, in choosing me was picking someone that knew him and got to know him very well over these last few years. Vic began his travels in 2011 with my wife, Anne Covey, who is now on the Commonwealth Court. They were both running in 2011 for appellate level positions on the Judiciary, so I got to know Vic very well, as did Anne. During that time period, I had many times to interact with him and see him in various situations. I didn't see him election night, but I saw him shortly thereafter, and I was very much taken aback that it didn't faze him that even though he had lost the election he was still the same Vic. He

was upbeat, moving forward, and never giving a thought as to the last election.

I always remembered that my father when I was growing up, made me learn a very valuable poem that was called “If”, and it says; if you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same, and then there’s a lot of verses in between, then you’ll be a man. I saw Vic at what should have been a very low point. Certainly anyone that’s run a campaign, put their full effort into it, and come so far and not realize your dream is very devastating. Well, Vic rose again, came back in 2013, came to me and he said, Mike, will you and Keith Naughton help me run my election. I said, Vic, I’ll be there for you and so will Keith. So began that journey in 2013 at the state GOP.

And I just want to take a little bit of time and run through what it takes to be a judicial candidate. It’s equally applicable to all the judges that sit here today whether they are a Republican or Democrat; it’s the same process. It’s a very rigorous and heavily vetted process.

It starts off with the Pennsylvania Bar Association. They give what’s called a data questionnaire to each person that wants to eventually become a candidate for these positions. I have in my hand one of the questionnaires. This is Vic’s. It’s over 15 pages long. They ask various questions of what you have done with your legal career, your community involvement and so forth.

Well, after you’ve done that and so forth, then you actually appear before a committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Fellow attorneys have a special select committee that you appear before, and they ask you questions. That session sometimes lasts 45 minutes to an hour. And they ask you various questions ranging from what are your views on certain subjects to how involved are you in your community.

Once that process is done, your questionnaire plus your personal interview, they come out with a rating. Vic was rated as recommended. They said the following “the candidate has strong writing skills, administrative ability, and experience in handling cases in the appellate courts. He is held in high regard by his peers who have noted his intellect, strong work ethic, and integrity. Based on his experience and his intellect as well as his passion for the law and public service, the Commission

recommends the candidate for a position on the Superior Court.” So that’s a very high recommendation from people that are in the courts on a daily basis on who they want to see on the Court.

From there, whether you’re a Republican or a Democrat, you head to your state committees. From the state committees you come before leadership, you make your case as to why you feel you’re the best candidate. And then it’s ultimately put to a vote by all the committee people that are in attendance.

Vic went. I went with him. We met personally with each individual caucus, We met with individual members. They knew Vic. They knew that he had the qualities to be a great person, to be able to be a successful candidate, and also, for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to be a person to sit on the Judiciary.

Vic was successful. He got the state committee endorsement. That was February 9<sup>th</sup>. If somebody asked me a month later, Mike, where would you be, I would have told him, I would have said, well, I would have been in Hershey, it would have been March 9<sup>th</sup>, and I’d be at my father’s birthday. Instead I woke that morning and I had had a stroke. I couldn’t walk, and I couldn’t talk, but I made a pretty good recovery, I think.

I am in the intensive care unit. My wife left the cell phone for me, and I couldn’t reach it because I couldn’t walk. I had to wait for the nurse to come in. It was about 9:30 at night. The phone rang. I asked the nurse to get it. She brought it over to me. It was Vic. I didn’t know what to do. I said to myself, should I call, I don’t know what I could say, I might be able to get a few words out and that would be it.

I didn’t want Vic to worry so I told them – So I got the phone. I dialed. I got the words out hello. From there Vic took it all the way to the end zone. I didn’t get another word in for 45 minutes. Vic didn’t know I had a stroke. I said if I can pull it past Vic I can pull it past anybody. I’ll have to try my clients tomorrow. But if you know Vic, that’s the way he is. He’s very engaging. You never have to worry that he’ll carry the conversation. He certainly will.

So I hung up that night and talked to my wife the next morning. I said I had a conversation with Vic. She said, how’d it go. I said, well,

I said hello. I said, Vic went on. And I said, goodbye. She says, that's good. She said, are you going to tell him. I said, not now, Anne, I said no. I said, I can't tell him, it's too much for me, it's too much for Vic. So she said okay, I understand.

So it's one of the most difficult processes to appreciate, unless you've ever been in the position to be a candidate. You have to place your trust in somebody, someone you're entrusting with your future.

You're saying, hey, I believe in you. I believe in what you're going to do for me. I believe that you're going to put my message forth so that the voters of Pennsylvania will understand what I'm about. I trust that you'll make the right decisions on my behalf. I took that trust very seriously and so did Keith. We always kept that in mind when we were trying to advise Vic on which way to go on certain things.

And like most of the information that we gave Vic, he disregarded 50 percent of it. And he said to himself that other 50 percent's the stuff I agree with, so, yes, you guys must be right. So with that Vic went out. We told him, Vic, you need a lot of different people to back you and so forth, so we sought various endorsements. I could sit up here all day and give you the various endorsements. I picked out two that I think illustrate who Vic is and the type of organizations that stood behind him.

The first is the FOP, state FOP, and they said, "you are a role model in your present profession as well as a committed member of your community. We stand with great pride in the support of you." So I think coming from the legal – or from the law enforcement community, that's a phenomenal endorsement of Vic.

The other one comes from the Chamber of Commerce PAC, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. They said, "with more than 30 years of broad legal experience in Pennsylvania courts, Vic Stabile has shown that he is dedicated for promoting transparency, fairness, and common sense within the state legal system. He has also earned a reputation for being business friendly, understanding that a private healthy sector drives the economy. Vic Stabile's dedication to fostering better communities and his belief in equal justice under the law regardless of political, social or economic status make him an ideal candidate to

serve in the Judicial Branch of government. Pennsylvanians will be well served by Stabile's presence on the State Superior Court." I know Vic. I couldn't have summed it up better myself.

Finally, as all candidates are going through seeking endorsements from various organizations, they have to submit themselves to various editorial boards from around the state, and depending on the particular year, it's more or less somewhere in the vicinity of 10 to 15. I'm going to pick out the top two because they represent what our top newspapers in the state of Pennsylvania thought of Vic, one from Philadelphia and one from Pittsburgh.

The Philadelphia Inquirer said, "in addition to dealing with a wide range of business law matters, he has served as a litigator for the state attorney general, a clerk in the appellate courts, and an elected township supervisor in Cumberland County. Most important, Stabile displays an enthusiasm for legal scholarship that spans a 30-year career, an impressive work ethic, and what the Bar has called a passion for public service."

And I would echo that. I think that Vic, if you look at his record, certainly has passion. He's taken on tons of pro bono work for many worthy individuals and causes during his career.

From the Tribune Review out in Pittsburgh, "Stabile gained valuable experience at the appellate level in which he now seeks to serve not only as a Commonwealth Court clerk between 1982 and 1984 but as an experienced litigator before the appellate courts. And Vic Stabile is the kind of experienced legal scholar needed on the Superior Court. He is most worthy of your vote."

Certainly those two newspapers are two of the top three newspapers. They are also two of the most divergent newspapers certainly in their backgrounds and so forth. So I think that Vic was able to garner a lot of different support from a lot of different factions, from a lot of different areas of the state. I think that showed in his final total vote.

Recently, Terry Madonna published an article about the votes in Pennsylvania and so forth and was saying what a Republican year, what a Democrat year is. I really like to think that it's based on the candidate. People make their selections in Pennsylvania. The information's out here. All of these judges demand – I mean not demand but they are



deserving of our respect and definitely a deep debt of gratitude on our behalf.

The lieutenant governor now is running again this year. He'll certainly be putting the miles on as he travels the state. But every one of these judges have traveled the same state, have gone to the same state fairs, have gone to state dinners, have gone to county dinners, countless miles they've put on, normally somewhere between 50 to 60 thousand miles traveling the state in one year.

So I commend Vic on all of his hard work and so forth in achieving this goal. And to his family I'd just like to say two things that were passed on to me. One is to his beautiful bride, Victoria, who this past September I guess, Vic, is now 31 years she's stayed with you. Congratulations on 31 years.

Number two, you've lost your identity, Vicki. I'm sorry to say you'll be ever known as this is Judge Stabile's wife. I'm known as Judge Covey's husband. I don't have the same last name as my wife. I've lost my last name. People have come up to me and said, so nice to meet you, Mike Covey. I said, my name's Mike Morris, my wife and I have a difference of opinion on how much she should pay me on a yearly annual fee for my naming rights.

The second thing that was passed on to me was by Heidi Eakin, and I'll give Heidi total credit. She says, Mike, there's a little known rule in the rule book in Pennsylvania. It's for all the spouses. So for all the spouses of the judges up here, unless they don't know this rule, I certainly didn't know it at first, but Heidi said, jurisdiction, Vicki, ends at the front door. So regardless if Vic shows up in his black robe at your house, you let him know that his power is no more past the threshold.

With that said, I'd like to bring up the next speaker, Jim Cawley. There's so much I could say about Jim. I was looking last night. Jim and I are from the same county, Bucks. I'm originally from Dauphin County. I was born here a few blocks from Polyclinic. I was raised in Hershey. I'm a 1974 Trojan. Back when we were in Bucks County one of the people would normally take me aside and say, Mike, be sure to make sure –be sure to make sure that when you bring Jim up you say he's Bucks County's favorite son.

I said, no problem. I'll do it. Well, Jim, we're in Dauphin County. You're Dauphin County's favorite son.

So he's had the pleasure of serving the Commonwealth these past three years. And as we head into 2014, it will be four years. Prior to that, he had been our commissioner. He's held many other positions as well.

I give you Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley.

LT. GOV. JIM CAWLEY: What a wonderful morning it is. We are finally here. To my friend, Mike Morris, I want to say thank you, and I know that the emcee job that you are doing today, Michael, is part of the community service that Judge Covey gave you and ordered you to perform. So hopefully you'll be paroled shortly.

Two, to President Judge Gantman, the honorable members of the Court here assembled, to our distinguished guests, and the friends of the soon-to-be-honorable Vic Stabile. Hey, look folks, this is the last time we can pick on Vic and he can't put us in contempt of court, so I'm going to take full advantage of it.

I also want to point out a couple of friends that I saw, including State Representative Sue Helm who I know is here with us, and my dear friends, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Carol Aichele, and our former chief of staff and more importantly my old boss, Steve Aichele, who is here with us as well. They've come as well to congratulate Vic on this momentous occasion.

And I bring greetings from Governor Tom Corbett who joins me and all of you in saluting our dear friend, Vic, and in celebrating this special day with his wife, his family, all who are assembled here and all who are very happy to see 2013 come to an end. It has been for Vic, his friends, and supporters, and I count myself among them, a very nerve-racking year but obviously one that the result was very satisfying.

Pennsylvania's founding father, William Penn, was devoted to justice and to the rule of law. It's no wonder that Pennsylvania's judicial system is the oldest in the country and in my book the finest in the country. In fact, Pennsylvania had a Supreme Court nearly seven decades before there was a United States of America.

The Court that we recognize here today, the Court that Vic joins, the Superior Court, dates back to 1895. Pennsylvania's dedication to

justice instilled in us by William Penn is so strong that we created this court, the Superior Court, in order to better administer justice through the state. Today we again renew our commitment to that tradition of justice by swearing in a new member of this Honorable Court.

As I stand before you today, I am struck by one thing in particular, how much Vic Stabile reminds me of basketball legend, Michael Jordan. I know what you're thinking, that guy and Michael Jordan couldn't be any more different. But I grant you while their appearances might be different, looks can be deceiving.

Consider this for a moment. In his career Michael Jordan lost 300 games. He missed 9,000 shots. Michael himself said, I failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed. It's his passion for the game added with determination and hard work that makes Michael Jordan the outstanding athlete that all of us remember.

And, so, too, it is with our friend, Vic Stabile. He, like I, has known what it is to be on the short end of a vote tally on election night. And let me tell you, folks, I think it was actually Former President Richard Nixon who said it best, "I've won some and I've lost some and let me tell you winning is a lot more fun."

Well, Vic, unfortunately from time to time has found himself on the short end of the vote tally. In fact, if I were to list them all, we'd be here for an hour. And if you're interested in all of Vic's failures, it's posted on my website, so feel free to – Yes, Your Honor.

In 2011, Vic first took that statewide plunge because his passion for the law demanded it. Our state history books are filled with candidates who have run and lost and have never been heard from again, but not Vic. Like Jordan, failure did not deter him from passion, and passion led to success.

Vic's dedication, his tireless work ethic, his unceasing commitment to the law, these are the personal qualities that the people of Pennsylvania saw oh so clearly in 2013, and these are the qualities that propelled him to success. It is the same personal qualities, those precious qualities, that will serve him and all of us very well for many years to come as he becomes a member of Pennsylvania's Superior Court.

It is with deep affection and admiration that I say to you, I'll jump the gun by a minute, Your Honor, congratulations, God bless you, and good luck.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Thank you Lieutenant Governor. When Vic was preparing his list of speakers to come up here today he wanted people that knew him the best, knew him throughout his life. One of those people that he decided would best be able to set forth what it meant for Vic to assume his position was Joe Jacovini. Joe is the chairman of Dilworth Paxson.

Dilworth, as you know, is one of the larger law firms in Pennsylvania. Joe is coming in from the Philadelphia site today. Vic was the Harrisburg managing partner.

Mr. Jacovini represents his clients in complex and sophisticated corporate matters and commercial transactions including mergers, acquisitions, commercial agreements and transactions. He represents corporations from the largest to the smallest. He also represents government entities and individuals in litigation matters. Please welcome Joseph Jacovini.

MR. JOSEPH H. JACOVINI: Thank you. Your Honors, Lieutenant Governor, let me say I saw Vic Stabile play basketball once. He's not Michael Jordan.

Members of the Stabile family and our special friends, Vicki and Christina and Alexandra and the distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as a friend, colleague, and law partner of Vic Stabile for over 26 years, I take particular pride and honor on behalf of all the members of the Dilworth law firm, many of whom are here today, including our co-chairman, Larry McMichael, in joining with you to celebrate this capstone event in the illustrious career of one of our own.

The introduction of Vic as a member of the Pennsylvania Superior Court serves not only to recognize and reward his achievements in the law but more significantly serves to renew and reinvigorate the Judiciary with his unique talents and energies. I can think of no one more worthy or deserving. Vic's career as an active and skilled courtroom litigator and counselor is outstanding and eminently qualifies him for this position.

Now, from personal experience I can assure you that this drive for excellence, probity, and judgment is unwavering. What makes the appellate judiciary such as the Superior Court so special and so coveted is its independence, its courage, and its commitment to the highest standards. That lies in the character of its judges.

Having observed Vic up close in those difficult and sensitive situations in which lawyers often find themselves, permit me to offer a few insights into his character and why he will make an exceptional judge.

Although intensely loyal to his clients and partners, Vic never for one moment forgot that he was an officer of the Court. He always sought to act in the best interest of his client but with steadfast respect for the law and the legal system. You can be assured that he will similarly act in the best interest of the Court, the law, and the litigants before him.

Although he was an aggressive advocate, for Vic it was never to win at all costs. He would never think of subverting the system to gain an advantage. He always played by the rules and expects others to do likewise. Lawyers appearing before him would do well to be so advised. His integrity is spotless. Vic has never betrayed the legal profession, and he will uphold the honor and dignity of the Superior Court.

Vic has been tireless in representing his clients and getting to the right decision. You can be assured that he will be a hard-working judge. Vic never shied away from the tough cases as a lawyer, and he will not do so as a judge.

Finally, he genuinely respects and honors the law and the profession. To paraphrase the great Roscoe Pound, we need more than just lawyers well-trained in the law, we need lawyers filled with the spirit and traditions of the profession, lawyers with the sensitivity that lawyers are part of something larger and more important than the lawyer himself or herself, a shared trust of unique skills imbued with a public spirit which creates an unwavering, abiding loyalty to clients, to courts, to the public, and to the profession. Vic Stabile is a lawyer in that tradition.

It is indeed a pleasure to bear the report of an honorable member of our profession, a lawyer's lawyer. With his wife, Vicki, and his two lovely daughters at his side, how could Vic be otherwise. Now, having the benefit of being prejudiced by the facts, I am confident that he will

make this Court as proud of him as we are today. Vic, we wish you all of God's blessings in this great endeavor. Thank you very much.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: I am now going to bring to the microphone John Maher, Dean Emeritus of the Dickinson School of Law, perhaps one of the true people that understands Vic's love of the law in that Dean Maher first met Vic on the very first day that he walked across the campus in Carlisle at the Dickinson School of Law. So his relationship with Vic goes back all the way to 1979. Dean Maher is going to read the Commission. Dean.

DR. JOHN A. MAHER: According to the program, I also am the clean-up speaker upon whom the burden rests to avoid redundancy. President Judge Gantman, family Stabile, Mr. Justice Saylor, Lieutenant Governor, all public servants here present, including my son who I can't see in this light, Pennsylvanians, fellow Americans, may it please the Superior Court, I am honored beyond words to participate in the culmination of a fine process in which the people of Pennsylvania, not an anonymous elite, elected Victor Stabile to join this distinguished Court.

I presided in seven states with seven distinct approaches to selecting judges. This is the best. I'm not the first to say so today. It's not perfect. It has a curse. All the judges are human. What else is new?

I came today not merely to celebrate the wisdom of the electorate, but momentarily to reflect on lessons I learned from decades of Dickinson Law students most of whom I admire, all achievers, some of whom I've come to hold as very dear friends. Victor and his bride, Victoria Reider, are in all three categories. They are very dear to me.

It is only fair as a former securities regulator that I make full disclosure that I am very much aware of them, and I and others here present were at a certain wedding which I heard today was 31 years ago. I can't believe it. I cannot believe it. It was up in Erie, and it was beautiful.

Victor started at the law school in 1979. He had a certain magnetism to him. Things were not made easy for him. Victor has never asked for anything to be made easy for him. He made his way. I remember full well when he and a classmate, Bob Carcano, now prominent in NAIC, were earning a few bucks painting at the law school; good painters I might add. I, a confirmed terrestrial, have never forgotten the day when

I was hailed from on high, and I had a couple of Michelangelos up there demanding attention. They did a good job. They did a very good job.

Later Victor clerked for a Los Angeles law firm, and they wanted to keep him out there, but he came back. I never inquired into that. I think that Victoria might have had something to do with it. Later of course you've heard he clerked for the Commonwealth Court. We got great feedback from that, too.

I and others were not at all surprised when Victor became peer-elected president of his class at the law school which I think he remains from here on into eternity or when he became a selfless activist for Dickinson School of Law's late general alumni association.

You get the point. Victor always earns his way. He has demonstrated that he is a Renaissance type. He can build you a house, as he has done for himself, if he so choses. I learned this from various of my students, but it is upon Victor that we focus today.

An example of his teaching, one day toward the end of a course he asked me to review a transcript of the course. I used that word advisedly. He hadn't missed a cough. He hadn't missed a murmur. He hadn't missed any of my mixed syntax. You're all too young to remember President Eisenhower's press conferences. He had syntax problems, too; got the job done, though. I won't go into that today. But, Victor, thank you. I cleaned up my act in class.

The clock is running against us. I can give you examples of selflessness. I can give you examples of reaching out. I will go right back to the beginning, though. Unlike many law students who can rave without looking at the facts, Victor has always marshaled facts. He continues to marshal facts. He is analytic, but having analyzed he is integrative. He can put it all back together again.

Most important, Victor is possessed of the great truth which is that he does not have all truth at his disposal. He is modest. He will be a fine judge. All here present will be very proud of him, but he will never be prideful.

I thank you all for putting up with me. May God save Pennsylvania and fill its Judiciary with wisdom. Now I am also charged with reading

Victor's commission which is signed by the Honorable Thomas Corbett and cosigned by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Victor Stabile, of the County of Cumberland in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings. Whereas, it appears from the certificate and returns made according to law of the election held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court. Therefore, know ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to have and to hold said office together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereto unto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of 10 years to be computed from the first Monday of January 2014, if you shall so long behave yourself well. Witness my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013, Tom Corbett, Governor. I yield.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Thank you, Dean Maher. Next we're going to have the administration of oath and robing. We're very pleased to have today with us a member of the Supreme Court, Justice Thomas Saylor, who will administer the oath. Assisting in the robing will be Vic's wife, Victoria, his two daughters, Christina and Alexandra. Justice Saylor.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: All set? Please place your left hand on the Bible. Raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Victor Paul Stabile.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: I, Victor Paul Stabile.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: Do solemnly swear.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: Do solemnly swear.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: That I will support, obey and defend.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: The Constitution of the United States.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: The Constitution of the United States.



JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: That I will discharge the duties of my office.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: That I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: As a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: As a Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: With fidelity.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: With fidelity.

JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR: Congratulations.

HON. VICTOR P. STABILE: Well, the colors weren't hard to pick out. Friends, I can't tell you how thrilled I am to have all of you here today. Lieutenant Governor Cawley, Justice Saylor, esteemed members of our Federal Judiciary, Commonwealth, Common Pleas, and Magisterial Courts and my newest, most esteemed colleagues of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, my many honored guests and friends, family and colleagues here gathered, thank you, thank you.

What an incredible honor it is to have all of you here to help celebrate and witness this very special moment in the lives of me and my family today.

There's so much I'd like to say to each of you – you'd probably all leave if I did – but unfortunately time will not afford me the luxury. So accept please the following remarks with my most sincere thanks and affection for all the incredible support and well wishes that each of you have offered me along this incredible journey that has brought me here today.

It's often said that you should reach for the stars and that if you don't succeed you may still catch the moon. Friends, I'm here to tell you today you should never settle for the moon. It's because it is, in fact, possible to catch a star. I caught a star, a bright and shining star here in this great

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that star, my star, our star is the Superior Court of this great state.

If it's possible to know in some small manner what Heaven might feel like here on earth, it was for me the feeling of knowing that I was selected by the great people of Pennsylvania and was given their imprimatur to hold this position of trust in one of the oldest and respected appellate courts in all of these United States. This was one moment in time for me.

The honor of being elected to this Court, however, had to be earned. All who seek this position must first pass through the crucible of our electoral system and convince people you are worthy of their consideration. You must campaign hard, endure long and arduous work, and never be willing to give up or concede. For those of you who have taken that walk with me, you know today is the end result of such a long and arduous journey.

Although I wasn't real crazy about all those failures, Jim, I will tell you that, yes, they do have a way of building character and spirit. As most of you know, 2013 was not my first time campaigning for this Court. I ran once before in 2011. I was asked a number of times in newspaper interviews last year why I would run again. It was a question candidly I never quite understood. I always explained that reaching a goal many times requires much trial and error. Some people spend their whole lives chasing a dream, so why not for this goal. If you have a goal and believe in something, temporary failure becomes a misnomer because with perseverance, it leads to success and becomes a necessary teacher.

As long as you believe in what you're doing, never ever give up. The human spirit and its ability to achieve what may seem impossible resides in all of us. And it's what makes us great and what endures. It's what propels the underdog to victory and can change the course of history. Each of us need only decide how much we're willing to sacrifice for something we deem worthwhile.

For me, the chance to serve Pennsylvania as a member of its appellate Judiciary was everything I needed to commit to the sacrifice needed to win. It also was the many faces of people throughout Pennsylvania

who I spent hundreds of hours talking to and promising to provide, yes, equal justice to all. It's those faces that motivate me, faces that all want to believe in what you promise, faces that believe in our system of American justice, faces that I dare not ever betray, and faces that I will never forget.

For me this started as a new law graduate more than 30 years ago when I was given the honor of clerking for one of Pennsylvania's finest jurists, the Honorable Alexander F. Barbieri, a former Common Pleas, Commonwealth, and Supreme Court Justice of Pennsylvania. He was always known as a true gentleman and a scholar, and fortunately for me he had the patience to take a kid somewhat rough around the edges and give him a chance to excel. His daughter, Lexie, I believe is here with us today. Thank you so much Lexie, for the legacy of your dad.

Still I get asked, Vic, why the Judiciary. Well, let me briefly explain. The Judiciary is a very special branch of government. It's that co-equal branch of government that above all others must possess honesty, integrity, humility, and fairness so as to ensure equal justice for all citizens regardless of social, political, or economic status. It's that branch which above all others is entrusted to ultimately protect and preserve the rights enumerated in our Constitutions, fundamental documents that form the framework and backbone of this great democracy of ours. It's before the Judiciary that all people have the right to be treated as equals, and it is the Judiciary that must possess the confidence of the citizenry in order to keep us as a society based upon laws so as not to be plundered into anarchy.

But most of all, for me, it is the rare opportunity to serve in the Judiciary so that I too can say someday that I had the privilege to contribute, even in some small way, to help protect and preserve the greatest experiment ever known to man, that being the United States of America. Thank you.

Surely, folks, there could have been others to have assumed this position, but Providence has looked kindly upon me in giving me this opportunity. I do not intend to squander it. But no one does this alone, and I have been blessed to have many wonderful and dedicated people help me along the way, and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge

at least some of them, but with the understanding that all of you here today are very special to me.

First and foremost, I'd like to acknowledge my wonderful family here on stage with me today; my daughters Christina and Alexandra, and my wife of almost 31 years, Victoria Reider, a native of Erie, Pennsylvania and also a Dickinson Law School graduate, without whose patience, sacrifice, and understanding I could not have run for this office. Ladies, you are the best parts of my life.

I also would like to acknowledge my parents, Joseph and Mary Stabile, who unfortunately cannot be here today. Mom is 93 and quite ill, and Dad is her full-time caregiver. He refuses to leave my mother and would not have it any other way. He is where he has committed to be in sickness and in health. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for all you've given me and taught me and for instilling in me the value of God, family and country. Today it is my turn to honor you both, and I do so with great pride and joy.

And to my honored guests, who have shared the stage with me today – and former Judge Graci, I see you back there, you know what it's like. I cannot express to you my deep appreciation for taking your time out today. And not one, but two men of God to be with me here today. Some of you may think I need that much help.

And, Lieutenant Governor, thank you so much, Joe, Dean Maher, Wayne Pecht back there, my Treasurer, who gave selflessly for three years to help me get there, and my best cheerleaders, Katie and Mike back there, guys, thanks so much. You're all very special to me.

I would also like to thank my former partners at the firm of Dilworth Paxson without whose support I could not have run for office. Dilworth like many of Pennsylvania firms has a steep history of public service from which I have benefitted greatly. Many thanks to its chairman, Joe Jacovini, and to its former managing partner, Steve Harmelin, who always have led by example and who have always demonstrated that people more than other things are what matters most.

It also was from Mr. Jacovini that I learned the very simple lesson that when things seem to be getting tough just simply work harder. A

number of my former partners as well are here in the audience today, and I say to them, thank you. I was always proud to call each of you partner.

To my great friends and colleagues at the Republican State Party of Pennsylvania who gave me their unending support, energy, and encouragement and who gave me their vote of confidence not once, but twice and convinced me that this race could be won. Chairman Gleason, Vice Chair Joyce Haas, Executive Director Bob Buzzuto, and all the field staff here today, thank you from the very bottom of my heart. I will never forget your commitment to me. And also to Lawrence Tabas, the party's General Counsel and one of Pennsylvania's finest election lawyers, for his sage advice and most of all for his friendship.

I'd also like to thank Mike once again, our emcee today, what courage. And folks, it is the truth, I never knew that Mike was lying in a hospital and had a stroke. How many people can you call friend that would make that kind of sacrifice for you. I am very privileged. And to his kids once again, guys, the get-out-of-school pass today is my gift to you; no problem.

Again, I'd like to thank Wayne, one of my law school colleagues who served as my treasurer who gave generously of his time, and his wife also who allowed him to do that, also a law school classmate.

And to Dean Maher, such a very special man who served as a mentor, friend, and advocate, and who has devoted much of his life to his students so they too can lead and prosper, thank you, Dean.

And my endless thanks go to some very special dear friends, Dave and Sandy Hukill, also here with us today, and to their family who have been surrogate family to the Stabiles and who for more than 30 years have always been there and have been a constant source of encouragement, but most of all true friends. Thank you. And, guys, the fundraiser really helped a lot, too.

A very hearty thanks to Jen Zaborney and Jenise Harris who took the heavy work to finance my campaign and never lost sight of where it had to be. And to Jen who this week gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, congratulations Jen.

And to Judy Camiel who jumped in the campaign when most needed and generously gave of her time simply because we are friends.

And speaking of friends, it's been probably 20 years since I've seen my childhood best friend who I grew up with and who knows more about me and is not allowed to say who came here today. Richie, it's so great to see you, buddy. Thank you. Friends for life. There are so few that you can say that about.

And to Nick DiBenedictis, Bill Sasso, Paul Tufano and Dilworth who multiple times stepped up to the plate to offer assistance and who always answered the phone even though they knew what the campaign wanted.

I'd like to now also extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire administration and staff at the Superior Court of Pennsylvania here with us today who have not only done their jobs with professional excellence, but also have made me feel most welcome to the Court. Thank you especially to those here today, Michele Usilton, Dave Szewczak, Joe Seletyn, Mary Graybill, Julia Varano, Jeff Botts, Bob Morrissey, and Phil Yoon. Thank you so much to my newly found family.

And to my newest colleagues on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, thank you so much for welcoming me into the Court and for your open offers of assistance. The people of this Commonwealth surely got it right when each of you were elevated to this Court. Most people will never realize the dedication and tremendous work ethic put forth each day by all of you as you churn through the unending crush of appeals and motions that you so carefully consider every day of every year that passes. The citizens of this Commonwealth are well served by you, and I am deeply honored to soon take my seat with you.

My law clerks and assistants also are here today. Thank you, Glenda, Francesco, Saad, Michael, and Matthew for your commitment to serve the people to the best of your abilities. I believe I'm extremely fortunate to have assembled your collective talent, and together we will do many meaningful things. Break's over in 15, guys.

I also must say with some sadness, though, that over these last several years I've pursued this quest and I've lost some very dear friends who along the way were always there for me and offered me their friendship and encouragement. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge them

while I have this opportunity to do so one last time. For me these were true friends and great people.

The Honorable G. Thomas Miller, one of Pennsylvania's best known medical malpractice trial lawyers. I saw Tom just a couple of weeks before he died this past summer. He was a true friend and colleague who was among the first to encourage me to run for office. He always had time for a young attorney willing to be critically analyzed.

My good friend, Attorney Bob Lang, who died a little more than a year ago. Bob was my buddy who generously gave me his sage political advice and with whom I spent many hours on the range. He was one of Pennsylvania's finest municipal bond lawyers and, in fact, helped write the legislation in that area of law. I believe his daughter, Nicole, is here with us today. Thank you, Bob, and thank you, Nichole, for being here.

To Pennsylvania's former Senior United States Senator Arlen Specter. He was a tenacious leader and one who I respected even though we did not always agree. Foremost, I witnessed him go to bat for ordinary citizens simply because it was the right thing to do when others only paid lip service to those constituents. It's people that mattered most. We were friends, and he never forgot me. Arlen's advice was never to give up. For him that would only happen once and for a final irrevocable time. For me it's still a credo to live by. And I believe his son, Shanin, may be here with us today. Thank you both.

And, finally, I would like to acknowledge former Magisterial District Judge Rob Wyda of Bethel Park in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. I came to know Rob as a competitor for the Superior Court through the endorsement process and primary. We had mutual respect for each other and talked frankly. Rob wanted to get known perhaps for another time that he could run for office. He called me and told me immediately before the spring primary that he was going to withdraw from the race. That offered me a tremendous advantage going into the fall election as we didn't have to expend precious resources in a primary fight. I was extremely grateful to Rob, and we became even better friends. We would talk again when he was ready to run. We won't have that chance. Rob died unexpectedly a month later. To Judge Wyda and his family I say

thank you. Rob was a good man, and I'm sure he has the better seat of both of us today and at this very moment.

I began this race for the Superior Court three years ago, and I've been blessed to be given this opportunity to serve the people of Pennsylvania and to make good on my promise that every day I serve I will strive to provide equal justice to all. I have publicly sworn before you my commitment to do just that and to uphold and defend the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions.

The truth be told none of us can really tell just how well we will meet future challenges. But I will tell you this; I will certainly with every fiber of my body try each and every day to keep my promise to you. For me it also is my desire when all is said and done to be able to say that I too took this gift of life and used it to serve my fellow man.

Justice Saylor, you were kind enough to agree to administer my oath of office in front of these people gathered here today. President Judge Gantman, likewise. I believe I now am ready to make good on my promise and to take my seat among these other fine jurists of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Thank you so much everyone and may God continue to bless this great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the birthplace of liberty and of this great country. Thank you so much from Judge Victor P. Stabile.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Thank you, Judge Stabile. In 1996, I had the great fortune to be a law clerk to the Superior Court, and from my perspective it was quite an experience because at that time it was the most demanding of all the courts in the United States. It literally wrote the most opinions of any appellate court in the United States. We had a chalkboard in our office. Each law clerk had to write on a weekly basis one and a quarter opinions, and it had to get kicked out. So I don't know if that same procedure is still used, President Judge Gantman, or not.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Computers now.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: Computer now, okay. See, that's back in the stone age. But, nevertheless, that Court is a real workhorse. There's a lot of opinions that have to be gotten out in a timely manner. So congratulations to them and their well-earned reputation.



To the Commonwealth Court I'd like to officially thank them. When I was unfortunately struck on March 9<sup>th</sup> with my stroke, my wife was scheduled I think to be out in Pittsburgh. The same as the Superior Court, they travel around the state. They sit in Pittsburgh. They sit in Harrisburg. They sit in Philadelphia. And I was stuck in a hospital. We had two young children. My wife was scheduled to go out. They do it by different days of when they sit on a panel, and they're assigned various cases. To the Commonwealth Court I'd personally like to thank them for picking up her cases during that time period in our personal family's time of need as well.

Well, we're at the program where it says Anne Covey, so I think I know that person. This is Mike Covey. I've learned my place. Anne and I met the very first day of law school, and I saw something special, and sure enough she was special. When she graduated from law school, she was ranked second, number one female, rose up through the ranks, worked for some of the biggest law firms in the country, Blank Rome, McCarter & English. She was an author. She's published. She'd go to various speaking engagements, and I would be the projectionist back then when we were doing overheads. Once again people would push me aside and said, is that Anne. I'd say, yes, can you move aside please. I said, sure. Anne was the rock star. I was the roadie.

In any event, Anne was on the campaign trail in 2011 with Vic, and she got a very close-up picture of Vic and his family and how close they were, what their beliefs were and so forth, and they exactly mirrored ours. And I think that's why our families are so close. Even to this day Vic comes by and sees us. And I'd say we see Vic, Katie and Michael and I, on a regular basis. So without further ado I'd like to bring out Commonwealth Court Judge of Pennsylvania, Anne E. Covey.

HON. ANNE E. COVEY: I am here to attest to everything I saw on the campaign trail and everything that I know that is coming before you, Vic; the Honorable Victor Paul Stabile. You are going to make a fantastic jurist. Everything you've heard today was lived out in hard times. And if it wasn't for Vic's family, he would not be here because it takes everything that you have physically, mentally, emotionally, financially to go across in every county in every small part of

this great Commonwealth to understand the people, to know what's important to them, to let them know about yourself and why you are qualified to serve them in the position as judge on an appellate court of Pennsylvania. And Vic took every opportunity to make sure he left no stone unturned.

We were at a county fair, and Vic wanted to get the word out. He said, I've got to tell these people who I am, and we've got to get our message out there. And he comes back about five minutes later, and he says, I found a microphone, we can blast it out, there's only one hitch, the man's trying to get the karaoke game started and we're gonna lead it off, are you game. So there we were, Vic and I, on center stage singing *America the Beautiful* by Willie Nelson. It was a time to remember.

And he is humble. It was amazing to me. We went to an event, and the individual in charge came to us and said, we're very short on time and we're strict and you have exactly seven minutes between the two of you, and if anybody goes over, that's it, the other person doesn't get to speak. And the rule was the Superior Court always spoke first. And I'm thinking to myself, I don't have a chance. I'm not speaking. And Vic being such a humble individual who listens and wants to do the best for everyone, I said to him, with all due respect, would you mind if I went first and I promise you, you will have three and a half minutes. And being the individual he is, he said, absolutely, Anne, no problem. I stuck to my three and a half minutes and couldn't get him off the stage.

But it is of the highest honor to see Vic just go and go and go because he has a passion for the law. He has a thirst for justice. He will do anything including giving the last shirt off his back because that is the character of the man that is now going to serve each and every one of us. And, Vic, we are here to celebrate you today for all that you have given to us and for your ingenuity. You never stop. You always keep going forward.

We were at a county fair, and it was my daughter's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, and all she wanted to do was win a goldfish. And she threw in the first 12 ping pong balls and missed, and Vic wouldn't stand for it; "Sir, it's her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, don't you see the flashing tiara on top of her head, how about giving her that 13<sup>th</sup> ping pong ball and let her win." Sure

enough, she won the albino goldfish that stayed with us for the rest of the campaign.

Vic, you've been bestowed the highest honor of your profession because you have earned it. You have worked for it. You have studied hard. You have been loyal. You are dedicated. When we would travel around the state, Vic and I couldn't always be in the same place at the same time, so we spoke on behalf of each other. Whatever Vic said that he would do he did. I went with confidence to the Southeast or the Northwest where Vic was in the opposite part of the state, and he would speak on my behalf. And I knew that I could trust him because he always did what he said he would do. And that's how he lives his life, and that's how he's going to be as a judge on the Superior Court.

And I'm a little envious of the Superior Court because you get Vic and we don't, because you have such an honorable comrade to support your troops because I do know how hard you all work. And, Vic, it is with great distinction and honor to call you my friend, to call you my fellow jurist. I know that as you go forth you will continue to give all that you have first to your family and second to this great Commonwealth and third to this nation. And thank you for always seeking to make the right decision every minute of every day and living by that every moment. We applaud you. We're all here to celebrate you. Congratulations.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: I'd like to introduce to you Vic's new boss, President Judge Gantman. Many of you may know that she also was on the ballot last year for retention and won overwhelmingly. In addition to that, there's also every so often an election on the various appellate courts for the president judge spot. That was held this past January 7<sup>th</sup>, I believe. The winner of that race was President Judge Gantman to be the president judge for a five-year period. So President Judge Gantman, I now turn it over to you to formally address your newest member and bring him in line.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Thank you. The Superior Court is the busiest court in the country, and we couldn't do it without all of our judges and the outstanding work of our staff. I do want to acknowledge Dave Szewczak, our executive administrator, and our staff that is here today, Joe Seletyn, Phillip Yoon, Julia Varano, Michele Usilton,

Mary Graybill, Jeanne Rensberger, and our three court criers, Bob, Jeff and Scott, thank you gentlemen, we could not do it without you.

Welcome Judge Stabile. You are serving with a distinguished group of colleagues, all of whom will lend every opportunity to make your transition from private practice to Judge of this Court easier. Your success makes all of our jobs easier. It makes the performance of all our duties for the benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth, successful. Your Honor, we welcome you to the Court, and we look forward to working with you for the remainder of your term. All of us congratulate you.

MR. MICHAEL S. MORRIS: I'd like to introduce to you who is going to deliver the benediction, the Reverend Chester Snyder. Reverend Snyder is a native of Shamokin, Pennsylvania. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Harrisburg in July 1977. He was Vic's former pastor, and now he's the retired pastor of St. Joseph's in Mechanicsburg as of June 2012. Reverend.

REV. CHESTER P. SNYDER: Bow your heads and pray for the blessing. With thanksgiving for the life we share and the freedom we enjoy, with gratitude for the justice our nation secures and our courts uphold, we pray for our friend, Judge Stabile, and his family. As you leave this place, may the living God go with you. May your gracious God go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, beneath you to lift you from your sorrows, within you to give you the gifts of faith, hope, and love, and always before you to show you the way today and every day. Amen.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Mr. Bob, do we have anything else before we close?

THE COURT CRIER: No, Your Honor. This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania now stands adjourned.

(The proceedings concluded at 12:03 p.m.)

## THE HONORABLE PATRICIA H. JENKINS



*Assumed Office: January 2, 2014*  
*County: Delaware*

### BIOGRAPHY

Judge Patricia H. Jenkins was appointed to the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas by Governor Robert P. Casey in 1993 and was elected to a full ten-year term later that year. In November 2003 and again in November 2013, she was retained for her second and third ten-year terms on the common pleas court. She was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett to a vacancy on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and confirmed by unanimous vote of the Pennsylvania Senate in December 2013. Judge Jenkins served on the Superior Court as a commissioned judge until the end of her term on January 3, 2016, and later as a Senior Judge of that Court until the end of 2016. Following her service as Senior Judge, she returned to the practice of law.

She received her undergraduate degree in political science from Albright College, her Juris Doctor degree from Dickinson Law School, and a Master of Laws degree in Taxation from Villanova University's renowned Graduate Tax Program.

Judge Jenkins brings a wealth of legal experience from both the private and public sectors. Before becoming a judge, she was a partner at the Media, Pa., law firm of Kassab Archbold Jackson & O'Brien. She also served as the solicitor for the Delaware County Department of Human Services, where she represented the county in hundreds of hearings each year in various aspects of state and federal litigation.

Judge Jenkins has taught paralegal studies at Villanova and Widener Universities. She sat on the advisory board of the Villanova's Matthew J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good, named in honor of her late husband, longtime Pennsylvania State Representative and Speaker of the House, the Honorable Matthew J. Ryan.

Judge Jenkins is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Delaware County Bar Associations. She has served on the Board of Overseers of the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania from 2007 until 2016. Previously, she served on the Board of Directors of Riddle Memorial Hospital and the Board of Trustees of the Haverford State Hospital.

Judge Jenkins lives in Newtown Square, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

## THE HONORABLE ALICE BECK DUBOW



*Assumed Office: January 15, 2016  
County: Philadelphia*

**PRESIDING:**

PRESIDENT JUDGE SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN

**SPEAKERS:**

JUDGE SHEILA A. WOODS-SKIPPER  
RICHARD BUSIS, ESQUIRE  
SENATOR ROBERT CASEY  
GOVERNOR ED RENDELL  
DAVID FINEMAN  
DAVID GLANCY  
MARCEL GROEN  
DR. AARON BECK  
JUDGE PHYLLIS BECK  
JUSTICE DAVID WECHT  
JUSTICE KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
JUSTICE CHRISTINE DONOHUE

THE CRIER: Please rise.

The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, the Honorable Judges of the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia, the Honorable Judges of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

On the bench, I would like to introduce the President Judge of the First Judicial District, Sheila A. Woods-Skipper, and presiding Susan Peikes Gantman, President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Please be seated.

**JUDGE WOODS-SKIPPER:** Good afternoon, everyone. And welcome to the First Judicial District, the special session of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. It is with great honor and delight that we lend this courtroom to accommodate the special session of the Superior Court. It is particularly meaningful because this is the same courtroom that Judge Dubow's mother was sworn in as the first female judge of the Superior Court. So we welcome you to this auspicious occasion.

I could not let this opportunity go by without congratulating Judge Dubow on her elevation to the Superior Court. Judge Dubow, as a member of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, brought dignity and respect to the citizens of Philadelphia. Serving in family court and both the criminal and civil divisions of our court, Judge Dubow has always been hard working, determined, and has a pleasant disposition, as she desires to ensure justice for all.

Judge Dubow is well prepared to analyze and evaluate the work of trial judges across this great Commonwealth. Involved and committed, Judge Dubow can be counted on to energetically pursue new and different adventures. She was instrumental in starting a judicial yoga class as a mechanism for dealing with daily stresses and encouraging better health.

When I think about the qualities of what makes a great appellate court judge, I was drawn to the views of one of the past judges of our East Third Circuit Court of Appeals, who indicated that the qualities include being fair, just, and impartial, the qualities of devotion and



decisiveness, the quality of clarity of thought and expression, the quality of being professionally literate, and the quality of institutional fidelity, and the quality of political responsibility. But I will add just one more quality: Superior service and training on the First Judicial District trial court bench. Judge Dubow possesses all of these qualities. She brings a sense of energy, commitment, and fairness to the Superior Court and will be a great judge who applies the law and upholds the Constitution.

Here at the First Judicial District, we are proud of Judge Dubow's accomplishments and know that her preparation and experience as a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas judge will result in her continuing to be an outstanding jurist. We remind Judge Dubow, however, that when you are just about to ink that opinion reversing the decision of the trial court judge, remember those yoga classes that you were instrumental in developing. Assume that downward facing dog position, and while there, take another look at the trial court's opinion. Perhaps this will give you a different perspective and result in you reconsidering that reversal.

In closing, let me just quote from Robert Traver, author of "Anatomy of a Murder." Judges, like people, may be divided into four classes: Judges with neither head nor heart, they are to be avoided at all costs. Judges with head but no heart, they are almost as bad. Then judges with heart but no head, they're risky, but better than the first two. And finally, those rare judges who possess both head and heart. To the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the Superior Court bench, that's our judge, Judge Dubow, that we're giving to you.

Congratulations, Judge Dubow, and welcome to the special session.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** I want to thank President Judge Woods-Skipper. We've had a great working relation with the First Judicial District, and it is, in part, mostly because of Judge Woods-Skipper and the prior president judges. The First Judicial District is certainly the heart of our court, and we are thrilled that you have allowed us to have this ceremonial courtroom today to swear in our newest judge. It is her hometown, the home county of our newest member, and we thank you for your graciousness.

This is a very joyous day for our inductee, Judge Dubow, and for the family and friends of Judge Dubow. Today we administer the oath of office to our newest member of this 120-year-old court, our 108<sup>th</sup> commissioned jurist. It is a historic day because today is Judge Dubow's commencement service on the same court on which her mother, Judge Phyllis Beck, the first woman elected to the court, our colleague, our friend, and our mentor served.

Judge Dubow joins us after distinguished service as an attorney and jurist in the First Judicial District. And Judge Woods-Skipper said it beautifully. She has built a reputation not only as a gifted legal mind, advocate, practitioner, and judge, but as an individual with personal integrity, warmth, and sincerity.

In Pennsylvania, we have the honor of being the cradle of liberty. People met in Philadelphia in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to give this country and its citizens their liberty and rights. And it is the court system and the institutions of government that preserve those liberties and rights. The Superior Court today has over a century of service to the citizens. And, Judge Dubow, we welcome you with open arms.

I want to introduce the members of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania who are here with us today. Please stand. President Judge Emeritus Kate Ford Elliott, Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Judge Anne Lazarus, Judge Sally Mundy, Judge Paula Ott, Judge Victor Stabile, Judge Jenkins, Justice Fitzgerald, and Judge Platt.

We also want to welcome our Executive Administrator, David Szcwczak, Deputy Court Administrator, Michelle Usilton, Legal Systems Coordinator, Peter Johnson, Chief Staff Attorney, Phil Yoon, and the Prothonotary, Joe Seletyn. Our Crier, Robert Morrissey, and our Assistant Crier, Thomas Morrow.

At this time I would like to call Richard Busis, Esquire, brother-in-law of Judge Dubow, for the invocation.

MR. BUSIS: I am an esquire who has not been in a courtroom for 30 years, and I'm proud of that fact.

I would, first, like to express my thanks for the chance to be part of this very important day in the life and career of my sister-in-law Alice. It is truly an honor for me to be able to celebrate with someone so

remarkable and whom I've known for a very long time. In fact, one of my first dates was with Alice's sister, Judy, and we went to Alice's bat mitzvah, which was just a few years ago.

Now, from a variety of ancient sources we can learn much about judges and justices. One of our most famous rabbis stated 2,000 years ago that the Torah, the first book of the Hebrew bible and the origin of our modern sense of reality, rests on justice. In Jewish tradition, the hallmark of justice and the characteristics that a judge must demonstrate are fairness, impartiality, and judgment. Judgment is based on the principle that in applying the law, you must not lose sight of the context where the overall goal is promoting justice, that which is just. This requires application of the law to be tempered with compassion. In fact, the Hebrew word usually translated as justice, "tzedek," also means righteousness, fairness. Tzedek, therefore, requires something that is just, not only just in the legal sense, but also in the moral sense. When Moses was giving the Israelites instructions when they were wandering out in the desert and about to come into the land of Israel, he told them as follows: You shall appoint judges and officials in all your gates. They shall judge the people with due justice. You shall not judge unfairly. You shall show no partiality.

Elsewhere, the Bible instructs judges not to favor the poor, nor show deference to the rich. Judge your kinsman fairly. Thus, the Torah stresses both procedural as well as substantive justice, and is the precursor of our principle of equal protection under the law.

And perhaps the most well-known biblical admonition about law and justice comes from Deuteronomy, Chapter 16. Tzedek tzedek tirdof; justice, justice shall you pursue.

Sovereign of the universe on this happy day, we ask your blessing for Alice Beck Dubow as she is installed as a judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. May she make decisions with wisdom and justice, mercy and compassion. May she have the courage necessary to fulfill her duties and responsibilities with the same determination and strength that she so amply demonstrated as a judge of the Common Pleas Court. May she be blessed with an even temperament,

keen understanding and application of the law, and the ability to render justice with fairness, impartiality, compassion, and equality for all.

I will conclude with a word from one of our sages written about a thousand years ago. That her words be simple, that they need no interpreting; and let their meaning be understood, that they need no proof. Amen.

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(Pledge of Allegiance.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: It is my great pleasure to introduce some of the dignitaries: Senator Casey, Senator for Pennsylvania, Governor Rendell, Justice Christine Donohue, Justice Kevin Dougherty, Justice David Wecht, former Justices Fitzgerald and McCaffery.

In the Commonwealth Court: President Judge Hannah Leavitt. And if you rise, please. Judge Bonnie Leadbetter, Judge Rochelle Friedman, Judge Michael Wojcik.

From the Eastern District: Judge Cynthia Rufe, Judge Gerald McHugh. Distinguished jurists of the First Judicial District, Common Pleas and Municipal Court, distinguished judges from across the state, Marcel Groen, and the distinguished attorneys. I will have more introductions.

At this time, I would like to call upon the Honorable Robert Casey, United States Senator for Pennsylvania.

SENATOR CASEY: Thank you. May it please the Court, President Judge Gantman, President Judge Woods-Skipper. We're honored to be here at this ceremony. As I start, I'm still going to ask for continuing legal education credit. That question remains to be determined, but I'm honored to be here.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Hold that under advisement.

SENATOR CASEY: Thank you. Made the trip worth it.

Judges of the Superior Court who are with us on my right, we're honored to be with you. Justices of the Supreme Court who are with us, from my left to your right, Justice Wecht, Justice Donohue, and Justice Dougherty, here together again after their ceremonies just, I guess,

about a week ago. I saw Rich Fitzgerald from Allegheny County, the county executive, in the second row there, who gets the prize for traveling the furthest, unless there's a relative of greater distance.

Governor Rendell, we're honored to be with you today and to be in your presence at a place where I know you are familiar with these hallways in your work as district attorney and mayor and as governor. Marcel Groen, our state party chair, who has done great work over many years for the democratic party and on behalf of our state.

Judge Phyllis Beck, this is a very personal moment, I know, for you, and I won't spend too much time on that because I know others will. But we're honored to be with you and your family,

Alice and Rob, on this day – maybe the last time I can call you “Alice.” We'll see what happens. And Ben and Rebecca, I can remember Ben and Rebecca – I don't want to tell you the history, a lot of the story, but I remember when I was nine years old, the first time I was at a ceremony for my father, and how proud I was that day. You're a little bit older than that. You can appreciate it more. You can appreciate the gravity and the significance and the meaning of this ceremony much better than I could at the age of nine. But we're honored to be with you.

I start with the personal, mother and daughter, mother and daughter who are judges. But in this case, mother and daughter serving on the same court. And, I guess, Judge Gantman, correct me if I'm wrong, 120-year-old court now, right?

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Yes.

SENATOR CASEY: Going on 121, 1895. The first time a mother and daughter have served on this court or maybe an appellate court in our state. So that's a significant achievement and I think speaks volumes about our Commonwealth and the Beck family.

I was also looking at all of the titles and experiences and jobs that Alice had in her work as a lawyer before becoming a judge. I'll just read them quickly. Clerk, private practice lawyer for, I guess, 20 years, deputy city solicitor, deputy general counsel at Drexel, and a judge since 2007. You've been a judge as long as I've been in the senate, and that seems like a long time, at least to me. So you arrived with some seniority

and a great reservoir of experience, and we appreciate that. Both as a citizen and as a public official, I appreciate that.

One thing that struck me about Alice when she was campaigning, throughout the entire campaign, every time I saw her, every time we were campaigning together, no matter what time of day, no matter what day it was, no matter what period of the campaign, she was always in good humor. She was always upbeat, always warm and enthusiastic and really spirited. That never happens in a campaign. Usually the candidate is the most ornery person in the room, even when they can disguise it. But I saw her when she was presenting her credentials, and I also saw her kind of when we were back stage or talking privately, and she was always, always upbeat and optimistic. And I think that bodes well for our Commonwealth and bodes well for the court that she will join.

I leave you with one thought. I told Marcel Groen, who knows the scriptures almost better than I – I think he knows the Old Testament better. I leave you with a thought from the prophet Micah. Micah hasn't been around in a while. He was in about 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. As many of you know, part of the book of Micah talks about what is expected of us. And this is what the prophet said: What does the Lord require of you? Three things really: Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

That very old language from the Old Testament all those centuries ago was updated in literally the late 1980s, when a guy was putting together hymns for the Catholic church and he took that language and made it into a hymn. The name of the hymn is "We Are Called." And I won't sing or I won't recite every verse, but here's the refrain. We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly. We're called to serve one another and walk humbly with God.

Now, I think that's a pretty good summation of the kind of life you should lead, no matter what you do. Most of it, I think, applies to the kind of judge we hope you would be, and you have been, I know already. Or remove the "love tenderly" part, that may not apply. But certainly acting with justice applies. Serving others, that surely applies. And walking humbly with your God, it could apply to senators, except that "walking humbly with your God" part. Other than that, we could adhere to all three.

But, Alice, I know on a day like today you don't need advice. You might – I don't think you need encouragement. But I know that your career to date has kept faith with those directives. You have indeed served others. You've acted with justice. And I think you've been very humble as you do your work. We don't have to pray for you today to do that. I know you'll do all three of those. But we do pray that when this job gets difficult, you'll still have the same spirit and good humor that you had as a candidate. God bless you and congratulations.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Thank you, Senator.

Governor Ed Rendell.

GOVERNOR RENDELL: Hello, everyone.

I'd like to thank Alice for putting me at the front of the program for two reasons: One, because by the end of the program, everyone will be repeating exactly what everyone else has said. And to that end, I'd like to see a show of hands. How many of you were present for the swearing in of Justice Kevin Dougherty? Well, you're going to hear almost the exact same speech from me. If you want to hit the bathroom, this would be a good time.

As I said at Kevin's swearing in, people asked me what the biggest difference is to be out of public office and be in the private sector. And I tell them it's that I'm finding when people pay you, they expect you to be on time. Not so much as governor and mayor. But I have to leave to do a radio show for CBS, so I apologize for not being able to stay to hear the entire program.

But let me say that this is an historic day. Speakers have already alluded to the fact that – said by Judge Gantman – this is the first mother and daughter combination to serve on the Superior Court. And I was thinking of an analogy for that in other walks of life. I think it would be Ken Griffey and his father. Absolutely. So it is historic.

And I also want to say a word to Alice and to Rob and to Judge Beck. You know, there are many of us who make the choice to serve the public, and it is a choice that has significant ramifications. As I said at the end of the book that I wrote, it's been 45 years since graduating from law school and I never made anything that our society would describe as real money. But I never missed it for a minute. Because when you serve

the public, you know that each day you get up and you're getting paid to make people's lives better, to protect our most vulnerable citizens, to give opportunity to those who have never had it. It's a wonderful way to live. And I think Alice and Rob and Phyllis know that secret. And we're grateful for the opportunities we had. And I'm sure Alice is grateful to the voters of the Commonwealth for giving her that opportunity.

And Judge Woods-Skipper talked about the characteristics that make a good judge. And it's absolutely true. And I get asked all the time in my role as mayor and governor, What are the characteristics? Who should I vote for? People ask, What should I look for in a candidate? And I always tell them look for two things: A good head and a good heart. A good head, because the jobs that we elect people for are serious, they're often complex, and we need people who are smart enough to do the job, who are intelligent enough, who have the commitment, the scholarship in that field. And when you apply that criteria to Judge Dubow, it's clear that she has all the scholarship, all the intelligence, all of the smarts that she'll need to be a superior judge.

The second criteria is equally important. A good heart. And what do I mean by a good heart? I mean, first and foremost, an understanding that there are people in our society who never had a chance, who never had opportunity, who have never had the ability to reach their full potential. And in great part, it's our communal responsibility to try to create opportunity for those people and to protect them when they need protecting. That's important. To care enough about people to do that.

I've gotten to know Alice over the years and I know she cares very deeply about our fellow man and fellow woman. And I know that attribute will serve her greatly when she takes the bench on the Superior Court.

But there's a second element of having a good heart, and that's courage, courage to do the right thing. You know, there's a lot of discussion about judicial independence. And clearly, the judiciary, in my judgment, should be more independent and more free from pressure than it is today. Clearly, the judiciary shouldn't have to do some of the things they have to do to get elected and to stay in office. But the ability to respond to pressure, to have the courage to do the right things, even though it's



going to get you in trouble, that's a crucially important component of a fair and independent judiciary.

I know there are a few federal judges here. As most of you know, my wife is a member of the district court and has been a member of the court of appeals since 1998. And when she was elevated to the court of appeals, it was President Clinton's idea. The party had talked about someone else, and President Clinton said, "No I want to elevate Midge Rendell." And later I asked him why. And he said because someone sent me her lawyer evaluations.

And in the district court, lawyers evaluate anonymously the judges, I think every three years. And I got to read them. President Clinton sent them to me. And the one that was the most outstanding was Midge had only been on the district court for three years, and this lawyer said she had the courage to do things that you don't usually find in a judge until they've served for decades. Courage is important. Doing the right thing is always important. Doing the difficult thing is always important. Doing the hard thing is always important. We, as a nation, we're built by risk takers. We were built by men and women who always chose to do the hard thing if it was important to our nation's growth.

You know, I grew up in an era when, for all of us in college, Jack Kennedy was our idol. He was the young, brave President, good looking, charismatic figure, and he made some wonderful speeches, some very poignant and relevant speeches, words that stood out like poetry. But my favorite speech was when Jack Kennedy announced in the days of Russia's entry into space first, which had people in the country panicked. He said America will put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. And he said the words that ring most true to me. He said, We do these things not because they're easy, we do them because they're hard.

It's hard sometimes to do the right thing from the bench. It's hard sometimes to rule against prevailing public opinion. But that courage equates to having a great heart, and Alice Beck Dubow has a great heart.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Governor, thank you.

There's some others I'd like to introduce: County Executive from Allegheny County, Rich Fitzgerald; Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar, Gaetan Alfano; District Attorney of Philadelphia, Seth Williams; Denise Smyler, General Counsel to Governor Wolf; State Representative Steve McCarter; Inspector General Amy Kirkland; Zyg Pines, former Court Administrator; Jonathan Saidel, former County Controller; and Joe Evers, Court Administrator. I would also like to thank Charlie Mapp, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, and Clayton Carter, for their help in setting up this investiture. Thank you. We're grateful to you for your work.

Our next speaker is David Fineman.

MR. FINEMAN: May it please the Court. I'm not sure how I'm supposed to address all these judges that are here. Usually it's only one or a panel that I address. But to all of the judges, our new Justice of the Superior Court, it's certainly an honor to be here.

I first want to thank Judge Dubow for this opportunity to make some brief remarks. For me, this is a special occasion for many reasons. But there are three that are of particular importance:

First, the ceremony gives me the opportunity to thank you, Judge Dubow. In the infancy of Alice's career, I had the pleasure of working with her in our law office. As it is in most law firms, the most senior lawyer can take advantage of the brilliance of a younger lawyer, and I took advantage of that opportunity. So, Alice, thanks for all those times you made me look smart, intelligent, and well-versed in the law.

As most of you know, Judge Dubow, after a stay at our firm, went on to distinguish herself as a public servant in the City of Philadelphia and as a well-respected member of our Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

Second, Judge Dubow's ascendancy to the Superior Court is especially meaningful to me. I began my career clerking for the Honorable J. Sidney Hoffman of the Superior Court, a blessed memory. Judge Hoffman's best friend was a revered justice of the Supreme Court, Samuel Roberts, from Erie Pennsylvania.

When the Supreme Court sat in Philadelphia, Justice Roberts would come to Judge Hoffman's chambers for a brown bag lunch. And

on occasion, this young law clerk would be given the privilege of having lunch with these two legal giants. After some discussion of the events of the day, they would begin to discuss legal issues confronting each of their courts, and they would lean on each other for advice and counsel.

President Judge Gantman, members of the Superior Court, and to our new Justices of the Supreme Court, when the day is long and you need a colleague to consult with, seek out Judge Dubow. You'll have a kind ear, a brilliant mind, and a friend to lean on.

Lastly, Judge Hoffman taught me the essence of justice. Understanding the difference between right and wrong. That characteristic to me is not one that we're born with, but it is learned.

Tomorrow in most synagogues our people will chant a prayer, l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. I have been lucky to have been a longtime friend of the Beck-Dubow family, a most understated but accomplished family who have dedicated their lives to helping others. Alice's dad, Dr. Aaron Beck, is the founder of cognitive therapy and has been referred to by others for having made the greatest contribution to psychiatry since Sigmund Freud.

The room is filled with the admirers of Judge Phyllis Beck, the first woman appellate court judge of this Commonwealth. Judge Beck's career has been a model for our profession. I remember being at the swearing in ceremony of Judge Beck. I arrived a little late and was in the back of this same courtroom in the corner. And, quite frankly, I did not understand the significance of the event until I saw a sea of women in front of me and heard a chorus of cheers after Judge Beck took the oath of office. I realized then that I was privileged to have seen history being made.

Alice and her husband, Rob, the City of Philadelphia's most well-respected finance director, decided to dedicate their lives to public service. Judge Dubow's lineage will serve her well in serving all the citizens of this Commonwealth. And like her mom, she will dispense justice to all who come before her no matter what their status in life. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** Thank you, David. We'll call David Glancy.

MR. GLANCY: May it please the Court and all the judges in the room and ladies and gentlemen. I'm just so very happy to be here to speak at this ceremony for Judge Alice Beck Debow. Alice and I have been friends for almost 25 years. I've also been a friend of her mom, Phyllis, since 1983, when she was elected to the Superior Court, the same court on which Alice will now serve.

I know this is your day, Alice, but I've got to tell every body this quote from your mom in a local newspaper in 2008 when you were sworn in as a Common Pleas Court judge here in Philadelphia. Your mother was discussing the barrage of negative comments that she received when she decided to attend Temple University Law School in the mid 1960s. She was also raising four children at the time. Phyllis said – and this is the quote: People would come up to me at parties and blast me, she said. They said my children would grow up to be in the gutter because I wasn't making them chicken soup. I'm not sure I get the connection of you not making chicken soup and your kids ending in the gutter. Anyway, some gutter, Right, Alice?

Sometimes remarks at these ceremonies can get a bit stiff, and I know that from having violated the “don't be stuffy” rule. Let me say, for the record, this has not happened yet. None of these folks have done anything like that. Marcel won't do that, I'm sure.

I thought I would just have a conversation with you, Alice, as a friend. And, quite frankly, it's okay. I'm sure you don't have any objection for all these other folks to listen in on this conversation. I really don't have anything. I'm about to anyway. I'm here and you're there.

I'd like to discuss some things that are, I think, good qualities a judge ought to possess. The governor mentioned, clearly, intelligence is very important. And not just possessing great intellectual ability, because you have an abundance, but being emotionally intelligent, the ability to capture the larger picture of what's at stake in the case before you,.

Over the years, you and I had some very personal conversations about our lives, particularly about our children and the bumps and the joys that they and we have both experienced. Recalling those conversations

reminds me there is no doubt that you possess the requisite empathy, the emotional intelligence required to be a good judge.

In my opinion, the next necessary trait needed is a combination really of two characteristics: One is to be a good listener; and secondly, to possess an open mind.

One of my mentors long ago advised me to look at the world every day with new eyes. I'm not sure I understood what that meant when I first heard that, but as I've gotten older, I understand it means not just look at the world of our senses, but the world where real people are living real lives. And as a trial judge, they were telling you stories about your life.

Now, as you become an appellate court judge, you're going to be making decisions based on briefs and lawyerly arguments. But those writings and those arguments are about real people and real stories as well. And in all due respect to Chief Justice John Roberts, you're not just an umpire. You just don't call balls and strikes. You do more than that.

The word "judge" is the first syllable in the word "judgment." And I know you, Alice, you will follow the rules scrupulously while using your acute sense of justice and judgment to be that fair-minded arbiter and decision maker that you've always been. And, of course, honesty and integrity must be included in this list of qualities. You have those traits, again, in an abundance.

In the spring or summer of 2014, you and I met at the diner, the Reading Terminal diner, to discuss the possibility of you running for an appellate court judgeship. So why do I remember this? Well, because you, my friend, for almost 25 years, would not let me buy you a cup of tea and a bagel. You could certainly buy me one obviously. But you possess honesty and integrity in abundance. And our courts need someone of your character more than ever today. So when you put all those qualities together and you make a stew out of it, you end up with someone who possesses those qualities. Judicial temperament, and you have that. You have what it takes. I am so happy for you and your family. They must be so very proud of you, as I am today.

And, finally, Alice, my friend with so much talent, who worked so very hard to attain this position, I wish you good luck. I wish you God speed as you embark on this new and wonderful journey. God bless you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Thank you, David.

Marcel Groen.

MARCEL GROEN: Thank you, Judge Gantman. And good afternoon, everybody. Justices, Judges, Senator, Governor, distinguished guests, family, friends. I was going to be like Bob, Senator, and repeat everyone, but that's more than I can handle.

I'm the lucky one who gets to be the last speaker. I started off with ten pages that I was going to say. I'm down to a half a page because I really don't want to repeat everything.

I do want to thank you, Alice, for giving me this honor and this privilege to say a few words. While a lawyer, I guess I'm also a politician. And generally speaking, we get to do a lot of the work, we don't necessarily get an opportunity to actually enjoy the moment as much as we would like. So thank you very much,.

I was chairman of the Montgomery County democratic party for 21 years. I'm now the state party chairman. Twenty-one years ago, Montgomery County – this is not going to be a political speech. Twenty-one years ago, Montgomery County was one of the most influential republican counties in the country. Ronald Reagan came to a Montgomery County dinner in 1988. January the 4<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege and the pleasure of watching every single officer, other than those mandated by law that were sworn in, being sworn in as democrats, whether it's commissioner or whatever other office they were. At the same time last week as well, I had the privilege and the opportunity to go to every single one of the Supreme Court justices races. So I'm looking at this, I've been a state chairman since November – September, I'm sorry. We've got all these victories in Montgomery County. We swept the state. I figured it would be a good time to resign.

Anyway, I'm going to try to say a couple things that may not have been said or may be a little bit from the campaign.

First of all, Judge Dubow has good imagination. She realized that all of the candidates running for the judiciary started either with a D or

a W. So she figured everybody was D-W, and that Judge Wojcik decided that really means democrats win. I believe what it really means is do wonders. Because after they all won, they're all going to do wonders.

And I watched this entire process, running elections for judges is a nightmare. They have egos. They're difficult to deal with. You never see them after they get elected. You know that going in. And this year, for all of us, every one of the judges were incredibly wonderful to work with. Alice, you included, especially. You're all incredibly wonderful to work with. Egos took a backseat. We all worked together. And I do think that the five of you that got elected will do wonders, not only because you're intelligent and you're ethical and you have integrity, things we shouldn't take for granted, but frequently can, but more importantly, because you are collegial to the people you work with, whether they be on your side or not. You will have discussions and conversations with people that you don't agree with, but you'll do it with respect and collegiality. And the courts will have the dignity that we as lawyers and the public deserve.

When they started speaking today, I was thinking of your mom, Phyllis Beck. And I can imagine one of the things I wanted to do in Montgomery County – when we first started winning elections, we had 22 judges on the bench, 21 white males and one white female, all from the same party. And I thought that what I wanted to and what we wanted to accomplish more than anything else was to have the court look like the people that it's supposed to adjudicate.

I feel the same way – I think we all do – on the appellate branch level. Certainly, Judge Beck, as you were the first female judge ever elected to the Superior Court only 32 years ago, I guess. You look around now and you realize that the Superior Court has more women on it than men. That is remarkable. Having said that, we still have a long way to go. We do not have enough diversity on the appellate courts. We have very little, in terms of seeing to that minorities are part of that, and we have a long way to go, but I think that, Judge Beck, starting with you, and now with your daughter and with all the judges here, we have made an incredible step forward, one that the entire Commonwealth and its people can be very proud of.

The first time that Alice walked into one of our meetings I felt like asking her for her age card to make sure that she was at least 21 and could vote for herself. So the only problem I really had during this entire campaign, Alice, is you look way too young for all of us who look up to you and who will look up to you.

You have a great family background. Your father, as someone said, is renowned in his field; your mom obviously is. And me included, some of us came from some difficult backgrounds, not always so easy. I've heard a lot of speeches about that. I've given those speeches. Sometimes we don't realize that when you come from parents who are accomplished, that, in itself, is a challenge that is hard to deal with. And I'm sure your parents must be the most proud people in the world, as they should be. But that is an accomplishment all by itself, to be able to have your parents' values and to understand their accomplishments and still be able to stand on your own two feet and create a life for yourself that they can be proud of and that you can be proud of.

I know that you have been – you've done all kinds of work, but I also recognize that you and your husband have decided to have a life of public service. And for those of us that watch people in public service, we're grateful for that. We need people who are committed to public service and who do it without any personal needs or requirements, but just to do the right thing.

Your brother-in-law said in his wonderful benediction – that is the beginning. Forget it. He mentioned in the bible the words *tzedek, tzedek tirdof*, justice, justice shall be pursued. What he didn't say, but I will add, it's the only time in the five books of Moses that the same word is repeated. It was repeated because, at the end of the day, whether it was an ancient society or a society that we have today, it is the ability to have good, fair, intelligent, ethical, dignified judges that keeps the society and the fabric that we so desperately need together and keeps us moving. Because you will make decisions that the average public and average person who gets elected cannot make. You will make the decisions because you will always want to do what you believe is right. You will always want to make sure that both the rich and the poor have an equal ability to present their case to you. We are proud to have you.



I'm proud of all of the judges that got elected. God bless you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Reading of the commission, Ben and Rebecca Dubow.

REBECCA DUBOW: Whereas it appears by the certificates and returns made according to law of the election held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November in our domain, 2015, that you have been duly elected judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in conformity to provisions of the constitution and laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presence commission you to be a judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

BEN DUBOW: To have and to hold this said office, together with all the rights, powers and emoluments there unto belonging or by law, as pertaining for the term of ten years, to be computed from the first Monday of January, 2016, if you shall so long behave yourself well. Given under my hand and the great seal of the State at the City of Harrisburg, this day of December in the year of our Lord, 2015, and of the Commonwealth, 240<sup>th</sup>. Signed, Tom Wolf, Governor; signed, Pedro Cortez, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Thank you.

It is now my honor to call Dr. Aaron Beck.

DR. BECK: Thank you. And welcome, everybody. Dignitaries, family and friends.

So when I heard all these wonderful things about Alice, I wondered what could I possibly add to it. And then I thought there was one aspect of Alice which hasn't been touched upon and which, in a way, came as a surprise to me, and that is her electability. That's one of the buzz words these days. And you wonder what makes a person electable. If you watch the debates on TV, you may stop to wonder what qualities are necessary for somebody to get elected successfully to the various courts that Alice has ascended to.

I first became aware of Alice's electability at a time when she moved out of her room and moved out of the house and I inherited her room. And I started going, like a nosy father would, through some of her past papers that she had collected. And I saw that she had been president of

her class at Lower Merion High School. I never knew that, honestly. Why? This is an aspect of Alice. She's not a bragger. Then as I turned over some more papers, I found that she was student representative of her freshman class at Penn. That also came as a surprise.

The next thing that happened along these lines was when she graduated from Penn Law School and I looked at the program and I see "commencement speaker, Alice Beck." And so I started to wonder what are these qualities that Alice has that makes her so electable. Everything that's been said today, I guess if you string them together as a bunch of adjectives, they may give a clue to her electability.

I think there's another quality which is rather undefinable that Alice has. That underneath a very cheerful, upbeat disposition, there is a gravitas. And the people that she's represented in the past would recognize that she was honest and sincere, and that she is also dedicated, and that she would be a very good representative for them when she stood for election. And I imagine that she showed these same qualities when she was running for political office.

One other thing that I wanted to mention that goes back to Phyllis, who I think passed on her own genes to Alice, which then accounts for Alice's great qualities, and that was when Phyllis Beck – well, there was an article in the evening Bulletin at a time when Phyllis Beck became a judge. And in this article it said – the headlines were "in her mother's gown," and what it said was that when Alice Beck was two years old, her mother went to law school, all the neighborhood women tisked tisked at their coffee clutches thinking what a terrible thing it was to leave this poor child alone. And then the article ended with a statement, these women would be very happy to know that Alice Beck has just graduated from law school and is now wearing a gown herself.

And with that, I think you get a picture of how a generation has gone from mother to daughter. And as we look ahead into the midst of the future, perhaps there will be another person. Perhaps it will be Rebecca Dubow who will now be gowned. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** Thank you, Dr. Beck.

It is my great honor to ask Judge Phyllis Beck, who has been duly deputized, to give comments and administer the oath of office.

JUDGE BECK: I want to begin with just a few personal thank yous. And, that is, a thank you to Senator Casey and to Marcel.

When Alice and I first walked into their office when we started on this journey, they were encouraging. They kind of patted us on the back and said, go forward, and we did.

And then I have to thank our merry men met every few weeks, and there was always a political decision to make, and I think we had the right candidate and we made the right decision, and that's David Fine-man, David Glancy, and Mel Nasielski there. So just thank you all. It has been a great journey. The thing that's so remarkable, it was such fun.

When Alice first asked me to speak, I declined. Then I thought about it and I decided I was wrong and I should say a few words.

As other people have said, this is a historic moment. In Pennsylvania's judicial history, the first time a daughter succeeds her mother on an appellate court, perhaps on any court.

Second, it is an intensely personal and emotional point in my life.

Third, the Court will be going into uncharted seas. And that is certainly true for members of the Supreme Court. For courts, it will be a massive time of change, of introspection. The law always adjusts, however slowly, to what society demands. It adjusted to the Industrial Revolution, and the law will adjust to the internet technology solution. And I'm almost jealous that I won't have a part in those decisions. But I am sure, knowing all of the candidates and the –not the candidates, but the members of the Superior Court, Commonwealth and Supreme Court, it will call upon your wisdom, your compassion, and I hope your technology skills. But you can always get an 11 year old to come and give you advice.

But it's a very exciting time in the law, where every week you'll be confronted by a new problem, which will be caused by the revolution that society is going through. And I'm very pleased that Alice is on the Court. She's smart, enlightened, and she will help steer the course of the Superior Court.

She also brings to her job vast legal experience that you've heard of, and experience of a full family life with her husband, Rob, and their children, Ben and Rebecca.

I have to mention one other thing that nobody else has mentioned. They have two dogs, and the dogs' names are Laura Bush and George. Can you imagine that for a democratic family? But that is part of Alice's experience, too.

In the 1930s, the actress and stripper Mae West said – and it sums up Alice. She said, “Too much of a good thing is wonderful.” Alice, like her father, her brothers, Roy and Dan, and her sister, Judy, they are all truly wonderful. They're fair, compassionate, creative, and smart.

Today it is my honor, I salute Alice Beck Dubow and wish her an amazing journey, along with her wonderful colleagues, on the Superior Court.

Now, to make everything official, repeat after me. Place your hand on the Bible.

I, Alice Beck Dubow.

JUDGE DUBOW: I, Alice Beck Dubow –

JUDGE BECK: Do solemnly swear –

JUDGE DUBOW: Do solemnly swear –

JUDGE BECK: That I will support –

JUDGE DUBOW: That I will support –

JUDGE BECK: Obey and defend –

JUDGE DUBOW: Obey and defend –

JUDGE BECK: The Constitution of the United States –

JUDGE DUBOW: The Constitution of the United States –

JUDGE BECK: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

JUDGE DUBOW: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

JUDGE BECK: And I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

JUDGE DUBOW: And I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

Thank you. And please be seated. And thank you very much, President Judge Gantman, my former President Judge, Judge Woods-Skipper, members of the Superior Court, Supreme Court, Commonwealth Court, my former colleagues who are all here today, and the other dignitaries. Thank you so much for sharing this milestone with me. I also want to thank all the speakers for your wonderful comments.

I do have one slight rebuttal – not rebuttal, but I want to add that it's hard sitting there having people talk about me and not be able to respond back. Marcel did talk about my ability, when we were on the campaign trail, to come up with this campaign slogan, having figured out that we all had last names that started with D or W. We had Dougherty, Donahue, Wecht and Wojcik. It became part of the campaign slogan when we were out. This was a really good sign that I'm going to be a good Superior Court judge.

When my mother ran for Superior Court in 1983, she was on a slate of eight judges. She was the only woman and there were seven men on her slate. When she went around to introduce her slate, she referred to herself as Snow White and the other judges as the Seven Dwarfs. So obviously the ability to come up with a good campaign slogan is a good sign for being a good Superior Court judge. I think I will be in good stead.

Anyway, I want to thank you for being here. It was important to me to be sworn in in this room because this is where my mother was sworn in back in June of 1981. I apologize to the people who are standing. I know I could have had a bigger venue, but it was important to be sworn in here. I distinctly remember being in this courtroom when my mother was sworn in and I was sitting in the jury box. I had just graduated from college and I was uncertain about where my life was going to take me. And it's really a thrill, all these many years later, to be here and being sworn in by my mother for the Superior Court.

It's also wonderful to look out in the audience and see so many of my friends and colleagues who have helped me, supported me and talked to me over the years. With all of you, I've had countless conversations about your different life experiences, my life experiences, politics, economics, social issues. I want you to know that all of those conversations have influenced me greatly. All of those conversations have impacted me in decisions that I've made as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas, and certainly influenced my judicial philosophy that I take to Superior Court. So, I want to thank you for that.

I want to formally say goodbye to my colleagues on the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court. I have spent the last eight years with you, toiling with many, many cases. We have, on a daily basis,

made decisions that impact, if not, defined, the lives of individuals, of families, of communities, and at times, even the City of Philadelphia. And often, those decisions are absolutely heartbreaking. And often, the court proceedings are stressful. And often, the bureaucracy we have to deal with is frustrating. However, I, like you, have always made those decisions with people's best interests at heart, with integrity and independence.

So as I leave to go to Superior Court, I leave with tremendous respect for what you do. And I am proud to say that I served on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. So thank you. It doesn't mean I won't reverse your decisions, but I promise I'll do a downward dog and rethink it before I do that.

Also I want to thank the court staff throughout the Court of Common Pleas. You have tough jobs operating these courts. You act professionally. You act efficiently. And you made my job so much easier.

I want to thank my personal court staff: Theresa Butkovitz, Chip Finney, Lindsey Scott. All of you have run my courtroom and my chambers for the last eight years. You've done so efficiently. You have helped me put out well-written opinions. But most importantly, you have treated people with respect, which is important to me. The three of you have had to deal often with angry attorneys, angry and confused litigants. And as difficult as that is, you always did it and treated people with respect and dignity, and I really appreciate that. Theresa has retired, but Chip and Lindsey are coming along with me.

And I want to publicly welcome the rest of my new law clerks, Amy Keane, Katie Lavelle, Bobby Ochoa and Sarah Pitts. I am looking forward to spending the next chapter of our lives working together. I also want to give a shout out and thank Tina Masi, who is the court reporter today. And Tina has been with me through the past couple years. Tina is absolutely wonderful. She probably won't take it down.

I also want to thank my new colleagues in Superior Court. You do have a reputation for being a hardworking, intelligent, collegial court, and I have seen that from the moment I was elected. I can't thank you enough for the incredibly warm welcome you have given me and all of the help you have offered to me. I look forward to growing old with

you on the court. So, thank you. (And I am older than Marcel thought I was.)

I also just want to thank the court staff at Superior Court, in particular, David Szewczak, Michelle Usilton, and Bob Morrissey. You've been great helping me make this transition, taking care of all the details for today. Chip Finney, too, and the rest of my staff have really been wonderful in helping make this actually happen.

I wanted to spend a couple minutes to talk about the campaign. I know I'm not allowed to be political anymore, but there are a certain group of people who are here and I would not be standing here if they did not work hard during the entire year of 2015 to help me get elected; Jen Blatz, Sadie Restivo, Sarah Pitts, Rob Borski and Rob Sachs. You guys did a lot of heavy lifting and it was wonderful and I really appreciate everything that you did.

As my mom mentioned, we tried to have fun with this campaign. I had what I call our "kitchen cabinet." That was a group of friends and we would get together every couple of weeks to make sure the strategy of the campaign was right. But more importantly, we would get together and gossip about what was going on in the political world. I wanted to give a thanks to David Fineman, David Glancy, Mel Nasielski, Chuck Finney and my mother, too, who was part of that group.

Also, fortunately, statewide campaigns means communicating with a lot of people. It means having a media consultant. And I want to thank J.J. Balaban for what he did to help me out. I didn't have a lot of money, but he somehow made 15-second commercials for me that were effective.

My last thank you on the campaign/judicial front is to the slate of five of us who were running together for the courts, we were really a good slate. I like to call it my DW family. I cherish the relationships, the friendships that we developed while we were going through the shared experiences.

And also, most importantly, November 3<sup>rd</sup> was an excellent day for the judiciary in Pennsylvania. The voters elected five appellate court judges who are smart, hardworking, and have a very high level of integrity. So I just want to thank Justice Donahue, Justice Dougherty, Justice

Wecht, and Mike Wojcik for your friendship in helping me get through somewhat of a stressful time.

So now I'm moving away from my D-W family to my family that is sitting in the jury box. The one nice thing about an event like this is it makes me think of my life from the point I was sitting in that jury box back in 1981 until today and how I got there and what really influenced me and what really led me to make various decisions that I have made during my life.

As you've heard, I spent a lot of my legal career doing public service work. Certainly, working in the Court of Common Pleas was public service work as well. I got that so clearly from the members of my family who have also been involved in public service. And all these members of my family who have been doing public service are really humble and never acknowledge what they do and what their contributions were, so I'm going to embarrass them.

I want to start with my brother Roy. And if you could raise your hand because, by the way, I talk about you all the time. And so, if you just raise your hand, people will know whom I'm talking about. My brother Roy spent his medical career conducting epidemiological studies for eye disorders and diabetes. My sister, Judy, and my brother Dan, both went into the family business, cognitive behavioral therapy. Both of them have spent their professional careers doing research and teaching and training and treating people in cognitive behavioral therapy.

And as an aside, I don't really like to brag about my dad too much, but if you go on Google and you Google "father of cognitive therapy," my dad's picture comes up. So my brother and sister have both used their professional life to further the family business.

Also, my sister-in-law Ruth, who has spent her career in dermatology and pathology. My other sister-in-law Sue, who is president of a nonprofit that provides grants to other nonprofits in Philadelphia. What Sue does that none of us do, Sue does this on a volunteer basis. The rest of us who do public service, we get paychecks. My other sister-in-law Deborah, she had to leave with my little nephew Ezra, has devoted her talents to teaching. My brother-in-law Rich, who did a wonderful benediction, used his talents for social service nonprofits and to further



Jewish education. My brother-in-law Steve, serves on numerous non-profit boards. Also, I am Steve's charity case. Every time I decide to run for some type of elected office, I tell Steve and he says "I'll go and raise money", and he does it. Thank you, Steve.

My Aunt Lois, who is a lawyer by training, but spent her career working for Human Rights Watch. In fact, Aunt Lois developed the children's division of the Human Rights Watch. She studied governmental abuses of children throughout the world. For the period of time when I was sitting and hearing cases of abused, neglected kids, which was really, at times, heartbreaking, I would talk to Lois and I look to Lois because she was dealing with vulnerable kids worldwide for a much longer period of time and it often kept me going.

My Uncle Marty, who couldn't be here, provides scholarships in Israel for Arab students with the idea that if Arab students are being educated at an Israel university, there may be peace or commonality.

And, finally, my cousin Tom, who when he is not composing music, is teaching music to underprivileged kids in Chester. So all these people, who have influenced me greatly, have made it clear that the most satisfying path is public service.

I also want to acknowledge my 20 and 30 something nieces and nephews who have given me a perspective on life I would not necessarily have. A special shout out to my nephew Sam, with whom, I would go to the movies every week. He has really exposed me to a lot of movies I would not normally see. It's fine. If I don't like the movie, I just take a nap.

Eleanor Roosevelt is attributed with making the statement that small minds discuss people, average minds discuss events, and great minds discuss ideas. And if there's one person in this world who has encouraged me to discuss ideas, it's my father, with discussions with him throughout my life, from the specific to the broader and the theoretical. If I would talk to him about a case, for instance, a child who was abused, neglected, and was suffering some kind of trauma, the conversation never ended with those particular facts, but rather, my father took the conversation to a much broader level about different treatments for

children who suffered trauma and the cycle of poverty and what could be done on a societal basis to try to deal with the cycle of poverty.

My father has a tremendous natural curiosity about the world and about ideas. It is contagious. And my father, among the many things he's done for me, has made me curious about different ideas and about different people and has made my life immensely more interesting. So thank you, Dad.

To Ben and Rebecca, my greatest accomplishments, you did a great job reading that commission. It's been a thrill to watch you transition to adulthood with all of its challenges and all of its benefits. You do so with such grace, intelligence, and hard work, and I am so proud of you. You're both smart, opinionated, with wicked senses of humor, and I cannot tell you how proud I am of you.

To Rob, whom I met in 1978 when we were freshmen in college, and has walked beside me for almost 40 years now and has been woven into the tapestry of my life. As partners, we have raised Ben and Rebecca, shared professional successes and challenges, dealt with family issues, and, as you heard, taken care of our dogs. He's always done so with intelligence, a sense of humor, and perspective of life, and I'm forever grateful.

And finally, my mother. You heard a little bit about what she has done, which is quite remarkable, professionally and personally. I never really appreciated how hard it was for her to get elected to Superior Court, to be the first woman to get elected to the Superior Court. When I was running in 2015, being a woman running was pretty common. People at that point had the idea that women could be judges. But when my mother ran in 1983, not only did she have to overcome any negative stereotypes about women, she had to connect with people and get them to take a chance. And she did so successfully. And she did so successfully through her intelligence, hard work, and general caring about people.

And what she did after that, though, is even more remarkable. As a judge on Superior Court she used that intelligence, and that integrity, and that compassion to create a new stereotype for women. And so when voters know nothing about candidates, they generally will vote for a woman. And so as I go on to Superior Court, I'm the 12<sup>th</sup> commissioned

judge on Superior Court. There are nine women and three men. So much of that is attributable to my mother, not only getting elected, but how she conducted herself as a judge, and other women judges who followed after her.

I just want to say something more on a personal level and what my mother has meant to me. One of my mother's greatest attributes is that she judges people by their character. My mother doesn't care where somebody grew up, who their parents were, how much money they have. She's always instilled in me that core value; it's a person's character that really matters. I think that served me most well when I was in the Court of Common Pleas.

Unfortunately, Philadelphia has a high level of poverty. There were a lot of issues we dealt with in the court involving poverty. That ability to look beyond a person's clothing, the way a person spoke and try to find out what that person truly was, served me very well on the Court of Common Pleas. I'm wearing her robe now. As a trial court judge, I wore her robe every single day. On the back of her robe it's monogrammed PWB. And as I sat in court every single day, I would have her core value that is instilled in me to treat people with respect channeling through me, and I believe it did make me a much more effective judge.

She also views life as an adventure. She viewed my running for Superior Court really as an adventure, a good learning experience for me; meeting new people, challenging myself in certain ways. As much as she wanted me to win, (she is a Jewish mother,) she also viewed this as a no-lose situation for me because I would get a good education out of it.

So as I ascend to Superior Court today, I do so in my mother's footsteps; I do so in her shoes. Now, these shoes that she wore, that I will be wearing, are not fancy or trendy. These shoes are comfortable, sturdy, strong shoes. And she walked in those shoes as she did her work in Superior Court, and I will walk in those shoes in the same way she did: With respect, with compassion, and with humility. Thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** Please join us on the bench. On the campaign trail, D-W, D always went first. Justice Christine

Donohue, at that time. So today we reverse that trend and we call the third in commission, Justice David Wecht.

JUSTICE WECHT: Thank you. May it please the Court, Superior Court Judge Dubow, family of Judge Dubow, esteemed judges, elected officials, friends, all, you know, the public is already angry enough at the Supreme Court. I'm not going to get it angrier by talking long. I'm going to be brief. It is especially important to move this along. We have the Beck and Dubow family in the jury box. We don't want an unfavorable verdict from them.

It is such a thrill to be here. I had the privilege of first talking about Alice's prospective race, actually, in the casino in Atlantic City in August 2014. Neither of us were gambling, but we were passing through after an event, and we both did gamble on the race and won. And I couldn't be happier, Alice, that you are embarking on the Superior Court. The court is a wonderful court. Tremendous judges, tremendous professionals. You will add to the task. And I know from reading your decisions from the Common Pleas Court and having the opportunity to spend time with you on the campaign trail that you're a person of great wisdom and compassion and decency. And the chance to be here and see your family and hear from some of them just confirms in me the knowledge that you come from sources and wellsprings of great compassion and decency and wisdom. It's a pleasure to be here.

A couple of speakers mentioned tzedek, righteousness, and justice. And we know that a person who embodies those traits of righteousness and justice is known as a "tzedek." I'm confident you'll be a tzedek on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Congratulations.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Justice Kevin Dougherty, second in commission.

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Dr. Beck, Your Honor, family, all distinguished individuals, Superior Court Judge Beck Dubow, my friend, Alice. Life has an interesting road that we often take. I've had the good fortune now of traveling that road literally and figuratively. When I think about when we first met, it was probably when you were discussing your decision to run for the Court of Common Pleas. During that rigorous campaign, I knew at that time that as the Administrative Judge

of the Philadelphia Family Court, that if I have good grace, I was able to convince you to come with us so that the at-risk and vulnerable children would be so much better off.

Outside of your gentle demeanor, your kind heart, she captures the entire Beck dynasty. With cognitive behavioral therapy as the backbone of her father's profession, and her mother's wisdom, not only embedded in her as a child, but through her precedent in the law, I saw an opportunity to take her wisdom and her heart and bring to our system, which was dysfunctional, some sense of order, some sense of care, so that the children would benefit from a generation of wisdom brought by her parents. It was through our commiserating through our journey in Family Court that we developed a better friendship. But I must say, there was a time when Alice shared with me that she wanted to broaden her horizons and go to the trial division. It broke my heart, but she left and, once again, distinguished herself.

When she decided to run for the Superior Court we had another conversation. It was then that I chose my path. But as she said, the five of us became very close on that campaign trail. Many hours on the turnpike, many hours commiserating, celebrating, learning of each other's families. I can share the time when Ben was deciding whether he was going to go to the military, or discussing how her father came upon cognitive behavioral therapy, discussing the dogs and how they were named George and Laura. But during that time I learned that not only did she have a tenacious intellect, very similar to Mr. Fineman's comments, you could speak with her and you can get a solid answer. And when she gave you advice, it wasn't the advice of a counsel that would suit her or advance her purpose during a competitive campaign, it was the good counsel that was beneficial to you as the individual candidate. To me, that distinguishes Alice from many others. Superior in her heart, in her mind, and in her ability. So I guess it really is suiting that you ascend to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. I echo our President Judge, Sheila Woods-Skipper's comment, that the ascension is a loss to the Common Pleas Court bench of the First Judicial District and, as they say, a tremendous gain.

But let me end it with this: As Earnest Hemingway said, there's nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man. True nobility is being superior to your former self. Figuratively, we know it. You have ascended to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. What I share – and literally. But what I believe is best from this event is, once again, having our families together, Common Pleas Court, the DW family, your family. Thank you for what you've done. I look forward to what you intend to do. And I forever hope that our relationships, both on and off the bench, remain as superior as this very moment. Love ya.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** There are four members of our Superior Court family that I want to introduce. Our three deputy prothys, one from each district: Nick Corsetti, Jennifer Packler, and Mike Depasquale, and our court crier from Pittsburgh, Kristin Brown.

Justice Christine Donohue, first and priority.

**JUSTICE DONOHUE:** May it please the Court, President Judge Gantman, new Judge Dubow, my former colleagues. You know, it's sort of interesting, because throughout the entire campaign, I did always have to go first because of alphabetical order. I'm struggling to figure out how this is a benefit to me to be the last of 12 speakers on a Friday afternoon before a four-day weekend. But it is truly, truly a pleasure to be here with you. And if my back turns towards you, I apologize.

This is a wonderful day in two respects: It's a wonderful day for my former colleagues on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. As everyone in this room knows, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is the busiest appellate court in the United States of America. That court gets about 8,000 appeals a year and writes somewhere near 5,000 decisions. So this court is hardworking. It has integrity. And it's dedicated to the principle that the rule of law applies.

Alice Beck Dubow is extremely lucky to join the ranks of my former colleagues on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. They're fine jurists. But more importantly, my former colleagues are going to be so thrilled to have Judge Dubow join them, because I learned throughout the course of our campaign over the last year that she is a woman of fine humor, which we all know counts a lot. She has an intellect that will be serving the citizens of the Commonwealth because of the fact

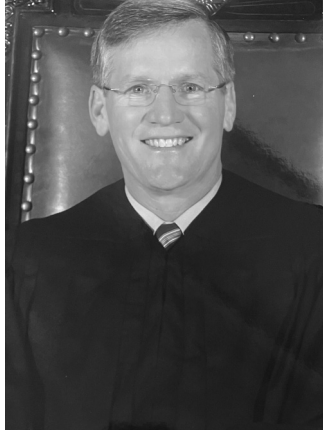
that she's incisive, she knows how to identify issues, and she has a true sense of justice in applying the law. And equally important, she has a desire to serve on a court that her mother served so well. All of us on the Superior Court look to Judge Beck's opinions to this day for the foresight that she had. And what I have seen of her daughter Alice is that she has that same gene. She has the gene of knowing when to look, when to stop and question whether or not what is happening is correct, and she has the judgment to apply the law as it's meant to be. So this is a fine day for Judge Alice Beck and for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: I want to thank PCN for taping this service and to thank them for the work for the Commonwealth.

Judge Dubow, congratulations. You have performed outstanding service to the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during your service as a judge in the First Judicial District and we know that you will continue that service on this distinguished court. Thank you.

THE CRIER: This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

**THE HONORABLE  
H. GEOFFREY MOULTON, JR.**



**THE HONORABLE  
CARL A. SOLANO**





**THE HONORABLE  
LILLIAN HARRIS RANSOM**



**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO:**

*The Honorable H. Geoffrey Moulton, Jr.  
The Honorable Carl. A. Solano  
The Honorable Lillian Harris Ransom*

*Date: September 29, 2016  
Noon*

*The Union League of Philadelphia  
The Lincoln Room  
140 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102*

**PROCEEDING**

THE COURT CRIER: Please rise.

The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania,  
Judges of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the United States

Magistrate Judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia and Montgomery County, Judges of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, Administrative Law Judges of Pennsylvania, Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez, let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania come to order. Let all manner of persons rise and attend. Let the family, friends and associates of the Honorable H. Geoffrey Moulton, Jr., Carl A. Solano, and Lillian Harris Ransom be joyful.

Let the citizens of the Commonwealth be confident and sure as the Superior Court convenes for administration, for the oath of office in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

On the bench, I would like to introduce the President Judge for the First Judicial District, the Honorable Sheila A Woods-Skipper and Presiding President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Susan Peikes Gantman. I would also like to introduce the Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, Please be seated.

I'm sorry, if you could all rise for "The Pledge of Allegiance," My bad.

*(Whereupon "The Pledge of Allegiance" was said)*

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** Good afternoon. This is a very joyous day for our many new Members of the Court, for their family, for their friends. Welcome.

Pennsylvania has a long history of jurisprudence. The Superior Court was created in 1895 and the Judges today join a long tradition of judicial excellence.

Welcome, Governor Wolf. Thank you for joining us.

I would like to call Reverend Hughes for the Invocation.

**REVEREND OMARI HUGHES:** Let us pray. Gracious God, we come first and foremost simply to say thank you, recognizing that

through your sovereignty you've allowed us to assemble in this place safely on today.

We come on this auspicious occasion to acknowledge that there are those who you're calling to yet another level of service, and you're doing so, God, at a time where we need those who are willing to serve.

Things may change around us, but truth will always be truth. Justice will always be justice. Right will always be right, and wrong will always be wrong.

And so on this occasion, we honor those who You are calling forward to carry the banner of truth. As we move forward though this ceremony, we pray that you will tarry with us in this place, give us moments to pause, to celebrate. If we need to, shed tears of joy and be filled with laughter.

And for all these things, we will be careful to give your name thanks, glory, honor, and praise. It's in your name and Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

ALL: Amen.

MS TAMEKA FEREBEE: Good morning. I will be leading you in the two selections, "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Shall we stand?

*(Whereupon "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" were sung.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: You may be seated.

I would like to introduce the Judges of the Superior Court who are with us today. President Judge Emeritus Kate Ford Elliott, Judge Ann Lazarus, Judge Victor Stabile, Judge Platt, Judge Jack Panella, Judge Alice Dubow, and Justice Fitzgerald, who is now with us from the Supreme Court.

Our talented staff who has worked very hard for today and provide us every day with their work: Executive Administrator Mike DiPasquale, Deputy Court Administrator Michele Usilton, Prothonotary

Joe Seletyn, Chief Staff Attorney Phil Yoon, Assistant Chief Staff Attorney Lenny Blazick, Legal Systems Coordinator Peter Johnson.

Our Deputy Court Prothonotaries: Nick Corsetti, Ben Kohler, and Jen Traxler; and our Court Criers: Robert Morrissey, Thomas Morrow, and Jeff Bott.

I would like to introduce our Supreme Court Justices. Justice Kevin Dougherty and Justice Sallie Mundy, who recently joined that Court.

It is my pleasure now to introduce the Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, for remarks.

**GOVERNOR TOM WOLF:** Thank you very much. I'm really pleased to be here.

You know, a Constitution is a remarkable thing. In theory, it does a lot of very good things for a lot of people. It lays out a clear plan of government. It outlines the way rules will be created, implemented, and enforced. It specifies how leaders will be chosen, and it sets out a rational and peaceful plan of succession.

In theory, our Constitution does all these things and more; here in the State of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth and also in our nation.

In practice, however, these Constitutions can only be brought to actual life by the people who make up the institutional manifestations of those Constitutions. Our public servants are not simply transactors of public policies, they are also stewards of the grand constitutional, in this case, democratic tradition.

Their jobs are not only to reconcile competing ideals, ideas and interests, they also have the responsibility of promoting and even improving the foundational values that lie beneath our political system.

In the end, although we have a good Constitution in Pennsylvania and in the United States, actually we have great Constitutions in the Commonwealth and the United States, we ultimately depend on the individuals who give those Constitutions real life.

The Constitutions are noble, but the people are not. We would not have the political systems our founders intended. This is true of those of us in the executive branch, it's true of those in the legislative branch, and it's certainly true of those in the judicial branch; all of which brings us to

today. Because today we're swearing in officially three people who will spend countless hours deciding between competing claims, competing ideas, and issues. But in each of these decisions they will be reinforcing or allowing for the display of the noble constitutional traditions that mean so much to all of us.

It is important that these folks do a good job in both regards. The decisions they make will matter to the specific parties, obviously, that come before them, but the extent to which they bring fairness, integrity, equity, and pragmatism to those decisions will matter to all of us. And that's why I'm proud to be part of this swearing in ceremony.

I believe these three people will do a fine job in both of these important sets of responsibilities.

Judge Carl Solano, for example, has practiced law for 38 years. He's a seasoned professional, but he's also been a very active person in organizations dedicated to making the profession, the legal profession better. And I know he will bring that same desire to improve the law and to the Constitution that he supports here in the Superior Court.

Same goes for Judge Lillian Harris Ransom. She has been a Judge here since 1995, right here in Philadelphia, and she has been making judicial decisions all that time. She has been working to sustain the Constitution, in this case Philadelphia, for that same amount of time. She too will make our Constitution better, making those same honorable decisions on this Court.

And finally, the person I know best, Geoff Moulton. I know he is going to do an outstanding job on the Superior Court. I know Geoff because he and I worked together in Harrisburg. He was the Deputy General Counsel. And Denise Smyler is going to say a few words on his behalf in a few minutes.

But, in the past year he worked with me and he did a remarkable job. He's also done remarkable things for all of us in the Attorney General's office and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

He's a smart, hardworking, fair-minded, honest person. He is precisely the kind of person that you want to give life to the grand Constitution we have here in Pennsylvania. And while I've got to say, I'm sorry

to lose him in my office, I am very proud to commend him to my fellow Pennsylvania Judges of our Superior Court.

Thank you, Geoff, Judge Solano, Judge Ransom, our Superior Court and our Constitution. Thanks to them, all of us are in good hands; so too I think is our democracy.

Thanks to all of you for taking the support and responsibility so seriously. As with all of you, and you, thank you very much.

## INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Governor, thank you. Thank you for nominating these three Jurists.

And I want to thank the Senate for confirming them quickly.

I would like to introduce the Judges of the Commonwealth Court, President Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt, Judge Woljcik, Judge Hearthway, Judge Cosgrove, Judge Colins, Judge Friedman, Judge Leadbetter. Thank you for joining us today.

*(APPLAUSE)*

Ms. SMYLER: Thank you.

Good afternoon, Governor Wolf, President Judge Gantman, Justices of the Supreme Court, and all other Judges in attendance today and other honored guests.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce my friend and former colleague, H. Geoffrey Moulton.

When Governor Wolf appointed me as his General Counsel in January of 2015, I knew I needed to fill several deputy general counsel positions. An acquaintance highly recommended Geoff to serve as one of my deputies. I did not know Geoff at the time, notwithstanding his many extraordinary accomplishments, but when I reviewed his resume,

I could see that he was an intelligent and hardworking individual with a broad range of experience.

The highlights include two federal clerkships, including one on the United States Supreme Court, two high-profile and well-regarded investigative reports, one involving the ATF raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, and the other concerning the investigation of Jerry Sandusky, and his time in the number two positions at both the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Special Inspector General for the TARP Program, better known as the bank Bailout Program.

Thus, one of my first acts as General Counsel was to hire Geoff. Although I did not plan to have a hierarchy within the ranks of my deputies, Geoff quickly proved to be an especially valuable partner and I made him my *de facto* First Deputy.

Acting as my *de facto* First Deputy, meant that beyond getting an office as large as my own and two parking places, Geoff took on some of the most difficult and important tasks of our office ranging from personnel and operational evaluations to overseeing our most significant litigation.

He also volunteered to argue the Terrence Williams death penalty case in our Supreme Court on behalf of the Governor. After Geoff prevailed on that case, he vowed he was going to quit while he was ahead. That was his first argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and his last. Now, of course, the Supreme Court will be evaluating his work in a different way.

Geoff handled the seemingly endless stream of emergencies and occasional crises with grace, skill, and good humor, so every once in a while the band would break and the other Geoff would surface. I'm just staying, don't let the nice guy fool you. Almost all of the time though, Geoff was calm in the eye of the storm keeping people focused on the tasks at hand rather than on the inevitable distractions of doing the work in a highly political environment and often at lightning speed.

When Governor Wolf began the task of filling vacant judicial positions and established the Judicial Advisement Commission, I encouraged Geoff to apply. Despite what that might sound like, I was not

really trying to get rid of him. On the other hand, I'm not sure about Geoff's motivation.

In the middle of this vetting process, I received a call from a friend who said "Geoff must really want to get away from you, Denise. I hear he's applied for every vacancy in the state." My response to my friend was to say, "No, you're wrong. He didn't apply for dog catcher, but I'm not sure he's qualified."

But seriously, I actually was acutely aware of the fact that Geoff was very interested in becoming a Judge, but more importantly, I knew he had the essential qualities to be a very good one.

He is smart. He is a fast learner. He has a broad range of experience and has an ideal judicial temperament. He's both compassionate and dispassionate and he isn't afraid to make decisions.

Geoff also has the highest ethical standards. He is always guided by the deepest desire to do the right thing. Given the challenges that face the Pennsylvania Judiciary in recent years, he is an ideal addition to the bench. So, as much as I might have wanted to keep him in the Office of General Counsel, I did not want to hold him back on being a judge.

Before I finish introducing Geoff, I do want to mention the other two Judges joining the Superior Court.

Judge Ransom has been a dear friend for many years. She has been a leader in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for decades and she will be a tremendous asset to the Superior Court.

And while I had not met Judge Solano until June of this year, based on his background and his reputation, I am confident that the Court will benefit significantly from his presence as well.

All in all, I have to say that Governor Wolf, with the assistance of the Judicial Advisement Commission and the advice and consent of the Senate, did an excellent job of filling the Superior Court vacancies.

Geoff and I did not meet in person until about a week before we both started working for the Governor. At that time I think we both understood that we were embarking upon what people called a professional blind date.



When Geoff left to go to the court over the summer, and in his farewell remarks to the office, he described his experience as, “the best blind date ever.” While I wasn’t entirely sure what to make of that because I wasn’t particularly familiar with Geoff’s blind dating experience, I must say that I fully agree with the sentiment.

While Geoff and I worked together for a relatively brief time, the nature of our work gave me a chance to appreciate not only his skills as a lawyer, but also his qualities as a human being. I am confident that the Judges of the Court will value Geoff as a friend and colleague, just as I do.

I am also sure that everyone on the court will find Geoff to be a highly valued partner in the important work that you do.

So without further ado, it is my pleasure to introduce a person I am proud to call my friend, and now call Judge, Geoffrey Moulton.

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Thank you very much.

I would like to introduce the retired Judges from the Superior Court: Phyllis Beck and Richard Klein.

Judges from the First Judicial District: Of course President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, and Administrative Judge Jacqueline Allen, Supervising Judges of the Trial Division Leon Tucker and Idee Fox, and all of our Judges on the First Judicial District; and also the Judges from Montgomery County who are here to greet our Court Judges. Thank you.

I would like to call on Dennis Suplee for comments on Carl Solano.

*(APPLAUSE)*

MR. SUPLEE: Governor Wolf, distinguished Members of the Judiciary, distinguished guests, I am going to assume that I’m talking to a hot Court and that you have read the short biographical blurb about

Carl in the booklet that was handed out, and I would like to supplement that a bit and then make some more general comments about Carl.

Carl has been named “Philadelphia Lawyer of the Year” on three occasions. On two occasions, 2011 and 2014, for First Amendment Litigation, and in 2016 for Appellate Litigation; how appropriate.

He has also won the Burton Award, a prestigious award for legal writing, for an article that he co-authored with Bruce Merenstein on the Pennsylvania Collateral Order Doctrine. I don’t know how you make that jazzy and readable, but apparently he did. There is renewed interest in the article in light of Carl’s new position.

Bernie Segal, a long-time head of our firm for many years, made the point that it was not just enough to be a first-rate lawyer, you had to respond to what he called “the higher calling of the law.” You had to participate in pro bono work.

Carl won the Pennsylvania Bar Association Award for pro bono services in 2008 and the Earl G. Harrison Award for pro bono service in representing prisoners in civil rights appeals and in immigration proceedings.

It’s always difficult to try to get to the nub of what somebody is about even if what you’re talking about is, “What do they talk about as a lawyer?” And the last couple of weeks, when I’ve seen my partners and colleagues in the coffee room, in the halls, whatever, I’d ask, “What would you say about Carl Solano?” And I heard the words “untangled, untied, unraveled” and the thought was that you could go to Carl with the knottiest legal problem and he could somehow or another untease this Gordian knot and convert the knot into an elegant tapestry.

I’ve gone to Carl a number of times during the period that we practiced law together, more than 35 years. I’ve never gone to him with an easy problem. I have gone to him when I got to the end of the line and I thought to myself, “I can’t do any better than this, and it’s not good enough.”

Sometimes I asked Carl to take the case over. Sometimes I asked him to partner with me, and believe me, the final product was far superior to what I would have handed in if it had been strictly mine. And

that was Carl's role at the Schnader Firm. I wasn't the only one who went to him. I was one of countless lawyers who did that on a regular basis.

The second comment I would like to make is that Carl, and you learn this when you work with him, did not view the practice of law as just an enjoyable way to make a living. He regarded the practice of law as a calling, and you do things differently and you make more demands upon yourself when you believe that you are responding to a calling, not just figuring out a way to support your family.

And so, if you pick up the typical Solano brief, there will be no overstatement in the Statement of Facts. You will not have to wonder at any point, "Maybe I should check the record to be sure it really says that." There will be no overstatement, misstatement of what the cases say. Again, you won't be tempted to say, "Maybe I better pull that case and read it for myself." You may do it for other reasons, but it won't be because you doubt what's on the page in front of you.

There will be no purple prose, no ad hominem attacks on his opponents, and the brief is persuasive simply because you know that what is said in every sentence is right on.

When I joined the Schnader Firm, Mr. Schnader was still running it and in his day he was regarded as an outstanding appellate lawyer, perhaps the outstanding appellate lawyer in this area. And he used to admonish younger lawyers, all the lawyers, "You're not allowed to argue the case in the 'Fact' section, so don't do it, but when the Judge gets to the end of reading your Statement of Facts, he or she should want to decide the case in your favor." That was true with every Solano brief I ever saw.

As an aside, I would say that Mr. Schnader would sometimes pick an associate to help him with a brief and you felt quite honored as the associate to work with the boss, and then he would sit down with you and set the guidelines and the guidelines were, "I write the facts. The facts decide the case. Any jackass can write the law. You're going to write the law."

Carl is now embarking on what for him I'm sure will be a new vocation where he will not only be advocating just causes as we all ascribe to do as advocates, but he will be choosing between just causes, because, as we all know, there is often, there is usually, there is perhaps always justice on both sides of the case and it is up to the Judge to decide. It is up to the Judge to judge.

I know that Carl will be and has been relying on his new judicial colleagues to learn his new vocation. I hope that, and believe that, at the end of his career, you will have the same high regard for him as a Judge as we at Schnader had of him as one of our litigation appellate partners. Thank you very much.

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: I would like to introduce the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, Bruce Beemer; Andrea Tuominen, Assistant Court Administrator of Pennsylvania; Sid Kline, our former Court Administrator; Greg Dunlap, Chief Legal Counsel of AOPC; Jim Schulz, former General Counsel of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Leigh Skipper, Chief Federal Defender; Gaetan Alfano, Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Doctor Val Arkoosh, Vice Chair Montgomery County Commissioners; Maida Milone, Executive Director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts; and Keir Bradford-Grey, Public Defender of Philadelphia.

It is my honor to call upon the Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper.

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE WOODS-SKIPPER:

Thank you and good morning to everyone, or afternoon I suppose it is now, to Governor Wolf, to our Supreme Court, Members of the Superior Court, Commonwealth Court, and Members of the First Judicial District and other members of our Court here in Pennsylvania.

It is truly a great honor to be able to stand here and make remarks on behalf of Judge Ransom. And I think I really probably have the easiest job in the room because you have more than 30 years of judicial experience to look upon, to determine the type of appellate judge that Judge Ransom will be.

You know her ethical nature, her commitment, the respect that she has gained by Members of the Court, as well as Members of the Bar, and her true commitment and dedication to the rule of law. She has made many contributions to the Court of Common Pleas.

As a trial judge for over 30 years, she has been a mentor to many and the voice of reason to all. It is not only her dedication and commitment to the bench, but also, through other things that she does in terms of helping to design protocols for the Juvenile Lifers Cases; in preparing a bench book for the investigating Grand Jury; but also taking things beyond the robe, beyond the bench.

She has administered our summer legal internship program. She has served as parliamentarian for the Board of Judges. She has chaired the Clifford Scott Green Chapter of the National Bar Association Judicial Council. She has served as its historian.

She's had numerous leadership positions in the Judicial Council and has participated in many forums and panels.

And, she follows a passion of watching tennis across the states, across the nation, and she is an award-winning participant in the Flower Show, clearly from the ability with a multifaceted and deliberate focus. So I've chosen to sort of focus more on Judge Ransom, the person, because it is truly the person that makes the Judge.

She is admired by many and really is the go-to person if you really need to get a job done; organized, detail-oriented, and a taskmaster. Just leave it to Lillian, and you can move on to your next assignment.

So not only has the Court of Common Pleas lost a Judge with a strong work ethic and dedication to the cause of justice, we are turning over a friend, and we reluctantly release her to a higher calling performing a greater good.

But, it is for good reason, because for far too long, our appellate bench has been one without consistent diversity. We live in a diverse society, and all of our courts should reflect that diversity.

I know that Judge Ransom, a savvy leader, will bring and has brought already to Superior Court, the same grit and determination that she displays on the trial bench. In fact, I know she has already shown her tremendous assets in the ability to organize and manage by taking charge and planning this momentous event, a simultaneous swearing in of all three appointed Superior Court Judges. And I'm sure you all agree, this is truly a magnificent event.

So thank you, Judge Ransom, for that.

These organizational and analytical skills and her stamina will serve Judge Ransom well as she plows through the mounds of trial court records.

On a more personal note, I know that Judge Ransom has long given up on me and her motivation to have me more physically active, as demonstrated by my failed commitment and interest in aerobic classes, exercise, and getting more rest. All that, despite her determination, not even she could turn me around for that physical way of thinking. I really thought that running around for the Court was truthfully enough. If only I could keep up with Judge Ransom, our renowned world traveler, maybe there would still be hope.

The climb to the top can be particularly challenging, but Judge Ransom's decision will inspire others to hope, to dream more, to learn more, and to do more to emulate her as a leader. And she served as a bridge to that future. Good leaders like Judge Ransom are trailblazers; visionaries who do not follow the path, but instead go where there is no path and leave a trail for others to follow.

Therefore, I congratulate my colleague, mentor, and my friend, and sadly but joyfully bid her success in her new position. I know that her experience as a Trial Judge will inform her decisions as an Appellate Court Judge. She will recognize that the whole record sometimes does not reflect the true ambience and demands of a courtroom trial drama

that we as Trial Judges live on a daily basis. And she will use her wisdom and knowledge of the law to be fair and just to all.

And, while she may not be able to change the direction of the wind, she can certainly adjust her sails to reach her destination. As Ralph Waldo Emerson states, “what lies behind you and what lies in front of you pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.”

We know that Judge Ransom will remain true to the seeds that have been planted within her. It is with great admiration, respect, pride, and privilege that I congratulate and present Superior Court Judge Lillian Ransom. Thank you.

## INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: It is my honor to give the oath of office to Judge Moulton.

I, Geoff Moulton

JUDGE MOULTON: I, Geoff Moulton.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Do solemnly swear that I will support obey, and defend.

JUDGE MOULTON: Do solemnly swear that I will support obey, and defend.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE MOULTON: The Constitution of the United States.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

JUDGE MOULTON: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUDGE MOULTON: That I will discharge the duties of my office.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: With fidelity.

JUDGE MOULTON: With fidelity.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Congratulations, Judge.

*(APPLAUSE)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: I ask Judge Moulton to give a few words and then join our colleagues on the bench.

Judge Moulton

JUDGE MOULTON: Let me start by thanking everyone here for coming. It really is quite moving to stand before such an assembly of luminaires, including this great sea of black robes. I really feel like I should start off with, "May it please the Court" here.

Of course, I am well aware that most of you are here not for me, but for Judge Ransom and Judge Solano, and that's okay, because I'm going to enjoy the moment anyway. And it's one of the many benefits of teaming up with both of them. The three of us bonded in the halls of the State Senate during the confirmation process and we've continued that bonding as the new kids on the Court.

My sincere thanks to both of you for your camaraderie and your support during this process. And I do want to echo what Judge Woods-Skipper said. I have to thank, in particular, Judge Ransom, for her leadership in putting this event together. She really has done all of us proud on that score and also obviously has a lot more skills than I do in that manner.

As part of the party planning, one of the things the three of us talked about was making an effort to keep our individual remarks brief. That may prove to be somewhat difficult given all the people that we need to thank.

Nevertheless, to borrow a great line from Mayor John Street, and with apologies in advance to Judge Ransom, "I promise to be brief no matter how long it takes."

Before getting to my many thank yous, I want to say how honored and proud I am to become a member of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. As President Judge Gantman alluded to, the Court has a rich history dating back to 1895, and these Superior Court Judges all get a



copy of a very impressive tome called “Keystone of Justice” and it is a very detailed history of the hundred years, the first hundred years of the Superior Court.

This may disappoint some of you, but we don’t have enough time today to go through the highlights of that history, but there was one thing that struck me. I’d been working my way through it on the train the last few weeks. One thing that really struck me about it though is the role of women on the Court.

The Superior Court was an all-male institution until 1981, its 86<sup>th</sup> year, when Governor Thornburgh appointed Phyllis Beck to the Court. I’m thrilled that Judge Beck is able to join us here today.

It was another nine years after that before the Court added a second woman, Judge Kate Ford Elliott in 1990. Happily, the progress has been much more rapid since then, so that of the 14 commissioned Judges now on the Court, nine are women and five are men, but I have it on good authority, from no less than Judge Beck, that the Court is a much improved institution.

As an aside, I will note that there are relatively few institutions to which I bring much in the way of diversity. This apparently is one of them, so.... That’s it, I mean, to echo what Judge Woods-Skipper said, we obviously have much more work to do to make sure our Appellate Courts fairly reflect the makeup of our citizens and I’m happy to know that there are many people here in this room who are devoted to that effort.

Given the reality of our Supreme Court’s docket, the Superior Court is the Court of last resort for the vast majority of legal disputes in the Commonwealth. And as Justice Todd said last week at the Philadelphia Bench Bar Conference, the work of the Superior Court is “all law all the time,” and to be honest, I think she was a little wistful when she said that, missing her days on the Superior Court.

But, given the sheer volume of appeals that come from the Superior Court, over 6,000 every year, making sure that justice is done, which is always a difficult challenge, is a particular challenge here. But my

new colleagues through really a tremendous work effort and inspiring collegiality have been remarkably successful at doing just that.

I'm also proud to become a member of the broader Pennsylvania Judiciary. We all know that the Pennsylvania bench has been through a difficult stretch lately with too many deep, often self-inflicted wounds; but at the same time, you just look around this room, we have a wonderful collection of very smart, very hardworking Judges who give the citizens their money's worth, more than their money's worth, every single day.

I look forward to working with all of you to help continue to improve the reputation of the bench, collectively through the commitment to hard work, to transparency and the highest ethical standards.

More broadly, I have to say, I'm both proud and excited to take on this new role of Judge. I cannot honestly say that I've always wanted to be a Judge. My dream of being a shortstop for the Phillies did not die until the middle of my ninth grade year when kids began to throw curve balls.

But from the time I began my legal career, I've been a big believer in our criminal and civil justice systems. I know they're far from perfect, but they are, as the Governor suggested, a critical part of our constitutional democracy.

I look forward to working with the bench and the bar, and to further improve those systems and to ensure both access and fairness for everyone.

Okay, let me get to my thank yous, because Lillian is watching.

First, to General Counsel Denise Smyler, for her lovely introduction and for hiring me as her deputy in the first place. In a relatively short time together we've accomplished a lot. I know I learned a lot and we had some fun with our wonderful OGC colleagues as well. I really had a great blind date.

For the record, I choose to take Denise at her word when she said that by encouraging me to apply for this job, she was not really trying to get rid of me.

I want to thank Governor Wolf for his leadership, for having the confidence to nominate me, and for working so well through the legislature to fill throughout Pennsylvania those vacancies that badly need to be filled; I think close to 30 in all.

I also want to thank the great colleagues that I've had the good fortune to work with over the years; more than a few of them are here today. I've learned a tremendous amount from all of you, both professionally and otherwise.

Moving on from old friends to new, I owe a great thanks to my new colleagues on the Superior Court and to the terrific staff on the Superior Court, all of whom have made me and my other newbies feel welcome and also helped tremendously in transitioning to this new and challenging job. I will do my very best to live up to your very high standards.

I owe a particular thanks to President Judge Gantman, who has provided support and guidance to all three of us since the day of our nomination back in June.

I know I probably should not question the motives of my new colleagues, but I suspect that a little bit of their obvious joy at our arrival has to do with sharing the workload. From day one, boxes of briefs and records have been piling up in our offices.

On that score, I also want to thank the members of my own staff who have worked extremely hard to open and deal with the contents of those boxes and get us up and running in a quick and efficient manner.

Before Judge Ransom starts playing the exit music, I would like to finish by thanking the members of my family. First my father and mother, Hugh and Katie Moulton, who are here today. They taught me many things, including the importance of doing the right thing always, not just when it's convenient to do so. They taught me the joy that comes from learning something new every day and they're still at it. And by their example, they demonstrated the joy and satisfaction that can come from public service and community service.

Thanks to my sister, Cindy, who is also here today, for her lifelong sibling companionship and support. I think the two of us have learned a fair amount about dispute resolution over the years.

I want to thank my two wonderful daughters, Melissa and Emily. By growing up to be such extraordinary human beings, they have allowed Lisa and me to believe, perhaps mistakenly, that we knew what we were doing as parents. They make us incredibly proud every day.

And again, for what its worth, I'll be available after the ceremony for some more detailed parental bragging if anyone is interested.

I do have to give Emily particular thanks for making it here to this event. Melissa had the excuse of having just moved out to Seattle, Washington.

And Em, don't tell Melissa that you have a leg up on favorite daughter.

Finally, my greatest thanks to my wife, Lisa; my best friend, my true love, my life partner for the last 34 years. In addition to being a wonderful mother and a fantastic school teacher, she's always managed to keep me focused on what's important in life, no matter what the distraction or crisis of the day. Without her, this opportunity would not have been possible or nearly so meaningful.

So, thank you, Lisa.

And again, thank you everyone for coming and sharing this truly special occasion.

*(APPLAUSE)*

PREISIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: It is my honor to administer the oath of office to Judge Carl Solano.

I, Carl Solano.

JUDGE SOLANO: I, Carl Solano.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE SOLANO: Do solemnly swear.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: That I will support.

JUDGE SOLANO: That I will support.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Obey and defend.

JUDGE SOLANO: Obey and defend.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE SOLANO: The Constitution of the United States.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE SOLANO: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUDGE SOLANO: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: With fidelity.

JUDGE SOLANO: With fidelity.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Congratulations Judge.

*(APPLAUSE)*

JUDGE SOLANO: President Judge Gantman, Members of the Judiciary, Governor Wolf, and all the friends that are here, and I see a lot of friends here. Thank you so much for coming.

People from Nancy's family; people from my career going back 30 some years – it's so nice to see you all here today.

As Judge Moulton said a few minutes ago, and Governor Wolf, it is an enormous privilege to be able to serve on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. And you don't fully understand that until you've begun doing it.

I actually took my oath of office initially two months ago, and so for the past two months I have been coming to my office across the street from Independence Hall, where I walk in and I find those enormous stacks of cases that some people have been referring to. And in each of those, citizens from around our Commonwealth have appealed to me and to my colleagues to, "Please take a look at what happened here to us in our judicial proceeding, and please make sure that we received justice." And they come from all walks of life.

We have prisoners who have been convicted of the most serious of crimes and ask that we make sure that they received due process of law. We have the fellow that we dealt with a few weeks ago who asked us to review whether his case was handled properly after he had been stopped by the police for playing his car stereo too loud.

We have some of the Commonwealth's mightiest corporations, who ask us to take a look at how business disputes have been resolved to be sure that they have been resolved properly. And we have individuals who come to us and ask that we assure that their valued family properties are being disposed of correctly after they have just suffered the death of their loved one.

The word "awesome" is much overused in today's society, but in this particular case the word fits. The responsibility is awesome. And the amount of faith and trust that our fellow citizens place in us to perform this task is humbling.

And so, Governor Wolf, I thank you and I thank Senate President Scarnati and the other Members of the Senate for placing that trust in me and in giving me the great privilege of serving the citizens of our Commonwealth in this very important task.

President Judge Gantman told me that when I joined the Court, I was joining a family. I have found out that this is absolutely true. Everyone on our Court has been extremely welcoming, helpful, and I am very grateful to you and to my new colleagues for all the assistance that all of you have been providing.

As well to my fellow two newbies, who have been wonderful colleagues as we have gone through this process together. And so, Judge Ransom, and Judge Moulton, thank you very much as well, as well as all of the Court staff.

I would like to introduce my own family. My wife Nancy and I have been together now for what will soon be 28 years. We have gone through life together and she is the most important part of my life. Nancy is now serving our senior adults in helping them to learn where to find services in our Commonwealth, but her main job is serving our family. And she has been doing that – we could not get by without her.

I could not be a success without her. And I am just delighted that she is here today.

My daughters: My daughter Melanie is a kindergarten teacher out in the Coatsville Area School District, and if any of you think you work hard, you should see what she goes through.

And my daughter Carla is a junior English and Political Science major at Cabrini University and is at that wonderful point in life where she is choosing a career and has an entire world of careers spread before her. And just as Geoff Moulton said he's proud, I'm proud.

Many of you know what has been, up until a few months ago, my professional family. I have been honored to have been affiliated with the Schnader Harrison firm in Philadelphia for 38 years. I joined that firm because it was one of the best law firms in the country. I stayed at that firm because it is one of the best law firms in the country. I am delighted to see many of my former colleagues here today and I thank you all for coming.

You heard from one of them a few moments ago, Dennis Suplee.

Dennis, I don't know what to say other than thank you.

I always thought that what makes a good litigation lawyer is you start off with very meager facts and you weave them into a great story that makes the client you're talking about sound like Abraham Lincoln, and I think you just learned why Dennis Suplee is a great lawyer.

Thank you, Dennis.

I can't thank everyone who has come here today — as I said, family members, Nancy's family members. But I do need to say a couple of other thank yous because I have some people here today who drove down the Turnpike for three hours in the rain and I am very grateful that they're here.

There are some people here from my mom's side of the family. My mom was a seamstress. She worked in a dress factory, but her main job was, again, taking care of the family — making sure that the dollar was stretched in those years when my dad was out of work, and taking care of my disabled sister. She taught me that you can be anything that you

want to be in life, but that no job is worth having unless you do it with fairness and compassion.

And so, I'm very happy to see my relatives here from my mom's side of the family because you make me think of her today. And so, thank you so much for coming.

And there are also a number of people here from my dad's side of the family. My dad was a construction worker and a very good one. He worked on buildings from local school houses to nuclear power plants. And he taught me that you can be anything you want to be in life, but it's not worthwhile to try to do that unless you do the best job you possibly can once you're in that job, just like him.

And so, seeing all of you here today makes me think of my dad, and I'm very grateful that you've come down here today.

And finally, I can't thank individuals — there's no time for that and Judge Ransom will get out the hook that she promised Judge Moulton and me that she would use, but I have to make an exception. One of the people who drove down here today is my dad's 91-year old kid brother, Pat Solano.

### *APPLAUSE*

JUDGE SOLANO: A lot of you know my Uncle Pat because he has been involved in Pennsylvania State Government forever.

And, Uncle, I want you to know how happy I am that you're here and that I know that whatever qualifications I have to permit me to be nominated for this position, that one of the reasons I am here is because a number of the Members of the Pennsylvania Senate have enough faith and confidence in you and your integrity that they decided they would not mess up too badly if they agreed to confirm your nephew. So, thank you very much. I'm proud of that.

And I also want to note that also here are my dad's and my uncle's 96-year old sister, my aunt Carmel, and I am very grateful you came down here today as well, so thank you.



Thank you all very much. It's a great honor.

*APPLAUSE*

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: It is now my great honor to give the oath of office to Judge Lillian Ransom.

I, Lillian Harris Ransom.

JUDGE RANSOM: I, Lillian Harris Ransom.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE RANSOM: Do solemnly swear.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: That I will support

JUDGE RANSOM: That I will support

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Obey and defend the Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE RANSOM: Obey and defend the Constitution of the United States.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE RANSOM: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN; And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUDGE RANSOM: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: With fidelity.

JUDGE RANSOM: With fidelity.

PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN: Congratulations, Judge.

*APPLAUSE*

JUDGE RANSOM: Good afternoon to all of you.

ALL: Good afternoon.

JUDGE RANSOM: I guess that's a good place to start, by starting with President Judge Gantman, President Judge Woods-Skipper of the

First Judicial District, Governor Wolf, Judges of the Supreme Court, as well as all of the other Judges who are assembled here today.

Just standing here and looking at the audience is a phenomenal place to be. It's very exciting, and it is a great pleasure to be able to be here.

Judge Woods-Skipper, I want to say, while I agree with everything you said, it just makes me very humble to have someone express in public the sentiments that were expressed today.

I want to, on behalf of the three of us newbies, as we have called ourselves, give special thanks to Mrs. Carol Fitzgerald who was extremely helpful in making sure that this program went along well today, and we thank you very much for that.

I also want to thank our court Reporter. Our Court Reporter is Marie Polidoro. She did not know that I was going to say anything about her, but she and I first met in 1996 when I was a brand new Judge and she was a brand new Court Reporter and we worked together for more years than I can think about in what was Family Court at 1801 Vine Street.

So, Marie, thank you for being here today. I never had any thought that all these years later we would still be working together.

I'm going to begin my remarks by providing a brief history of the Superior Court. We've had some references to things that had happened during the court of this—the history of this Court, but there are several events which I think are worthy of our consideration today.

As you know, this Court was established in 1895. The purpose of the Court was to relieve the appellate caseload of the Supreme Court. Originally, there were seven Judges and since the Court was established, more than 100 Judges have served on the Superior Court.

I'm going to ask you to fast forward with me now to 1965. That is the year that the honorable Theodore O. Spaulding was appointed to serve on this Court. He was the first African American to serve on this or any appellate court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his service on this court, he served as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas here in Philadelphia.

Move with me now please to 1980. It's in that year that the Court membership was expanded from its original seven Judges to include 15 Judges. The eight new judges were all appointed, including the Honorable Justin M. Johnson, who was from the Western District of Pennsylvania. He was the second African American to serve on this Court and he has since retired.

Then in 1981, as you have already heard, the Honorable Phyllis Beck, who is with us today, broke another barrier for this Court when she became the first woman to serve on the Superior Court and she had the distinction of being a part of a mother-daughter team, in that her daughter, Judge Alice Dubow, sits on the Superior Court now.

Our next step in the history of this Court is 2009, which is the year that the Honorable Cheryl Allen was elected to the Superior Court, making her the first African American woman to serve in this capacity. She served until her retirement in 2015.

This brings us to 2016, here we are today. I am proud and humble to stand on the shoulders of these appellate court pioneers. I stand as the fourth African American to serve on this Court, as the second African American female to serve on this Court, and I stand as the first graduate of Hampton Institute.

### *APPLAUSE*

JUDGE RANSOM: Thank you Governor Wolf, for giving me this opportunity.

My judicial career began in 1995 when I was elected to serve as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. During my entire tenure on the Court, I had the benefit of the support and fellowship of the Members of the Clifford Scott Green Chapter of the National Bar Association Judicial Council and I thank you for that.

And finally, to the Judges of the First Judicial District, you are the unsung heroes of our system of administration of justice. You work tirelessly with tremendous caseloads. Day after day, you come face to face with the litigants who turn to you to resolve their conflicts. You are

asked to apply your legal acumen, your wisdom, your common sense, your compassion, and sometimes your sense of humor to those who appear before you. You do all of this with poise and with grace.

I can go on, but let me just summarize this part by saying that it has been an honor and it has been a privilege. It has been a pleasure. And it has been a blessing to serve with such a diverse group of highly dedicated public servants.

Just one other piece that I've been trying to figure out exactly how to say, but I want to thank Judge Lydia Kirkland and I want to thank Judge John Younge and I want to thank Judge Paula Patrick for being beacons, to guide me and to give me courage to take on the challenge of being a Superior Court Judge.

In the audience there are numerous family and friends. I thank you all so much for being here. I have friends from high school and from college; friends who are just friends because they're friends and not people from the legal community. Many of them, as Judge Solano mentioned, are people who made great efforts to be here today.

I have family who are here. I have always felt that no matter what challenge presented itself, that I had people who would support me, give me guidance, courage and encouragement, and you continue to do that and I thank you so much.

And now, President Judge Gantman, I know you know that I have enjoyed being where I was, but with your continued inspired leadership and with the ongoing support and encouragement of the other Judges of this Court, I look forward to continuing my judicial career as a Member of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

*APPLAUSE*

**PRESIDENT JUDGE GANTMAN:** I want to thank all of my colleagues on the Superior Court. It takes a team to run a Court and to do justice and this is an exemplary group of Jurists and I salute all of you.

I would like to thank PCN for televising this today so that the public can see a little bit about our Judges.

I want to thank Carol Fitzgerald for her assistance in helping us plan this program and the event. Mike DiPasquale and Michele Usilton for their work. And I would like to thank the Union League for hosting us, Steward Mahan and his staff. It is a great honor to serve on this Court.

And with that Mr. Morrissey, would you adjourn our session.

THE COURT CRIER: This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

*APPLAUSE*

THE COURT CRIER: The Judges would like to invite all in attendance to stay for refreshments in the back.

(ALL ADJOURNED)

**THE HONORABLE  
DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN**



*Assumed Office: January 11, 2018  
County: Beaver*

**THE HONORABLE  
CAROLYN H. NICHOLS**



*Assumed Office: January 11, 2018  
County: Philadelphia*

**THE HONORABLE MARY P. MURRAY**



*Assumed Office: January 11, 2018*  
*County: Allegheny*

**THE HONORABLE  
MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN**



*Assumed Office: January 11, 2018*  
*County: Philadelphia*

## PROCEEDING

THE COURT CRIER: Oyez, oyez, oyez. Let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania come to Order: Let all manner of persons rise and attend; let the family, friends and associates of The Honorable Deborah Anne Kunselman, The Honorable Carolyn H. Nichols, The Honorable Mary Paulette Murray, The Honorable Maria McLaughlin be joyful. Let the citizens of the Commonwealth be confident and sure; as the Superior Court convenes for the administration of the oath of office for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court. The Honorable Susan Peikes Gantman, President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, presiding. Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

JUSTICE JAMES FITZGERALD: Please rise. Please put your right hand over your heart and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)*

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Thank you, Justice James Fitzgerald, retired Justice of the Supreme Court and retired Superior Court Judge, Senior Judge.

Welcome to the special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Let the family, friends, and associates of the Honorable Deborah Kunselman, Carolyn Nichols, Mary Murray and Maria McLaughlin be joyful and the citizens of the Commonwealth be confident as the Superior Court convenes for administration to each of our new judges the oath of office of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

I recognize the Pastor Reggie Jackson, Executive Pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Philadelphia, for the invocation.

REVEREND CALVIN EDMONDS: Reverend Johnson couldn't make it. I'm the Reverend Calvin Edmonds, a friend of the Nichols family for many years and they've asked me to do the invocation for you.

We ask that if you would bow your heads and look towards the God our Creator the author of peace and justice and love.

Father God, we thank you for this time. We invite your holy presence in this place. Guide and direct all that will take place, Lord. We



pray for all those who will be taking the oath as Superior Court Judges, that they will look to the justice and the love that you show to us in our difficult times to those who will appear before them and give the kind of justice you would give. Inspire them, lead them, guide them, and direct them as they try to make better individuals out of those who appear before them and help them to overcome the mistakes and problems they have had in their life. Be active in this situation, Lord. Be active in the life of all of these judges who have been elected to administer justice in this secular world. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Amen. Thank you.

Pennsylvania has the oldest continuing Constitutional Supreme Court in the country. And one of the first constitutional intermediate appellate courts, the Superior Court, established in 1895.

The Court's decisions have a significant impact on Pennsylvania's quality of life and economy of our citizens. It is imperative for Pennsylvania to continue to have a productive, independent, and efficient justice system. We welcome our new colleagues to participate in this work.

It is my honor to introduce the Bench here from my left to right, stage right for you, Judge Ransom, President Judge Emeritus Stevens, Judge Dubow, Judge Ott, Judge Lazarus, Judge Panella, Justice Mundy of the Supreme Court, Justice Todd of the Supreme Court, Judge Bowes, Judge Shogan, Judge Stabile, Judge Olson, President Judge Emeritus Ford Elliott, Judge Platt, and Justice Fitzgerald.

Members of the Commonwealth Court would you kindly stand? President Judge Hannah Leavitt, Judge Kevin Brobson, Judge Christine Fizzano-Cannon, Judge Ellen Ceisler and Judge James Colins, thank you, Judges.

We are honored to have many trial court judges and Magisterial District Judges, please stand. Welcome.

It is my honor to call upon Laura Tocci who will give the remarks on behalf of Deborah Kunselman.

MS. LAURA TOCCI: May it please the Court. Good morning everyone. It is with great pleasure and honor today that I have this opportunity to sing the praises of my colleague, Deborah Kunselman.

I have known Debbie for over 20 years as an attorney, a community leader, a judge, but most importantly, as a friend. Today is not only historic for the women of our Commonwealth, but a day of rejoicing with friends and family; and also a day to look to the future with the knowledge that justice will continue to be served with due diligence, efficiency, and fairness for all who have issues to be decided by our esteemed Superior Court.

Today four female judges will take the oath of office for our Superior Court after being elected by a majority of Pennsylvanians. This is truly a day of celebrating the wisdom of the Pennsylvania voters, in placing their trust in these four exceptional ladies.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to all four, particularly a shout-out to my friend Mary Murray from the west. For a year Judge Debbie Kunselman crisscrossed Pennsylvania meeting and greeting people wherever she went. She convinced over one million voters, probably one by one, with her pleasing, effervescent, and folksy personality.

She was known to all as Judge Debbie and introduced herself as the prettiest judge in Beaver County. As I see no one from our bench here, quite candidly, and I think they would probably agree with me, that's not much of an accomplishment. However, that being said, I would just like to briefly outline Judge Debbie's actual and quite impressive accomplishments.

Debbie sought her undergraduate education at Penn State University studying political science and also graduated from Notre Dame, both with honors. Probably not known to many is that while Debbie was in college, she traveled extensively in Europe, studied in Germany, and can speak German.

Following law school, Judge Kunselman had various legal positions and her exemplary work ethic gained her the respect and the admiration of opposing counsel, the bench, clients, and of course veteran lawyers.

So in 2005, Judge Debbie Kunselman was approached and encouraged by the attorneys of our Beaver County Bar Association to run for a seat on our bench. She was just 37 years old at the time. And I think that speaks volumes about how she was perceived and respected by her

peers, as Common Pleas Judges play a vital role in how lawyers lawyer. Also, a bit of a trail blazer, Debbie was our first female judge.

After being elected and over the course of the next 12 years, she served our bench with competence, diligence, and distinction. She began her judicial career in our family division where she handled the most emotionally difficult cases with empathy, patience, kindness, respect for the litigants, both of their positions, and made the hard decisions based on fairness, courage, and the application of the law. Not always easy decisions or popular ones, but all the same, her decisions were delivered after careful study of the facts and applying the law to the facts as she determined them.

After a while in the family division, Debbie was moved to our civil division. However, she continued at the time to work with families by serving as our judge in our juvenile division. She made a difference for children, one child at a time. She took a personal interest in each and every child doing everything in her power to make a positive impact on those children and on their families.

In our civil division, Debbie made many decisions involving complicated legal matters, presided over many multi-million-dollar verdicts by jury. She safeguarded the right of each and all individuals in their quest for fairness and justice. She worked tirelessly to do the right thing. She worked on opinions and her opinions were known as being thoughtful and well-reasoned.

I could go on and on about Judge Debbie's illustrious career as a lawyer and then as a judge, but I think it's important to talk a bit about her biggest accomplishment and that would be her family. Judge Debbie has been married to Chris Kunselman for over 23 years. Despite being a Pitt graduate – creating a Pitt versus Penn State rivalry in the household which was also often incited by friends and family – he has been her rock. He has encouraged her dreams and aspirations and made many sacrifices along the way, all without complaint. Together they raised three wonderful children who I have had the privilege of watching grow up. They're all well-rounded, they're accomplished and most importantly, they're respectful children. Two of them in college and Katie is a sophomore at Central Valley.

Now from the time that Debbie took the bench and even as she made her way around this last year during the election, family always came first. And at times I wonder if Debbie had been cloned like in the movie *Multiplicity* with Michael Keaton. She would be sitting on the bench hearing cases. She would be seen at a Pitt football game watching her son Andrew doing his job as equipment manager. She would be buying Katie dance shoes, taking her to her recital, driving her somewhere. She would be watching Robbie play high school football, teaching CCD classes, seemingly doing all these things at the same time. While doing those things, she would also assist her family, she was running a household, doing lots of community work, teaching continuing legal education to the lawyers in our county. I'm exhausted just talking about all the things that Debbie did day to day.

I think as an example of the type of person that Debbie is, on election day for the general election I had committed to presenting the "I signed the Constitution Program" at Central Valley. And this is a program the Pennsylvania Bar Association puts on throughout the Commonwealth for our students. I was to present to about 180 fourth graders. When Debbie found out that I would be presenting the program that day, when she should have or could have been campaigning, instead Debbie chose to accompany me to the school and selflessly presented the program to these students. She talked about the Constitution, voting rights, and most importantly, teaching the children how to be good citizens. Of course, the children were thrilled to have a County Judge present to them that morning. Little did they know by the end of the day she would be elected to the Superior Court.

Judge Kunselman, you are an inspiration as a jurist, a woman, and most importantly I am so proud to call you my friend. As you are the third judge from our county to serve on the Superior Court, you have very big shoes to fill, figuratively and literally. I had the honor and privilege as did you to serve before Judge Rowley, who will be forever remembered as being a wonderful jurist and fondly recalled. I speak for the entire Beaver County Bar Association when I say we congratulate you and your family and we wish for your continued service of excellence as you take on your new role. Thank you.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: I would like to introduce our outstanding staff who work tirelessly for the Court and for the Commonwealth: Executive Director, Michael DiPasquale; Deputy Court Administrator, Michele Usilton; Executive Administrator's Office, Kate Anderson; Chief Staff Attorney, Philip Yoon; Deputy Staff Attorneys Jim Gilmore and Cathy Shelly; Prothonotary, Joe Seletyn; Deputies Nick Corsetti, Jenn Traxler and Ben Kohler; Legal Systems Coordinator, Peter Johnson; Reporter, Kaitlin Jamiolkowski; Fiscal Administrator, Tom Becker; our Criers, Robert Morrissey, Tom Morrow, the person who's doing it today, Jeff Bott and Scott Kershner and Kris Brown; Members of the legal Administrative Staff, our Security Officers and we want to thank the Capitol Police for working with us today.

Judge Nichol's speaker will be Representative Joanna McClinton.

REPRESENTATIVE JOANNA McCLINTON: Good morning, Your Honors. May it please the Court: It is an honor and privilege to be here and to speak highly of a woman that it's not difficult to find good words to speak about. And that woman is my neighbor, she is a friend of mine, she's my constituent, and her name is Judge Carolyn Nichols.

Many times, especially here in Pennsylvania where there are so few elected woman, whichever branch we're talking about, right, legislative, over there where I am, I am one of 40 women in the 203-member House of Representatives. Or when you look at the judiciary, there are only 26 percent women in Pennsylvania that are judges.

I look at Judge Nichols and how, not just in 2017, but in 2011 she put together a plan that included both hard work and dedication. Well, that sounds simple enough, hard work and dedication, anyone can do that, right? And it's not quite that simple. I don't want to take any of you jurists back in time, but I'm sure a few of you will recall how difficult it is from whichever county you came from to just get elected on one level of the judiciary. It is not easy, it is not simple, it's not straightforward. Many people will say I have the path, I can help you, you want to be a judge, let me help you. I can get you votes. But so often you find that with or without support, you have to fight and as an African-American woman I'm often told that we have to not only walk on a tight rope as

all women do, but we have to be able to walk backwards on that tight rope because we're not just women, we're African-American women. So we have a few things that could perceivably disqualify us, not necessarily from service or elected office, but what people look at when they determine whether or not they want to put you in a position.

Yet and still in my time at the Defender Association I heard about this woman from West Philly. This woman who was making noise, this woman who was going against the grain. This woman who did not have all the big endorsements, but was finding herself in a position to make a great change. And then shortly thereafter it was an honor to be one of the many practitioners to appear in front of her and say, Good Morning, Your Honor. And to be greeted not only with courtesy, but respect.

Now to those of you in the audience you'll think well everyone would give you respect coming from the Court, but as a former Assistant Public Defender in the city of the first class, let me just let some of you know it's not as easy as it sounds. When you're in court and you represent 75 percent of the people on the list, every judge is not going to give you respect, time, the opportunity to represent each individual, not, oh, you had your case, not it's time for you to go because I have to get to lunch. But Judge Nichols was different. She was unique. She was both working hard and she was dedicated. Not dedicated to any mission except to provide justice for all. It's something that we recite; it's something that we say. But how often is it actually achieved or handed out and just seeing the way she was treating not just me but my clients, the people who were poor, who were addicted to lots of different substances and they're appearing in front of her charged with some many different things. But to see, hear, witness and experience someone who was able to provide you with that respect, with that courtesy, it was refreshing.

And then you fast forward. Now I can't speak for everyone here because of course I don't just wear blue not only because it's my favorite color, but I identify as such. And not getting into any politics or partisanship, but a few Novembers ago some women who wear blue were pretty discouraged, specifically here in this Commonwealth. But notwithstanding that discouragement, my neighbor, my friend, the Judge who was so kind when I was an Assistant Public Defender, not just me,

but to all of the people from our office and everyone who appeared in that courtroom where there were hundreds of cases because it was the city of the first class, so you know it was a crowded docket. That woman in the midst of where some people were at a standstill looking around with what was happening in this nation, that woman mustered up more hard work, more dedication, and set out on another mission where in this state, and to just be honest because it's the numbers that tell us it's very challenging for a woman of color to win a judgeship statewide. This is not news, this is not a New York Times headline. This is not on the cover of Time Magazine, but it is what it is in Pennsylvania.

But my neighbor, my friend set out with support, sometimes without, and made the determination that what she'd experienced the last several years could be applied on another level. And not only did she set out for that, but she was successful. And I was thrilled to see that the daughter of a Tuskegee Airman, the daughter of one of the first African-Americans passing the bar back in the 1950s, the daughter of West Philadelphia was once again able to rise from the dust.

Dr. Maya Angelou said that there are times when you can defy the odds and the Gods and sing your song. Judge Nichols, here you are going to the Superior Court and I won't talk long because I don't want to hold that process up, but I'm thrilled that you've defied the odds and you've sung your song and you have made us proud, not only because you're the first woman from Afro-Philadelphia as an African-American to be elected to the Superior Court, but because we know that the mission you set out for many years ago to both work hard and to be dedicated will continue.

So we'll be here from the sideline continuing to be proud, continuing to be excited, because unlike so many others we know you won't be missing. When we let you know there are community events around where you can speak to young people and inspire little girls that look like us in West Philly, we know you'll be there. So we are excited. We're proud and congratulations to everyone. Thank you, Your Honors.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Thank you. The Governor of Pennsylvania, Thomas Wolf, sends his regards and has issued a

citation for each of the new judges. We are going to summarize what he stated in each one. Judge Bowes, Deborah Kunselman First in Priority.

**JUDGE MARY JANE BOWES:** This is a message from our esteemed Governor. It is my pleasure as Governor to join with your family, friends, and colleagues to congratulate you on your installation to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Our commonwealth relies on a government that is fair, just, and expedient. Serving as the first female on the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County, you have continued to exemplify the pillars of fair mindedness and equality. Through your dedication to our legal system as well as your commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our constituents, you have been a leader for our Commonwealth. I commend your ability to overcome obstacles and your continued work towards improving the lives of your fellow Pennsylvanians. I am sure you will continue to serve our Commonwealth with great distinction in your role with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Signed Governor Tom Wolf.

**HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN:** Judge Carolyn Nichols, Second in Priority. Judge Panella.

**JUDGE JACK PANELLA:** Thank you. To the Honorable Carolyn H. Nichols: Our Commonwealth was founded on the ideals of tolerance and acceptance. Your career, spanning over 20 years, has exemplified William Penn's vision. From serving on the Court of Common Pleas to your time with family and community engagement, you have been dedicated to advancing the rights of others and ensuring fairness and equality for all. I commend your ability to overcome obstacles and your continued work towards improving the lives of your fellow citizens. I am proud to call you a fellow Pennsylvanian, and I am certain your legacy will continue to inspire others for years to come. Again, Governor Tom Wolf.

**HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN:** Judge Murray, Third in Priority. Judge Shogan.

**JUDGE JACQUELINE SHOGAN:** From our Governor to the Honorable Mary P. Murray: For the last 13 years, you have dedicated your efforts to serving individuals across the Commonwealth as a Magisterial District Judge. Your valued expertise has been utilized by your



peers since joining the field over two decades ago. From your time as the Director of the Allegheny County Special Courts Judges Association to serving as Chair for the State Minor Court Rules Committee, you have shown commitment to our legal system and an ability to lead others. I commend your dedication to our judicial system and I am certain your legacy will continue to inspire others for years to come. Signed by Governor Wolf.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge McLaughlin, Fourth in Priority. Judge Lazarus.

JUDGE ANNE LAZARUS: To the Honorable Maria C. McLaughlin: When founding our Commonwealth, William Penn had a vision of tolerance, fairness and equality. During your career, you have exemplified William Penn's vision by serving individuals throughout the Commonwealth. From your time as Chief Assistant District Attorney of the Child Support Enforcement Unit to being the co-chair of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas FYI Committee, your caliber of character and leadership have been an example for all to follow. I commend your dedication to our judicial system and I am certain your legacy will continue to inspire others for years to come.

As Governor and on behalf of all the citizens in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am honored to recognize your contributions and accomplishments. Please accept my best wishes for continued success and the continued success of all of the new judges. Signed Governor Tom Wolf.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: I want to thank and recognize our elected officials and their staff who have come today. State Senators, State Representatives, Speaker Mike Turzai. I want to thank the staff of AOPC. Inspector General, Bruce Beemer, the Honorable Geoff Moulton, formally of the Superior Court. President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Sharon Lopez and former Executive Director of Pennsylvania Society, Carol Fitzgerald.

Speaker for Judge Murray, Judge Richard King.

JUDGE RICHARD KING: Good afternoon. Before I begin I have to say that this is just a wonderful venue for this ceremony today. I think it's a gorgeous building.

Distinguished Court, Honor Justices, and Judges, guests, family, and friends I'm very honored today that my good friend and colleague Judge Mary P. Murray asked me to introduce her today.

I would like to tell you a little about Mary and her quest to arrive at this point of her life today.

Mary was born and raised in Moon Township, Pennsylvania—it's a western suburb outside of Pittsburgh—to Paul and Betty Murray. Her father passed away in 2002, but I'm sure he's here today in spirit and very proud of her. Her mother Betty is here—Betty, I don't know where you are, but hello—and I'm sure that she is also very proud of her.

Mary attended Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School in Pittsburgh and then on to graduation at Duquesne University. At Duquesne she attained a degree in marketing and a minor in psychology in 1992. In 1993, she began a joint MBA/JD program, graduating in 1995 with her MBA and 1996 with her Jurist Doctorate.

After graduating, she worked for various general practice law firms, Land America, and clerked for three common pleas judges in Beaver County. And then she also started her own private practice.

Now her first stop into public office began in 1999 when she ran for the office of auditor in Moon Township, where it first gave her the bug for public office. Now in 2003 Mary decided to run for the open Magisterial District Judge seat in her area. Now Mary was counted out from the beginning, and that was not due to qualification, but it was due to the fact that no Republican had ever been elected in that district. Well, she used her strong work ethic, personality, and determination, and she won. And she continued to win reelection with bipartisan support. Because the people, the people saw that she was an intelligent, thoughtful judge. Fair and impartial. And the letter next to her name on the ballot meant nothing.

After her first election is when I actually met Mary. I was the president of the Allegheny County District Judge Association and she started attending our meetings. And soon she started asking more questions than I had answers for. But I soon found out that she was very good at finding the answers. So I told her, I think you should be involved in our state organization. Well, she did become involved. She became a

member of our Minor Court Rules Committee and in two years she was the chair, a position she held until her election this year. She also caught the eye of the Supreme Court and was appointed by Justice Todd to the Minor Court Rules Committee of the Supreme Court serving for six years, the last two as chair.

Now one day in December, Mary came to me and said, "I think I'm going to look into running statewide." And I said, "you know, that's great, but don't you think it's a little late?" And she said, "no, not next year, 2015, but in '17." You see that December day we were talking, it was 2014.

Mary is always well prepared. She does her research well. She's like the FBI. She knows the answer before she asks the question. Well, my first advice to her was to talk to Judge John Bender who ran for the Superior Court from the District Judge position and get his thoughts and memories about his race.

Well Mary started making connections with people all across the state and she kept at it. It just so happened there was about 200 Magisterial District Judges also running for reelection across the state and Mary was bound and determined to make sure that she met 200 of their friends. She made it her business to cross this state. Remember, a strong work ethic and determination was not foreign to her. She crisscrossed the state campaigning, got her signatures and got on the ballot. Driving her famous 2010 Honda, she started racking up the miles. A statewide primary campaign is grueling for any candidate, but it was especially so for Mary, many times doing the driving herself. With funds low, a court and a practice to maintain back in Pittsburgh, it was long hours.

Now, also at this time, sadly, as a sign of our times, even in a judicial race, came the negative ads. I guess some people were starting to get worried. Well all that did was double down her determination, and as for the public, they began to wonder who is this woman, the only one in the race on the Republican side, and why were they saying such terrible things?

Well, it backfired and only elevated the awareness of her campaign and she won and it was on to the general election. Now Mary understood at this point in time it would take bipartisan support to win. Well,

that put that 2010 Honda back to the test. She was again crisscrossing the state visiting those 200 Magisterial District Judges also up for reelection. If any of them were having an event, she was there, from Erie County to Susquehanna County. From Greene County to Chester County, she crisscrossed the state attending any event she could, from baptisms to bar mitzvahs, from the Butler County Fair to the Pittston Tomato Festival, she was there.

Well, Mary won again and that Honda, well it ended up with 32,000 more miles on it and a second set of tires. Determination and work ethic, not foreign to Mary.

Now in closing, I'd just like to state that, you know, diversity on the Court is much more than gender and race. It's also about background. Mary served over 13 years as a Magisterial District Judge, dealing with over 75,000 cases, her daily interaction with the public. Well, you add that to her education, her qualifications, her work ethics, her determination, her commitment to faith and family, and I believe you have a fine addition to the Superior Court.

Mary, my friend, good luck to you and I believe you will be a fine addition to that Court. Thank you.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: The Honorable Carl Solano, formerly of the Superior Court, welcome.

Our next speaker is Jonathan Saidel on behalf of Judge McLaughlin.

MR. JONATHAN SAIDEL: May it please the Court: My God, I have been involved in a number of your campaigns. We didn't know whether we'd be here today. Maria's mother was placed in the hospital this morning. She has advanced cancer, but being here today is another example of Judge Maria McLaughlin's commitment to the people of this great Commonwealth and to this Superior Court that she would be part of this wonderful processing and invocation and address.

I do want to make special mention of Aunt Marie who came here and drove this morning to do her part here in the installation of my wife, Judge Maria McLaughlin. She is 80 years young and single. I have been told to add the word "single."

You know in our country, we take for granted the fact that we have co-equal branches of government. We take for granted there is a

legislative, there is an elected supervisory role whether to be president or governor and there is an independent judiciary. That wasn't supposed to be the case. It was Chief Justice Marshall who decided that the Supreme Court of this great country will decide the constitutionality of a piece of legislation in relationship to the, I believe, the greatest document the world has ever seen, the Constitution of the United States. And it is through that evolution, that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the lower courts that have been created are both recently the Commonwealth Court and in 1895 the Superior Court came into being,

Decisions that are made by the men and women that wear these robes are not enforced by guns. They are not enforced by riots; they are not enforced by civil disobedience. They are enforced because all of us individually and collectively believe that in this nation the rule of law is paramount. And a decision of our Courts stand. And more and more as there is emotional give and take, on both a national level and our legislative process and in our state and our legislative process, it is the court system that continually reminds us the better angels of our history, who are here today, and where we must go tomorrow to keep that dream alive and to continually work for a more perfect union.

Now in Pennsylvania we don't appoint judges. Judges are appointed in New Jersey. They are appointed on a federal process. Here, our unique process is that you need to run for those particular offices. Now as someone who has been involved in politics for 40 years I can tell you this as an attorney in this Commonwealth I am always concerned because too many people run for an office because they can get elected without deciding whether it is an office that they can fulfill the responsibilities of that high office and that is a problem.

But I know in my heart that Judge Maria McLaughlin has what it takes to sit on the Superior Court. Twenty years in the District Attorney's Office, Chief, working to help people, working for diversity, going around and speaking to community groups constantly for a number of years, she is what you see.

Napoleon said that he always was amazed about the pettiness of individuals in political power and their attempt to rise the nationhood and be considered to be a great statesman. There's no pettiness in Maria

McLaughlin. She is what you see. She is what she is. She believes in our Constitution, believes in the world of people, believes in this great country. She is the first one in her family to not only attend law school, but the first one in her family to attend college. All of us come from humble beginnings, but it is how you take those humble beginnings and move and process through your life to reach the level that you must reach in this great country to contribute back for the generations that are to come.

In the 40 years that I have been in politics I've helped elect a number of people. I have never seen anybody more qualified to sit on this bench and I've never seen a better candidate regardless of the office that they run for than Judge Maria McLaughlin. I am honored by her love, I am honored by her commitment to the people of this great Commonwealth, and it is my pleasure to be here to speak on behalf of my wife, my partner, and Bubbe Maria. God bless all.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Thank you. Judge Debbie Kunselman, please come to the podium. Christopher Kunselman will read the Commission. Justice Debra Todd will do the oath and her husband will robe.

MR. CHRISTOPHER KUNSELMAN: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office, Deborah Anne Kunselman of the County of Beaver in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Greetings: Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the seventh day of November, Anno Domini, two thousand and seventeen, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, That in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, First Priority of Commission.

To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first

Monday of January, two thousand and eighteen, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-second day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-second. Tom Wolf, Governor. Robert Torres, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: Please place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, I, Deborah Anne Kunselman.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: I, Deborah Anne Kunselman.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: Do solemnly swear.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: The Constitution of the United States.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: And that I will discharge.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: And that I will discharge.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: The duties of my office.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: The duties of my office.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: As Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: As Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: With fidelity.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: With fidelity.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: So help me God.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: So help me God.

JUSTICE DEBRA TODD: Congratulations, Judge Kunselman.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge, you may give your remarks and then join us on the bench.

JUDGE DEBORAH A. KUNSELMAN: My robe doesn't want to button. Well, what an amazing year it has been. First I want to say that I am incredibly humbled and honored and thrilled to take the oath of office to serve on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. I'm excited to join this highly respected group of judges and I hope to continue the excellence and collegiality that this bench is known for across the Commonwealth. I'm grateful for the very warm welcome that each of you has given me and I look forward to working with you.

I want to congratulate Carolyn Nichols, Mary Murray and Maria McLaughlin on your victories. I also want to congratulate Justice Sallie Mundy and Judges Ellen Ceisler and Christine Fizzano Cannon on your wins as well. And also just to mention that Chief Justice Saylor, Justice Todd and Judge Shogan, congratulations on your retention. It was quite a historic year here in Pennsylvania with ten of our appellate judges on the ballot.

Next for the thank-yous: First of all to my husband, Chris, and my children, Andrew, Robbie and Katie. I know I missed a lot of family activities this past year. And I want to thank you for making adjustments to your schedules and getting by without me. I hope that I've inspired you to also pursue your dreams. Thank you for helping me to pursue mine.

I want to thank my parents who have always encouraged me to try new things and my in-laws, especially my father-in-law, Robert Kunselman, who served as a trial judge in my county for over 25 years, and inspired me to take on the role of judge.

To my colleagues on the trial court in Beaver County, thank you for covering my assignments when I was out of town. And, to my good friends on the trial bench throughout the state, thank you for serving as mentors for me over the years. I promise to never forget what it was like to be a trial judge when I'm reviewing the cases that come before me.



I owe a huge thank you to the Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia trial lawyers. Your support propelled me to the front of the pack, and helped me to secure a victory in this election. To me there's no more rewarding support than that of your professional colleagues. So I promise also to never forget what it was like to be on that side of the bench when reviewing the cases.

I also thank my friends from labor across the state who supported me, from the AFL-CIO to the building trades, from the carpenters to the cops, from the teachers to the teamsters, and everyone in between. I greatly appreciate the support of the working men and women of this great state during my campaign.

I also want to thank the Democratic Party, to Marcel Groen, the staff, and all the amazing local leaders and activists throughout the state. It's hard to believe that just a year ago I didn't know any of you, and I can't believe how enriched my life has become because of our friendship. So thank you.

To President Judge Gantman and the Superior Court staff who organized this event, with special thanks to Michele Usilton and Joe Seletyn. Thank you for your efforts. I'm so blessed to have joined this amazing court family.

To my dear friend, Laura Tocci, thank you for being here, coming from Beaver County. I thank you for your friendship, your mentorship, and she loves all things Penn State. So thank you. I left an open seat back there in Beaver, so if you're interested I hope that you'll look into that.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my campaign staff. I wouldn't be wearing this robe today without them. So Bobby, Mike, Al and Charlie, you were an incredible team. We were very low budget and low manpower, but with faith and hard work, we pulled off a win. I certainly trusted by instincts when I hired Bobby Maggio to get me through the general election. He's one of the hardest working people that I have ever met. No job was too big or too small and his Maggio Magic worked like a charm. So thanks to my superior team.

Finally, I want to leave you with something inspirational. I recently read that "the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement."

With no disrespect to the judges who have come before us, I challenge all of my colleagues and my fellow rookie judges to carefully examine the work that we do and constantly look for ways to improve. We must never just accept the adage, “well, that’s how we’ve always done it.” If you can think of a better and more efficient way to do things, speak up. Let’s all work together to make this bench the best it can be. This is the largest incoming group of new judges this bench has seen in eight years. We’ve got our four new recruits and we’re ready to go and together I think we can really make a difference.

Having been a part of the Pennsylvania unified judicial system for the last 12 years, I am proud of the great strides that Pennsylvania Courts have made, especially in the areas of education, automation, children’s fast track and our specialty courts, like drug courts and veterans courts. But I know we can do so much more in providing greater access to our courts and how we understand and treat those with mental conditions in particular. We can be a beacon of excellence for others to follow. I stand ready to join the rest of you in these efforts and I extend this challenge to all of our government leaders. Never accept the status quo. Always look for ways to do better.

I learned during this campaign that Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that does not provide state funding for their public defenders’ offices. So I ask our other branches of government to help us in that regard to provide justice to those who can least afford it.

Without innovation, without change, without risk, progress is not possible. The citizens who elected us deserve our very best. We need to keep raising the bar and do more than what is expected or required of us. Let’s get started.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge Nichols, the oath will be presented by Justice Debra Todd. Robing, family members Ethel Nichols, Eloise Young, Charles Young, Charlotte Nichols. And reading of the Commission. Eloise Young. Please come forward.

MS. ELOISE YOUNG: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor’s Office. Carolyn H. Nichols of the County of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greetings:

Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law of the election held on the seventh day of November, Anno Domini, two thousand and seventeen, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Second Priority of Commission.

To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and eighteen, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-first day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-second. Tom Wolf, Governor. Robert Torres, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: Place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand. I, Carolyn H. Nichols.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: I, Carolyn H. Nichols.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: Do solemnly swear.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: The Constitution of the United States.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: And that I will discharge.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: And that I will discharge.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: The duties of my office.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: The duties of my office.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: With fidelity.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: With fidelity.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: So help me God.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: So help me God.

JUSTICE DEBRA McCLOSKEY TODD: Congratulations, Judge.

JUDGE CAROLYN H. NICHOLS: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Well, it takes a village and that's why I brought my whole family. In this case, it takes a state to be a Superior Court Judge.

I am so honored and privileged to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania as a Superior Court Judge. It is about public service and I want to thank President Judge Gantman for all of her support in the transition process from the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia which I dearly love and was able to serve as a criminal court judge and all of my illustrious colleagues here from the different branches of our judiciary, thank you so much for coming here and supporting us. It really means a lot. Thank you so much.

As you heard of the other remarks, it's not easy to get here and my colleagues know that. We have to run. This is an elective process and I see so many of my friends in the audience here that made this possible. A shout-out to the PA Dems, thank you so much for all of your support. All the people from all over Pennsylvania. I don't want to call out all 67 counties, as I know I'll miss something, but I want to thank each and every one of you for being part of my life and making this happen for me to be a Superior Court Judge.

I'm also reminded that a lot of groundwork had to be laid. I'm standing in the footsteps of so many that have come before. I'm reminded of Sadie Alexander and Judge Clifford Scott Green and Judge Higginbotham and my father, Edward K. Nichols, Junior, who served as an attorney for 50 years in the City of Philadelphia. He was a Tuskegee airman. He was one of three African-Americans to pass the bar in 1951. He became part of Richardson Dilworth's district attorney's office when there were few African-Americans. Before Richardson Dilworth came to the DA's office African-American attorneys could only practice in municipal court. It didn't matter if you went to Harvard or Howard. If you were an African-American DA you could only practice at the municipal court level. You couldn't do any of the felony jury trials in the Court of Common Pleas. Richardson Dilworth changed that and my dad was one of the class of DA's that got that opportunity to practice as a full DA in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia.

He started his practice in the early '60s and only two office buildings in all of downtown Philadelphia would rent office space to African-American attorneys. Just two, two office buildings, and we know how big, as Representative McClinton said, the city of the first class is. So that's pretty amazing. So my father as an attorney had to go through so much just to practice law. Practicing through the difficulties of being excluded simply because of who he was.

And today I'm able to stand in his footsteps as his daughter and be able to serve as a statewide judge. Just to soak that in, just to think of that from where he came and so many other attorneys of color and how they were pressed down and now I'm able to rise above all of that and serve all of the people of Pennsylvania. It's such an honor and a joy and a privilege.

Coming out of criminal court, we often hear about the crushing volume of all of the cases. But for me one particular experience kind of brought home why I became a lawyer, why I became a judge and why I'm here today. I handled a lot of family violence, sexual assault cases in the Philadelphia criminal court and I'm in the market – yes, judges do shop, we do actually buy groceries, we do laundry, we do all that stuff – and I'm in the grocery store and a woman just came up to

me and said, you know, and hugged me and said, I just want to thank you. My daughter was the victim of a sexual assault. You presided over the jury trial and justice was done. And I just want to thank you for what you do. And that kind of brought home to me what the judicial system is all about. It's about people. We are here, all the people who are on the stage, are here primarily because they care. It's about the humanity. Each case represents a life. The decisions we make, we affect lives. We affect communities in what we do every single day. And every day I'm reminded of that woman and her daughter and why I do what I do. Why I'm committed to serve the public, why I'm committed to serve the people of Pennsylvania in this way and why it's so important because as judges we transform the Constitution from a piece of paper into a living, breathing document. We make the Constitution real and the Constitution is about justice, equal justice for all. That's what it's all about. That's why we're here. And I am committed to that and I know all the people that are here, the members of the judiciary, are committed to the same thing, equal justice for all under the Constitution. And I'm so honored to serve you all.

And I thank everyone that played a part in my campaign, labor, all of the groups, Indivisible, Turn PA Blue, all the other groups that helped me come here and be able to serve the people of Pennsylvania as a Superior Court Judge. So I look forward to being with my colleague and handling all of the business for the people of Pennsylvania, never forgetting the humanity of what we do. So again, thank you so much each and every one of you for being a part of my life. Thank you so much, judiciary. And let's move justice forward together. Thank you so much.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge Mary Murray. The oath of office by Justice Sally Mundy. Robing, her mother Betty Murray along with her Godmother, Cindy Lesifko. And reading the commission, her aunt, Helen Barcaskey.

MS. HELEN BARCASKEY: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Governor's Office. Mary P. Murray, of the County of Allegheny, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Greetings:

Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the seventh day of November, Anno Domini, two thousand and seventeen, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, That in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Third Priority of Commission.

To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand and eighteen, if you so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the united Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, the fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen, and of the Commonwealth of the two hundred and forty-second. Thomas Wolf, Governor. Robert Torres, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: Please place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand. Repeat after me. I, Mary P. Murray

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: I, Mary P. Murray.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: Do solemnly swear.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: That I will support, obey and defend.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: The Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: The Constitution of the United States.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: And the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: And that I will discharge.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: And that I will discharge.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: The duties of my office.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: The duties of my office.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: As Superior Court Judge.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: As Superior Court Judge.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: Of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: Of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: With fidelity.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: With fidelity.

JUSTICE SALLIE UPDYKE MUNDY: So help me God.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: So help me God.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge Murray will make remarks.

JUDGE MARY P. MURRAY: I would like to thank my parents for my life and my faith. You instilled in me the faith to believe in myself and to overcome any obstacle presented to me. And to my mom who has helped me on every judicial campaign, whether it was driving me door to door or calling people to take friend-to-friend postcards for me. Thank you.

I would not be here today if about 10 years ago at a conference Judge King suggested that I talk to Judge Bender. I asked Judge Bender how he ran for Superior Court and what obstacles that he faced. He gave me his criteria of which year to run, what criteria to look for, what was the right message to convey. He was the first successful Magisterial District Judge to run for the seat on the Superior Court, without first serving as a Common Pleas Court Judge. I always say it was a good thing I took good notes and I kept looking at those notes really well and I kept on monitoring which year was the right year to run. Because I knew in



2015 with the Superior Court Judges running for the Supreme Court that there was a good chance that I had an opportunity to run in 2017 and I wanted to make sure I took that opportunity.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues here who worked tirelessly on my behalf. You helped circulate petitions, put up signs, worked the polls, spread the word, and covered my hearings, all so that I could have this seat on the Superior Court. I have enjoyed working with you for over the last 14 years at both the state and the local levels. I have especially enjoyed attending all of our conferences throughout the state and personally getting to know your communities and you.

To Keith and Joe, thank you for agreeing to take me on as a client and helping me to win, even if it meant working against really good, old friends.

To all of my supporters, to those who welcomed me at events and took me under your wings and made sure my message got through. For those who called me, who I never met before, when the political attacks came and worked tirelessly to get me through the primary and on to the general election. To my donors, old friends and new supporters, some of whom I just literally met today. You did everything in your power to see to my success. I will be eternally grateful. For the few but extremely important groups that endorsed me and followed up with their members, thank you. For in order to win a seat at an election, especially a statewide election, you need a list of strong supporters who will stand by you no matter what because it takes a team effort to succeed and you were all my team.

When I was stressed during the election, the one thing that I kept focusing on and trying to remember, and I would look at, was this little post-it that sat on my mirror. And it was a quote that I found in 2016, and in a magazine of all things, and it was by the gymnast, Simone Biles, and it says, "I would rather regret the risks that didn't work out than the chances that I didn't take at all." That's what got me through all those hard times. That message and your support.

In 1993 when I entered Duquesne Law School, if you had said to me that I'd be a Magisterial District Judge, I would have said, "A what?" Because I didn't know what a Magisterial District Judge did until my

second year of law school when I took PA Civil Procedure with Superior Court Judge Del Sole. He had one of my former colleagues as a speaker in our class. After listening to him speak, an idea formed in my mind that maybe this position was something that I should consider and investigate a little further.

But to tell me that 21 years after graduating law school that I would be a Superior Court Judge, I would have told you you were crazy. I had a totally different vision when I got into law school. I chose Duquesne University because I wanted to complete a joint MBA and law degree. I was planning on being an international corporate attorney, traveling the world and learning everything I could.

Well, as we all know in life, dreams change based on opportunities presented. I always worked for small firms and did whatever I was asked. From high-end commercial real estate closings, to municipal law, to bankruptcy, family, criminal law, and civil law. I built my own wills and estates practice by advertising in my church bulletin and to surrounding churches and by word of mouth, I clerked for some of the great Judges in Beaver County – Judges Walko, Rowley and Mannix.

Finally, an opportunity came to try and run for the MDJ seat. In 2003, as a virtual unknown I decided to run. Nobody thought I'd win that seat, but I did. I went on to be challenged and outspent in reelection campaigns in both 2009 and 2015, but I kept my seat. In the first nine years, I did get to travel internationally. My mom and I went all over the world seeing the ancient ruins in Italy, Egypt and Greece and exploring the Baltic region.

Throughout all the years as an attorney, I learned a lot of different types of law and how to deal with clients. But the greatest lessons I learned about patience, making decisions after looking at all the evidence, and gaining respect from your constituents is from the 14 years I served as a Magisterial District Judge in Allegheny County. Deciding over 75,000 cases in those years gives you a great deal of experience and puts you in touch on a daily basis with the concerns of Pennsylvanians. This invaluable experience is what I will now bring to the Court.

I became great friends with my colleagues all over the state and learned a great deal on our yearly updates. I would like to personally

thank Susan Davis and the Minor Judiciary Education Board for your outstanding presenters and wonderful topics on a variety of issues that presented for myself as a Court and what I can bring to the bench here. And to my January school friends, I will miss you this year. You gave me advice on how to win elections, ideas on programs I could offer young offenders, and friendship.

As I embark on this new adventure in life, I'm excited. Yes, there's a part of me that will miss my private practice and my clients. I will also miss the hustle and bustle of the daily District Court. But I look forward to getting to know my colleagues and working with you to make the best decisions possible for the citizens of Pennsylvania. To the voters of Pennsylvania, thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Judge Maria McLaughlin. The reading of her Commission will be her Aunt Marie Bonner. Robing, Jonathan Saidel, and Andy Giorgione and I will do the oath.

MS. MARIE BONNER: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office. Maria McLaughlin of the County of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Greetings: Whereas, It appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the election held on the seventh day of November, Anno Domini, two thousand and seventeen, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, That in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of said Commonwealth in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be the Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fourth Priority of Commission.

To Have and To Hold the said office, together with all rights, powers, and emoluments, thereunto belonging or by law in anywise appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand eighteen, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand seventeen and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and

forty-second. Thomas Wolf, Governor, Robert Torres, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: I.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: I.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: State your name.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: Maria McLaughlin.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Do solemnly swear.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: Do solemnly swear.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: That I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: That I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: And that I will discharge the duties of my office.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: With fidelity.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: With fidelity.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: So help me God.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: So help me God.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: Congratulations. Judge McLaughlin will address the crowd.

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN:: Wow, who would have thought that a year ago today I was announcing my candidacy in the Capitol rotunda, which was quite remarkable for me, who was once a young Senate intern. I was running around that rotunda and at that time I would have never once imagined that I would be sworn in as a Superior Court Judge of this great State joining all of my wonderful colleagues.

An inauguration is a formal ceremony to mark the beginning of our 10-year term to the Superior Court. But additionally for me, it is with

my heartfelt gratitude to give thanks to everyone here and beyond with whom I would not be standing before you.

I was blessed to have the support of so many great individuals and organizations and there would be no celebration for me without all of you.

Organized labor throughout this Commonwealth was at the forefront of my campaign, including law enforcement with all the local FOP's, the State FOP and our great State Troopers. Our firefighters, locally and statewide. With special recognition to our firefighter in Philadelphia, our hero who lost his life this past week, Matt Le Tourneau. These brave men and women, they are to me the epitome of what public service is.

*(Applause from the audience.)*

JUDGE MARIA C. McLAUGHLIN: Our trial lawyers, a tremendous group of attorneys who I have the utmost respect for, who believed in me. Thank you.

To our LGBT community throughout this Commonwealth who stood with me. Thank you for supporting me. To our women's groups. I think it's apparent, it was definitely a good year for women and as a female candidate, I cannot tell you how grateful I am to the strong women throughout this Commonwealth. All over from Lackawanna County my ladies there to Chester County and Mercer County. I could not have done this without you nor would I want to. So thank you.

To our young Democrats, you are our future and this State is going to be better off being served by you. Thank you for your energy and commitment that fueled my campaign. I'm greatly appreciative.

To our elected officials and county chairs. Our county chairman, Marcel Groen, and to all of the staff, thank you. I had the great opportunity of visiting each and every one of our 67 counties and I want to thank all of you for welcoming me into your communities.

To my friends and my family. Many friends that I have here today in Dauphin County have been friends with me since I was a young Senate intern. And to my husband, no better partner. You stood with me, you stood behind me, you encouraged me, you yelled at me, and you loved me. Thank you. To my two sons, Dante and Julian. Everything I ever

do is to set a good example for them. And to all of our six children and grandchildren, I hope that seeing me is an inspiration to you.

To my dad who I know is smiling down on me today who loved this great Capitol. It was his heart and he was the first one who introduced me to it. I know he is up there smiling down. And to my mom, who I pray has the opportunity to view this recording and know how incredibly proud I am to be the daughter of such a courageous, spiritual, determined woman who I am so lucky to call Mom.

And to the 1,078,522 Pennsylvanians who on November 7<sup>th</sup> placed their trust in me and to all of Pennsylvanians, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: On behalf of the Judges of the Superior Court, we welcome our four new colleagues and look forward to working with all of you. Congratulations.

*(Applause from the audience.)*

HON. SUSAN PEIKES GANTMAN: We want to thank our court reporter, Gail McLucas. Thank you. And we want to thank PCN for televising this ceremony and educating all of us. Thank you.

A reception will follow after the ceremony. We thank all of you for attending and Judges, congratulations.

*(Applause from the audience,)*

THE COURT CRIER: This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania now stands adjourned.

(The Superior Court Judge Installation Proceeding concluded at 12:00 p.m.)

## THE HONORABLE MARIA McLAUGHLIN



### ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE

Honorable Maria McLaughlin  
Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

Friday, January 5, 2018  
4:30 p.m.

The Union League of Philadelphia,  
Lincoln Hall,  
140 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### PROCEEDING

(Opening of the Court.)

COURT CRIER MORRISSEY: Please rise.

The Honorable Judges for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Common Pleas Courts of Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties, the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Common Pleas, Family Court, and Municipal Court of Philadelphia.

Oyez, oyez, oyez, let this Ceremonial Session for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania come to order.

Let all manner of persons rise and attend. Let the family, friends and associates of the Honorable Maria McLaughlin be joyful. Let the Citizens of this Commonwealth be confident and sure as the Superior Court convenes for Administration to Maria McLaughlin of the Oath of Office for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court. The Honorable Susan Peikes Gantman President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania presiding.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance led by Johnny McLaughlin.)*

JOHNNY McLAUGHLIN: God Bless America.

COURT CRIER MORRISSEY: Please be seated.

## **(INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS.)**

JUDGE GANTMAN: Welcome to the ceremony for the induction of the Honorable Maria McLaughlin.

This is a very joyous day for our inductee and for her family and for her friends.

I want to thank the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, the First Judicial District, and the ceremony is in the hometown, the home county of our newest member of the Superior Court. President Judge Woods-Skipper, thank you.

Judge McLaughlin joins us after distinguished service as an attorney and jurist in the First Judicial District. She has built a reputation



as not only an advocate, practitioner, and judge, but as an individual of personal integrity, warmth and sincerity.

I want to introduce the head tables. To my far right Judge Murray, one of our newest Judges; Judge Stabile; Judge Panella; Justice Todd.

To my far left Judge Ransom, Judge Dubow, Judge Lazarus, and Judge Bowes.

To the far table, Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty; Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge; Judge Margaret Murphy Administrative Judge, Philadelphia Family Court; and Judge Frank Brady, Supervising Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court.

It is now my honor to introduce the Reverend Marshall Paul Hughes Mitchell, from the Salem Baptist Church.

#### **(THE INVOCATION BY REVEREND MITCHELL.)**

REVEREND MITCHELL: Let us pray. All mighty and merciful God we give thanks even for the coldness of this day because the fact that we feel the cold we are reminded that we have life.

We thank thee, oh God, for giving us and endowing our lives with meaning, aspiration, hope, a sense of justice and of fairness. We ask now, oh God, that you would quicken our steps unto thee, but also call us unto public service.

Grant now, oh God, peace and power. Grant the wisdom of Solomon, the solidity of Solon, the pairing of all of those who call upon thy name. Grant us peace in this day and in this hour. It is in thy glorious majestic name that we pray.

JUDGE GANTMAN: The Honorable Robert Brady, Member of Congress, will offer remarks.

#### **(REMARKS ON BEHALF OF HONORABLE MARIA MCLAUGHLIN.)**

CONGRESSMAN BRADY: Thank you to all the Judges, all the various Courts throughout the State of Pennsylvania, to friends, family, good afternoon, good afternoon everyone.

It's my honor and my pleasure to say a few words on behalf of Maria McLaughlin.

It's not often that I get a chance, and I've been to many of these swearing ins but its not often that I get a chance to say that I've actually held her in my arms. Jonathan, many, many years ago.

*(There was laughter.)*

CONGRESSAN BRADY: She grew up with her family, with her lovely mother Charlotte, whole family here, and Little Bill. Where's Little Bill?

When I'm looking at Little Bill I'm looking at Big Bill, and Big Bill, your dad, Maria, your dad is looking down here smiling because one of the last things he said to me was, "take care of my little girl."

Let me tell you something, if you know Maria McLaughlin, she doesn't need much taking care of, she can take care of herself pretty good. But it's without question and there's too many people here, I wrote a couple of names down, but I know I'll probably miss some so I'm not going to say any, single any out, just a few, Nancy Mills from out in Allegheny County.

When Allegheny County and Philadelphia County get together, we elect Judges, we elect everybody, thank you for your support, your help throughout the state.

And my dear friend Matt Cartwright, colleague in Congress, where are you at Matt come by and say hello. Thank you for coming.

And there are many others, Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack. Thank you, Michael, appreciate you.

And this campaign is something that when she came to me and she said she wanted to run, I said, Well, you know you got to do A, B, and C, you got to raise the money, you got to get out there, and you got to work. Let me tell you something, nobody worked harder, nobody. Nobody knows any candidate, including myself, I've been doing this for

like 35 years, knows any candidate that worked harder than that young lady right there. Nobody more deserving to be where she is right now.

*(There was applause.)*

CONGRESSMAN BRADY: I'd like to recognize all the workers and the committee people and all our friends in labor because it was a complete marriage, it's really nice. And when she would call me too many times, tell me she's in Erie, tell me what she's doing in Scranton, tell me what she's doing in Pittsburgh, but every time she called me, the chairperson and the committee people called me too and thanked me for sending her there. Thanked me for sending such a great candidate that they were so proud to support. They all – they couldn't get over just what a great job and how hard she worked.

You know, on election day Jonathan Saidel, my other brother, hangs out with me all day. No matter who's running, when he was running for election or I'm running, and he's a little nervous, not much when he ran, but my God, did he drive me crazy.

Absolutely positively crazy. I lied and said I had a dental appointment just to get out of headquarters so I could get away for an hour. Every phone call was about Maria, is Maria okay? Maria was fine. Great job.

And, you know, we do this job as politics and it's really hard for us from time to time it becomes trying, but it's not -- the hardest part about this is our family. And God knows, we all know how much we were hoping and praying that we'd get this done, not for Maria, not for Saidel, but for Charlotte. Charlotte wanted it done. She came to me –

*(There was applause.)*

CONGRESSMAN BRADY: She came to me and she said, Please, can you do this for me? I said absolutely. And because of that, Charlotte, a little something for you.

*(Presented flowers, followed by applause.)*

CONGRESSMAN BRADY: Also its my honor and my privilege to have a United States Flag flown over the Capitol, myself and Matt Cartwright, Congressman Matt Cartwright, in your honor. This flag will hopefully fly over your chamber and it's perpetual, if it ever wears out you get another one automatically.

One other thing, Mike Stack, don't get nervous, Governor Wolf don't get nervous, we're going to be helping you get reelected, but they talked about how hard she worked, I don't think we've ever had a woman governor, maybe?

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Mr. John Dougherty, Business Manager, Philadelphia Building and Trades Council.

MR. STEVENSON: Hello, my name is Brian Stevenson, I'm here on behalf of John Dougherty, Building Manager of the Philadelphia Building Trades, IBEW Local 98. He sent a communication to me not too long ago, he's at his wife's bedside over at Magee Hospital, you know, with some severe family health issues. So keep him and his family in our prayers tonight.

Dear friends and family, I wish I could be there with you today for the swearing in of my dear friend, Judge Maria McLaughlin to the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, as many of you know I'm dealing with some family medical issues.

Judge McLaughlin and I have known each other for a long time. Most people know the very public and personal Judge McLaughlin, the bubbly one, the incredibly smart one, the one with the great smile and the bright lipstick.

Here folks know the more private Judge McLaughlin, the row home Maria I know so well. She's the one who always asks the right questions. Can you help get a kid a job? Can you help keep a kid clean and sober? Can you help a kid stay home healthy? Can you help a kid in school? Can you help mentor a kid? Can you get an extra coach for some kids?

Judge McLaughlin is one of those who shows up in every neighborhood, every home, every hospital, and sadly, every funeral home. The

world we live in is no longer governed by people who think like us, but Judge Maria McLaughlin is an exception. She is a woman of integrity, intellect, and compassion who is committed to positive change and prepared to make a difference. She's passionate about justice and fairness for all and isn't afraid to get mud on her dress shoes.

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania will benefit from her experience, wisdom and compassion. The City of Philadelphia is honored to call her one of their own. Congratulations Judge McLaughlin, Sincerely, John J. Dougherty, Business Manager at Philadelphia Building Trades and IBEW Local 98. Thank you for your time. Congratulations, Maria.

JUDGE GANTMAN: Brian, thank you, and we'll keep Mrs. Dougherty in our prayers. Mr. Darrin Kelly, President Allegheny County, Fayette County Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

*(There was applause.)*

MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. First and foremost, there has to be some type of Congressional order to ever have to go after Chairman and Congressman Brady. You are amazing, good to see you again.

I promise I'll be brief. There is definitely a time limit that will allow a labor leader to be in the Union League so I'll be brief.

*(There was laughter.)*

MR. KELLY: If you thought I was going to give way to giving a shot on that and naturally I usually come here and I'm always in a black suit with a gold shirt and a black tie. I know that's quite obnoxious, but we are very proud of what we had. And someone said to me, well, you should have worn a gray suit with a green shirt, you wear that too. And I said I was afraid to choke on my way out here when I hit Burger King, but hey, now, if you thought that, come on now, we get it every time in Allegheny County.

Brothers and sisters, in the business of politics it's very easy to become very complacent, with polls and bad commercials and fundraisers, sometimes you have to question how things really are.

Every once in a while, someone comes around and makes us realize how amazing our democracy really is. Someone can follow their dreams, that a single mother can follow her dreams and raise two amazing boys, it's not just her American Dream, it's all of our American Dream.

*(There was applause)*

MR. KELLY: Chairman Brady made the statement about when Allegheny County and Philadelphia County get together, not much can get in our way, and that is definitely true. What was amazing is that no matter where we went and all of us called our counterparts throughout this state, this was a unified front under an amazing, tireless – the only person I – the woman hasn't aged, Saidel did, but it seemed as this campaign went on, the more energy she had.

It was an honor and a pleasure to stand with you. You are an inspiration to every one of us. You are what the American Dream is about. And this labor movement was honored to stand with you. And Philadelphia County, please send us more like this woman every time. Thank you very much.

JUDGE GANTMAN: Mr. John Ostroff, Esquire, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers.

*(There was applause.)*

MR. OSTROFF: I am not a politician and at least in my mind I'm usually the funny one, thanks for that. But what an honor it is to be here amidst such distinguished folks like Congressmen Brady and Cartwright, this incredible array of Judges with our President Judge Woods-Skipper, Philadelphia, Our Superior Court President Judge Gantman, and Justices Dougherty and Todd. This is quite a tribute to an amazing person, Maria McLaughlin.

I was introduced to Maria by a mutual friend who I hold in highest regard. A year ago I didn't know Maria and I'd never been before her, I don't practice family or criminal law, and that's what Maria hears.

And, but this friend said, please meet her and consider supporting her. And I had lunch with Maria and Jon, so Maria and I spoke about 20 percent of the time.

*(There was laughter.)*

MR. OSTROFF: And, it was enough to see that indeed she was impressive to say the least.

And then the vetting began and I spoke to a number of colleagues that had been before Maria in family matters and criminal matters, and the adjectives were consistently and overwhelmingly positive, smart, no ego, great listener, kind, imminently fair, timely decisions and opinions, no B.S.

As I spent more and more time with Maria I saw that all of these accolades were indeed a great way to describe Maria, I would add real, no façade, gracious, a great sense of humor Philly style.

As a single Mom, Maria raised her two sons who she is intensely proud of, and Dante and Julian, please if you would stand up and let everyone see you.

*(There was applause.)*

MR. OSTROFF: As a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Trial Judge Maria raised these two guys to be great adults and yet never missed a day on the bench, wrote every opinion she issued.

During her campaign., Maria covered Pennsylvania from corner to corner over and over again. She took control of her dream, as was said, her American Dream.

Many told her it was already in the bag after she won the primaries, but she, not only did she not stop, she just kept going. And every time I'd speak to her she was in another corner of Pennsylvania.

This is because Maria wanted the people of Pennsylvania to know who she was and what she believed in, and to believe in her. Most importantly, Maria wanted Pennsylvanians to know they could trust her, and she would uphold justice on our appellate bench.

Indeed Maria is a role model for lawyers, judges, parents, and women. I know you will uphold justice, Maria, and as a lawyer that means everything to me. You will be a great appellate judge. I'm proud to call you my friend and colleague. I'm even prouder to say congratulations, Madam Judge McLaughlin, Pennsylvania Superior Court.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Tom Duffy, Esquire, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers.

MR. DUFFY: How the heck did I end up here being the last speaker? I had a hip replaced a week ago, and I am not going to miss this for anything because about a month ago I got a text from the Judge and had the invitation for this event. I thought, Oh, this is pretty cool, I got a personal text from the Judge, and I put the phone away. Then I looked at it later and it said, And will you speak? I thought, but I'm having my hip replaced.

I swear I've taken no OxyContin today or yesterday because of this, and I have not been released, so if you see Dr. Jeff down at Pennsylvania Hospital, do not tell him that I am out and about.

My love of Maria McLaughlin does not go back twenty, thirty, I guess forty years ago when you were born, it goes back to April when Judge Gantman asked me to be the moderator for a forum for the Judges who were running for the primaries in the Superior Court, and there were nine different candidates at that time.

And I came away from it with hearing someone speak with passion for gender equity like I had never heard before. I heard someone speaking for diversity like I had never heard before. I heard someone speaking for their fellow Judges of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas who are under attack and sticking up for them, sticking up for Appellate Judges. I heard someone who stood up for collective bargaining and how



important it was that we have unions, and I left that saying, oh my God, how have I never heard of this woman before?

And I actually then, and Maria will tell you, I then got in her camp in every way I could to support her.

Now I'd like to say that was hard and I'm the treasurer of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers PAC, Committee for a Better Tomorrow. There's nine members and then there's about another two or three folks that always sit in.

Every time we had a meeting, when it came to discussing what we were going to do with the Superior Court, you made it easy because the first thing everybody would say is, all right, well, we're going to do this for Maria, let's talk about the people we have questions. And as you know, we did not support the top of the Democratic ticket, okay? Because we felt that that candidate did not share our values, share our issues, and it was a hard decision.

And I went online to try to figure out, I went to five different websites, the average is a million six hundred thousand votes that you got. And if you think about it, that's more than the top democrat got that led the ticket, it's more than anybody else got. And it's a testament to you being the person that you are.

And the other thing is when I got to know her and Maria would come to meetings, she would always ask that we support the other Philadelphia candidates, and she would always talk about her sons and Jonathan and her mother. And there wasn't a time that I met her that that didn't happen.

So on behalf of the members of the Committee for a Better Tomorrow, the trustees who are the fiduciaries for the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers, who has about a thousand and forty members, we congratulate you and know you will make an outstanding Judge at the Superior Court.

And even though our friendship is relatively new, I am honored to be here today and honored to be a part of this. And thank you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: It is my honor at this time to introduce some of our court staff who worked very hard today and we want to thank you for coming.

Mike DiPasquale, Executive Administrator; Michele Usilton, Deputy Court Administrator; Katie Anderson from the Executive Administrators Office; Phil Yoon, Chief Staff Attorney; Ben Kohler, Deputy Prothonotary; Legal Systems Coordinator Peter Johnson; Fiscal Administrator Tom Becker; our Chief Court Crier Robert Morrissey; and our Assistant Criers Tom Morrow and Jeff Bott.

Our security staff is here and I also want to thank the Philadelphia Police. They have done a lot of work to help us today. Thank you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: I would like to recognize our colleagues from the Commonwealth Court Judge Ellen Ceisler and Judge Jim Colins, please stand.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Our distinguished jurists from the First Judicial District from Montgomery County and other Courts in Pennsylvania, please stand.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: I would like to personally recognize Jonathan Saidel, former City Controller and husband of Judge McLaughlin.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: And I have known Jonathan for forty years. Lieutenant Governor Stack.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Congressman Brady, Congressman Cartwright.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Montgomery County Officials, and Philadelphia Officials, please stand.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: We have State Representative Tina Davis, and I didn't recognize other ones, but if there's other State Representatives here, please stand.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: And City Commissioner, Lisa Deeley.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: They did not provide me with a list of attendees, so if I forgot someone, would you be kind enough to stand.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: It is my honor to introduce Justice Kevin Dougherty for the Administration of the Oath of Office.

*(There was applause.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me.

*(Whereupon Honorable McLaughlin took the Oath of Office.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Congratulations Superior Court Judge McLaughlin.

*(There was applause.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: I'm going to take a supreme opportunity just for a moment.

First and foremost, thank you Maria for letting me participate in this. More so, I'm glad we have Maria's mom here, extremely special.

*(There was applause.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: For those who don't know, Maria gets her toughness and tenacity from her mom. There's a woman who looks perfect every day despite the trials and tribulations of chemotherapy and the battles that she's been enduring for a long time. She truly is the epitome of what it means to be an individual who with good heart, good stature, and a huge heart, can overcome anything.

Today is special because not only did Maria select this day so that her mom would be here, but that both of her children could be here and present. She refused to take an oath unless those closest to her were present. That's a quality that no one will ever see on a campaign trail. That's a quality you'll learn when you get to know Her Honor.

What I see here today is the recognition of a woman who during her pursuit of position never forgot the purpose of a family.

To her colleagues: Court of Common Pleas, as you have heard she fought for us whether on the bench or off the bench. She's not going far and in this new position she'll write often to you.

*(There was laughter.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: To her husband: Today is the last day that we will refer to you as Mr. Maria McLaughlin.

*(There was laughter.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: I give you back the title, The Honorable Jonathan Saidel.

*(There was applause.)*

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: To her mom: It's even more of a special day that you're here, and you know that, I know that, your family knows that. But for those who haven't met Maria's mom, introduce yourself.

Here's a woman that has walked beside her steadfastly. Never did her mom tell Maria walk behind and follow. She would make her walk alongside and encouraged her to go farther on a journey than she ever dreamed possible. And today's a realization of that dream.

And to her two boys: I've been hearing stories about you guys as you know for years. Let me tell you something: Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mom. And as you know, with your mom and I and the rest of us serving in Family Court for so long, we saw the worst that life has to offer families, and many of the children who didn't have one. See your mother gave you her hand and guided you all through your childhood. But now you're men, but remember this: She also gave you her heart, and that's going to last forever.

And Maria, what can I say except dedication, hard work, and perseverance has proven that anything's possible. America is a great country as I've always said, only as a result of all of us who are in this room are any of us wearing black capable of doing what we're doing.

I'd like to end this by just reminding everybody: As you heard, we have some illness in my family, there's some illness in Maria's family, but we're firm believers that despite hard work we get on our knees and we pray to a great God.

Coming from an Irish Catholic family and an Italian Catholic family we all have a Patron Saint in Saint John Neumann, and today is his Feast Day. And there's a Saint who's a Philadelphia Saint who walked these streets and like the rest of us fought for these streets. And God

willing I hope we don't end like him who passed away on the steps of these streets at 13<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden.

But this is his Feast Day. So when you walk out of here look around at each other, understand how fortunate we are, but more so how blessed we are to have one person in our lives that's capable of bringing us all together. And that's her Honor Superior Court Judge Maria. I love you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Judge McLaughlin shall now receive her robe and hear her Commission.

*(Whereupon the Commission was read.)*

WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office, Maria McLaughlin of the County of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings.

Whereas it appears the certificates and returns made according to law, the election held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017 that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore know yet that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth in such case made and provided, I do by these present, Commission to you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with priority of Commission.

LAUREN McLAUGHLIN: To have and to hold this said office together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in any way appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, 2018, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State at the City of Harrisburg the 15th day of December in the Year of Our Lord 2017, and the Commonwealth the 242<sup>nd</sup>, signed by Governor Tom Wolf and Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth, Robert Torres.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Judge McLaughlin.

(Whereupon Judge McLaughlin received her Robe.)

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Judge McLaughlin, please join your colleagues on the bench for your remarks.

*(There was applause.)*

*(Honorable Judge McLaughlin gave remarks.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. So believe it or not on one of the most important days of my life I prepared absolutely nothing. But as most of you know, I've never once looked at a piece of paper to make a speech. I always speak from the heart, and today is no different in that my gratitude is as heartfelt as it ever was. Just looking around this room and seeing that it's full when the city is closed down, I am so grateful.

I have notes just so that I don't forget to thank people because that's really all I have today is thank you, because without each and every one of you in this room, you've touched my life in some way whether you're family, friends, colleagues, it's so important for me to be here with all of you.

So first and foremost, someone that I spoke about the least in this campaign, but someone who has stood beside me, in back of me, encouraging me, yelling at me, supporting me, and loving me, my husband Jonathan Saidel, thank you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And we're fortunate. It's a celebration in and of itself to have all six of our children under the same roof for a

happy occasion. It's so hard with adult children and everyone being all over the place, but we are so lucky.

My two boys, you've heard me talk about them throughout this campaign, Dante and Julian, and they are my life. Amazing young men and for so long it was just the three of us.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And we have Hope, our oldest daughter, her husband Michael, the star of my commercial Naomi, and that's who was there when I was putting my hand on the Bible. She was the star of my commercial. And her little brother Logan who didn't make the commercial, but is back with his grandparents today.

And we have Nick with us, and we have Josh, and our daughter-in-law Dawn is home with our newborn grandson Asher, and we have Jackie with us today. So we have all six children with us.

Next, somebody who I did talk the most about over this campaign and rightfully so, my mother. I am so blessed that she is here with me today and I would never take the oath of office without having her here. Despite going through chemo for my first swearing in over six years ago, she worked those polls, she gathered the troops, and the most important thing I think that she taught me and the thing I'm most thankful of is teaching me how to be a mom. So thank you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And I have just one brother, Billy. I said it from the start when I got sworn in as a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, not many people can say in their adult life, I've never had an argument with my brother, not one.

And I know my father is here in spirit and like Congressman Brady said, it doesn't take much to look and see my father physically there because he's a striking image and he encompasses every good quality that my father had. I love you Billy and Mary Ann, Lauren and Johnny.



I also have all of my aunts and uncles and cousins here with me today that I'm looking at, and I am so fortunate. Everybody heard me talk about my Aunt Vicki would move my kid to college when I was in Erie or when I was in Scranton and I had to miss something, I never had to miss anything with the family that I have so I love you.

All the Judges that participated today. Justice Dougherty. So many things, so many great things have happened in your chambers, my wedding, my official swearing in, and none of them would have been as meaningful if it wasn't you performing those ceremonies, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you for being my friend, and the best compliment that I ever got along the campaign trail was that I reminded them of you. So thank you. I love you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: Judge Brady, my lifelong friend that I grew up around the corner from. He was there and stood for me when I became an attorney many, many years ago. You've been with me through every stage of my life, good and bad. I was honored to have you robe me when I first became a Judge, and anytime I become a judge it's only you that's robing me, so thank you, Frank.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: Judge Woods-Skipper, Madam President, it's not easy being at the helm of over a hundred Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges. Not many people can keep us all in check. You are a strong leader, a wonderful female role model on this bench to me, and I am going to miss you dearly, but thank you for all of the opportunities you've given to me. Thank you very much.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And Judge Murphy, we have been friends for over 25 years. You've made me laugh every single time that I saw you. You perked me up when I needed it, you kept me in check when I needed it, you made my job a true blessing, which is what it is to be a Family Court Judge. And I am truly going to miss seeing you every day.

But regardless of what building I walk into, I will still always have my heart in Family Court, and that has a lot to do with you, so thank you for being my friend.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE MCLAUGHLIN: And I don't think there's anything better than having a set of brothers like the Doughertys and the Bradys on your side. I don't think you can lose with that combination.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE MCLAUGHLIN: Congressman Brady, one of my dad's dearest and best friends, I've known you since I was a baby and I've loved you since I was a baby.

You taught me never to forget where you come from, and every time I put on this black robe, I make sure that I never forget. Thank you for allowing this Overbrook girl to succeed. I love you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: John Dougherty has been with me throughout both of my campaigns from day one. He's a guy who never, ever, despite all of his publicity, despite the fact that he's in the news, good and bad, he never seeks the attention. He has helped me, I never asked. I'd turn around on Spring Garden Street and there's a banner with mine and Ellen's name the size of the block, I never knew it was coming.

Any time that I ever called to say thank you, all that he ever said to me was, I'm just happy I got to help a good person. John Dougherty is that good person to me, and so I will always keep him and his family in my prayers and I would not be sitting here without his help. So thank you.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And Darrin Kelly, my big brother who I'm older than. Every time I pulled into Allegheny County I had to see Darrin Kelly. He was able to calm me down, make me feel better, and let me know that I always had someone who had my back, even when I was miles and miles away.

You always gave me a boost in my confidence and I certainly know why you are the head of the AFL-CIO. I loved hanging out with your firefighters, you let me on your fire trucks, and we just had fun campaigning. Can't always say that. I had a good time campaigning, and every time in Allegheny County it was because of you. I can't thank you enough.

He drove here today and is driving back today. Now that's a friend. I love you, you are family.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And John Ostroff and Tom Duffy, also two new friends, but wonderful friends, wonderful lawyers. I am so honored that the Trial Lawyers placed their trust in me. These are the most esteemed lawyers in our Commonwealth, and the fact that you had your trust in me, I promise I will always make you proud and I am so thankful for your support. I will never forget it. Thank you so much and thank you for coming here today.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: Labor, labor became my middle name during the campaign because without labor I would not be sitting here. And labor encompasses law enforcement, the firefighters, the state troopers, every union. No matter where I was throughout the Commonwealth, no matter what county I was in, I would just look for a labor shirt, a labor hat, and I knew I would have a friend.

I can't thank labor enough for everything that you did, the bodies that you gave, the encouragement that you gave me, thank you for making this dream a reality for me. I will never forget it.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And the County Chairs, there are so many here today, I am so grateful. Any county that I was in, and I have people here from Erie and Somerset and Allegheny, and all my local counties, Lackawanna and Luzerne, all of these counties treated me like family when I was there.

Shelly from Somerset you said you wanted to see the Liberty Bell, you never saw the Liberty Bell so my response was, well, help me win and you can come to my party and see the Liberty Bell, so the Liberty Bell is here.

And Nancy Mills from Allegheny County, my BFF, Darrin wants to say about the Steelers, but look who she's sitting next to, her hubby was an Eagle, that's right. So I have the Eagles from Allegheny County over there.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: And all of the wonderful elected officials who took the time during the campaign and gave us their good name. Congressman Cartwright walked me around Lackawanna County at that Italian Festival and so many places that when you're with somebody who everybody loves already, then that just flourished down to me, and that means a lot, when you have a good name and share that name. So I can't thank you enough.

I'm looking at Maria Donatucci, all the wonderful State Reps. When you give your good name to me, that matters to people in your county. so thank you.

Throughout whatever county I was in, whether it was Luzerne County with Senator Yudichak who I could never finish after a speech because his introduction of me was so eloquent, I had nothing else to say.

But when I was in Lackawanna County, I was Munley or I was an Eagan; when I was in Allegheny County, I was a Costa. All of these families let me into their family and got me right where I am today and I am eternally grateful.

So for all the elected officials, Senator Street in Philadelphia, our Lieutenant Governor who was there and emceed when I announced, thank you.

The women's groups. As a female candidate I cannot tell you how much it meant to have the women's groups by my side. They were a fantastic, fantastic group of ladies that really lifted us up as female candidates and I was honored to run with your support. Thank you so much. I already feel like I am a Lackawanna County lady because I've been there so much.

The Philadelphia Bar Association, I was always very active with that group and they are a wonderful bar association. And I am proud to be a member, and now proud to be a member representing the Superior Court.

The LGBT groups all throughout the Commonwealth. The most fun I had and the proudest I was to have the support of these individuals, so thank you.

My colleagues from the First Judicial District who on your day off, when the Courts are closed, all came out in this frigid weather, went and picked up your robes, I can't thank you enough.

My Family Court family who I have been a part of for 25 years. I have Henry here who I saw, and everybody knows Henry my Court Officer. Everybody hears me talking about Henry. He's had my back for 25 years, since I was D.A. and now on the bench. I missed you this week, I miss seeing him every day.

I have Moria and Anthony and Gwen. It's very important when you have a great staff behind you. You're only one person, my staff is the one that ran the courtroom.

And I have all of my new staff that I am blessed to have on the Superior Court, thanks to Judge Gantman's recommendations, I would be dying right now, but I have a very experienced staff and I am honored to have Tom and Dara and Katie and Nancy and Rose, and I'm bringing somebody new into the chambers from the Philadelphia D.A.'s office, Charmain, so she will be joining me too.

And my new Superior Court colleagues. I am so honored to be a part of your bench. Never once did I ever imagine that I would be a Superior Court Judge, and joining this group of individuals, so thank you.

Justice Debra Todd, Madam Chief Justice soon, history. When we were campaigning around –

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: That's what I said, you really don't appreciate things until you realize I'm campaigning around this history. That's what this is going to be. My kids are going to read about this, my grandkids are going to read about this. So thank you so much for coming from Allegheny County, I loved campaigning with you.

And last but not least, certainly my campaign staff who all needs to stand up because they are why I am here. Bill Durham, D.A. Jones, Celeste Dee, Kevin Kinross and the entire Carey group including Kelsey, Greg and Abass, Greg Fajyt, and Steve K. from Beaver County, Mike Gallavich, Vince Lancia –

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: I don't know if Bill Rinaldi is here, but if anybody is ever a part of my staff it's Bill Rinaldi from the NEPA area.

Local 98 is part of my staff. They were definitely with me every day, Marita Crawford and Brian Eddis and Bill Miller, and Rittenhouse Political Partners.

And last but not least, Madam Treasurer Rita Donatucci.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE McLAUGHLIN: So thank you. This is our victory today, its not mine, this is our victory. All of our hard work.

And to the 1,078,522 people who on November 7<sup>th</sup> placed their trust in me and all Pennsylvanians, I promise to make you proud in the Superior Court. Thank you very much.

*(There was applause.)*

JUDGE GANTMAN: Congratulations. I think everyone here joins me in wishing you all the best.

You've had a distinguished career on the first Judicial District and we know that you will have a distinguished career on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Congratulations.

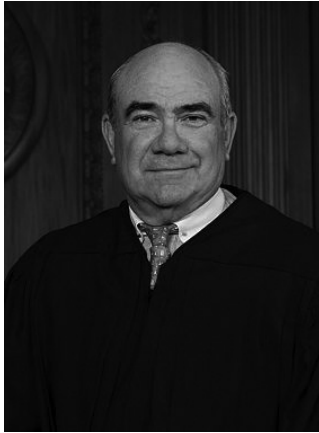
*(Closing of Session.)*

COURT CRIER MORRISSEY: This very Special Session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

*(There was applause.)*

(Whereupon the Ceremonial Session of the Superior Court concluded at 5:40 p.m.)

**THE HONORABLE  
JAMES GARDNER COLINS**



*Assumed Office: January 2, 2019  
County: Philadelphia*

**BIOGRAPHY**

James Gardner Colins was appointed as a Senior Judge of the Superior Court in January 2019. Prior to this appointment, he had served as a Senior Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania since January 2012. Senior Judge Colins was originally commissioned to the Commonwealth Court, as Judge, in January 1984, and served as Judge for twenty-four years, until his retirement in June 2008. During that time, he served two terms as President Judge, from 1994 until 1999, and again from 2002 until 2006. Following his retirement and prior to his appointment in 2012, he was a Member and Shareholder at the Cozen O'Connor law firm in Philadelphia. Senior Judge Colins has served on the Supreme Court's state-wide computerization committee; the Judicial Audit Committee of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts; the Compensation and Benefits Committee of



the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges; the Pennsylvania Futures Commission; and the Century III Commission of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

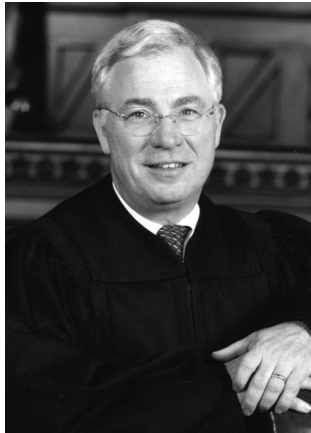
In 1997, Senior Judge Colins was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve on the Judicial Conduct Board; he was elected and served as Chairman from January 25, 1999 to February of 2000. In June 1998, he was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Judiciary, Academy and Bar Committee. In August 1998, Senior Judge Colins was appointed by the president of the American Bar Association to serve on the Commission of Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession (Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity in the Profession). In 2007, Senior Judge Colins became a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. He chaired the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Constitutional Review Commission from 2010-2011.

Senior Judge Colins has been a CLE lecturer for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Pennsylvania Defense Institute, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, numerous county bar associations, as well as other professional organizations. President Judge Colins was the recipient of the Annual Award for "Distinguished Public Service" presented by the Philadelphia Flag Day Association; the Northeast High School Student/Senate Distinguished Service Award; and the Northeast High School Alumni Service Award.

Prior to being elected to the Commonwealth Court, he served on the Philadelphia Municipal Court for three years following the private practice of law. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia County.

He is an alumnus of Northeast High School (Philadelphia), the University of Pennsylvania, and Villanova University School of Law. He resides in Philadelphia with his wife Judith Nilon.

## THE HONORABLE DAN PELLEGRINI



*Assumed Office: January 2, 2019*  
*County: Allegheny*

Judge Pellegrini was a Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, assuming office in January 1990. He was President Judge of Commonwealth Court January 2012 until January 2016 when he became a Senior Judge. In January 2019, he became a Senior Judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Pellegrini was a member of the City of Pittsburgh Law Department and became City Solicitor in 1982 until he joined the Court. From 1985 to 1990, he was a trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, a group of 1,800 city and county attorneys from the United States and Canada.

He received his B.A. in 1967 and his J.D. in 1970 from Duquesne University School of Law. He served on active duty in the field artillery of the United States Army rising to the rank of Captain. He has taught at the Institute of Judicial Administration at the New York University School of Law, the National Judicial College and the Turkish Judicial Academy.

## THE HONORABLE MEGAN KING



*Assumed Office: January 3, 2020*  
*County: Chester*

### INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE Honorable Megan McCarthy King

Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

January 3, 2020  
Chester County Justice Center  
West Chester, Pennsylvania

### PROCEEDING

COURT CRIER: Please rise.

The Honorable Judges of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

O, yea, o, yea, o, yea. Let this ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania come to order.

Let all manner of persons rise that attend.

Let the family, friends, and associates of the Honorable Megan McCarthy King be joyful.

Let the citizens of this Commonwealth be confident and sure that the Superior Court convenes for administration to Megan McCarthy King of the Oath of Office for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court, President Judge Jack A. Panella presiding.

Please be seated.

**PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA:** Good morning, everyone. What a great day this is. I can tell – there’s not an empty seat in the house – it’s an incredible day out there, a great day and an important day for the McCarthy and King families, and, of course, for our newest member, Megan McCarthy King.

We welcome all of you to this special ceremonial session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

In a moment I’m going to ask all of you to rise for the invocation and then please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

So at this time I will ask Fr. Joseph Smith to approach the podium for the invocation.

**FR. SMITH:** I begin today with a quote from the Book of Psalms, because in these sacred words we can see that what was true thousands of years ago is true today and most assuredly will be true for the ages to come.

The psalm is said in Chapter 118. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us pray. Let us stand up and rejoice, for God has made this day and it is good. Let us stand up and rejoice, for God has entrusted us with this land that is free, and raised up within its borders certain people with the courage and drive to lead us.

Let us stand up and rejoice, for God has raised up leaders among us who can, with wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience, execute justice

with sound reason, and make those decisions with sure compassion that every human being deserves.

Let us stand up and rejoice for the Honorable Megan McCarthy King, who is committed to the law; whose commitment to justice, whose commitment to the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose commitment to this nation, whose commitment to her family, and whose commitment to God has persuaded her to take her seat as judge on this Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Lord, God, today we pray that you bless Megan as she continues to fight for justice in our land. We pray that you guide her in all of her decisions as she executes the law with justice as well as mercy.

We pray that you bless Megan's family; Richard, her husband; and her children, RJ, Thomas, and Elizabeth, may they be a blessing to her as she continues to be a blessing to them.

This is the day. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us stand up and rejoice in it.

Amen.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: And, Elizabeth King, would you please approach and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance To The Flag was recited.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you, Elizabeth.

Everyone, please be seated.

Well, this year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. We were created in 1895. And since that time we have convened in these special ceremonial sessions with the happy and joyful occasions of installing new members of our court.

And we are here today to present the Oath of Office to one of our newest judges, Megan McCarthy King, and our congratulations to her family, her husband, and her three wonderful children.

Now, listen, everyone. I'm going to be calling on you for a lot of work during this ceremony. I'm going to be asking you to join me in applause at certain times. So you're not going to be able to relax.

We're going to begin with a matter of great importance. And I want all of you, please, to again rise in a moment and join with me in

recognizing Tom and Carrol McCarthy, our new judge's parents. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy.

Thank you for that. We're going to make sure the transcript states that everyone rose.

It's always an honor for us to host the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. And at this time—I'm not going to ask him to speak just yet, because we have a few other introductions. But I would like to introduce to all of you the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Thomas Saylor.

Now, at this time I'm going to ask you to hold your applause until I complete introducing all of the members of the Superior Court that are present with us today. And we always do introductions by way of seniority.

Sitting to the right of Chief Justice Saylor is Judge Mary Jane Bowes. To my left is Judge Susan Peikes Gantman. We're going to be going back and forth now.

Judge Ann Lazarus, Judge Judith Ference Olson, Judge Paula Francisco Ott, Judge Victor Stabile, Judge Alice Beck Dubow, Judge Carolyn H. Nichols, Judge Maria McLaughlin. One of our other new judges, Judge Dan McCaffery.

Two senior – no; just one senior judge has joined us today, a Former Justice of the Supreme Court and a Former President Judge, Correale Stevens. Would you please join me in welcoming all of them.

And I apologize. He snuck in without me seeing him. Senior Judge Jim Colins is also with us today.

Now, there is one member of our court that needs a few extra introductory words. And to do that, I'm going to call on President Judge Emeritus Susan Peikes Gantman.

**JUDGE GANTMAN:** Thank you.

Judge Paula Ott, my dear friend, a great jurist, she has served for 10 years on the Superior Court and 18 years with the court in Chester County, five years as President Judge. She is an extremely talented individual.

And the citizens of Pennsylvania are so fortunate that you chose public service. You have integrity, intelligence, a sense of humor—frequently

tells me what I should not be doing – and we are going to sincerely miss you.

She will be starting as a Senior Judge in the Office of Elder Justice.

And we thank you for your service and wish you good luck in your new endeavors.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: I'd like to now call upon Judge Mary Jane Bowes to introduce the judges.

We are so pleased that judges of the Commonwealth Court and judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County have joined us today.

Judge Bowes.

JUDGE BOWES: Thank you, President Judge Panella.

And this morning I'm honored to introduce two of our esteemed colleagues from our sister court, the Commonwealth Court: the Honorable Kevin Brobson and the Honorable Patricia McCullough.

And we are also privileged and honored to have a great representation from the Bench from Chester County, and present with us today are the following judges. And please hold your applause until the end.

The Honorable Jacqueline Carroll Cody, President Judge; the Honorable Katherine B.L. Platt, the Honorable William P. Mahon, The Honorable John L. Hall, the Honorable David F. Bortner, the Honorable Ann Marie Wheatcraft, the Honorable Mark L. Tunnell, the Honorable Patrick Carmody, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Sommer, the Honorable Allison Bell Royer, the Honorable Bret M. Binder.

He's the newbie, so congratulations to you.

The Honorable Analisa Sondergaard, and the Honorable Robert J. Shenkin, Senior Judge.

Thank you all for being here.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, the members of this Court know, both by way of reputation and by having had the opportunity over many years to observe her in the practice of law, that we are receiving an outstanding person to join our court today.

Our newest judge has proved her service to the citizens of Pennsylvania for many years as a prosecutor, and she will now continue her public service as a judge of this court.

And, Judge, just in case you don't know it, we are indeed the busiest state intermediate court in the country.

I just recently had to give a speech to the Pennsylvania Bar Association. And I closely analyzed the dockets of the other intermediate appellate courts. We more than double the nearest court to us.

So, the moral of the story is, Judge, get ready for some long days in the office.

At this time, I'd like to introduce our first speaker. And again, it's an honor that the Chief Justice has joined us. Chief Justice Tom Saylor.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, President Judge Panella.

Today is indeed a special day, set aside to induct Megan King as a judge of the Superior Court, in this, as has been pointed out, its 125<sup>th</sup> year.

This occasion represents the culmination of many months of tireless effort, and a journey across the length and breadth of this large and diverse Commonwealth.

Over 20 years ago, as a young lawyer, Megan clerked for me as I began my tenure on the Supreme Court. And it is only fitting that as I move toward the conclusion of my judicial career, she begins hers, since, as with all institutions, the judiciary benefits from refreshment.

I am confident that Megan, as with all our new judges throughout Pennsylvania, will find that their future undertaking is rewarding but also challenging.

It seems to be in vogue of late to compare the role of a judge to that of an umpire in baseball, a neutral arbiter who merely calls balls and strikes. Chief Justice Roberts prominently employed this analogy in his confirmation hearing a number of years ago.

This metaphor has always struck me as inept; grossly understating, if not demeaning, the real task of judging.

When an umpire calls a ball or strike, the game moves on. Judges, on the other hand, are called upon to make difficult choices among competing interests which often have equal force, and are then obliged to provide reasons for those choices.



Over the years I've come to view that the work of judging is more in the nature of a craft than a science, a vocation comprised of skills that are acquired over time and developed through experience.

In honing their craft, younger judges learn from more seasoned judges and employ their practical knowledge informed by common understanding.

While the ethos of judging is difficult to capture in words, the objective is not. Judges, to paraphrase Justice Bradford, owe allegiance to none, except the effort to find the path to the best judgment that fallible creatures can arrive at in the most difficult of all tasks, the achievement of justice through reason called law.

Congratulations.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you, Chief Justice.

Next, I'm going to call upon President Judge Jacqueline Cody to approach the podium.

And please correct me if I'm wrong. But this might be your last official duty as President Judge of this Honorable Court.

JUDGE CODY: It is, your Honor.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Go ahead.

JUDGE CODY: May it please the Court, it is a pleasure and an honor to be here today to witness the installation of Megan McCarthy King as a judge of the Superior Court, and to offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

As all of you know, Megan's resume is impressive, outlining her education, her experience as a prosecutor, as a law clerk to Justice Saylor, a graduate school professor, a recipient of numerous awards, and a volunteer with various community organizations.

I could speak at length at all of that. But having had the opportunity as a Judge to have Megan appear before me in court on various pretrial matters, I'd like to share with all of you one of Megan's traits that I think will serve the people well when the cases come before her, and that is her habit of eliminating ego when she is in the court or any other court-related matter.

Whenever she has appeared before me, it is always about proffering to the Court a clear, well-reasoned, well prepared analysis of the factual and legal questions pending before the Court.

I'm sure that other judges here will agree that there are times when we are entertaining oral argument that we pose a question to the attorney, not because we don't know the answer to that specific question but because we want to see the path taken by that attorney, and to gauge the strength and weaknesses of the arguments.

Sometimes the attorney's response is just to repeat exactly what they've said only louder.

Megan, on the other hand, consistently rephrases her point, adding context and clarity to whatever I have questioned, and does it in a manner which makes it clear that it is not about her winning or losing a case, but about providing to the Court the information needed to effect a fair and just decision.

That ability to maintain a clear, visioned, impartial view of legal issues, even in emotional charged cases, will be a great asset to the court, the litigants, and her colleagues on the Bench.

I've also had the opportunity to speak with Megan about her decision to run for this office, and also about her successful outcome. And I know that the history of our nation, its government and courts, is important to Megan, and inspired her dedication to excellence.

And as a witness to the changes in our Chester County elected officials and court-related officials over the past 40 years, I'd be remiss if I didn't comment on the history being made here in this courtroom today.

Megan McCarthy King is about to be sworn in as a member of Superior Court, just as the Honorable Paula Francisco Ott steps down at the end of her 10-year term.

Like Megan, I found myself following the footsteps of Judge Ott, twice in my career; First when I became an Assistant District Attorney in 1981, shortly after she had left that office to pursue other dreams; and then when I was appointed to the Bench in 1992, one year after Paula became the first female judge elected in Chester County.

And here you are now, elected to the Superior Court as Paula steps down at the end of her 10-year term.

The legacy of Judge Ott is incredibly impressive. She leaves big shoes to fill and graceful footsteps to follow.

Thank you, Paula, for leading the way.

And thank you, Megan, for continuing that awesome journey. The people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have entrusted to you a great responsibility: To examine each case with a fair and thoughtful analysis, to always remain impartial, to respect and follow the law, and to render prompt and reasoned decisions.

May your exercise of that responsibility be something you treasure every day. Best wishes for a long and happy career.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: I always like to break it up a bit. So, before our next speaker, we have a few more introductions.

And Judge McCarthy King, you're going to get to know these people very well. They all work for the Superior Court. We really have an excellent staff that gives us incredible support as we travel around the state.

From the office – and again I'll ask you to hold your applause until the end. From the office of the Executive Administrator we have Chris Nace, Katie Anderson, Gia Lombardi, and Tom Becker.

From our Philadelphia court system, we have Bob Morrissey and Tom Morrow.

Our statewide prothonotary has joined us today, Joe Seletyn; the director of our central legal staff, so vital to our operation, Philip Yoon; Peter Johnson, who is the director of our legal systems department. We have two deputy prothonotaries with us: Ben Kohler, from Philadelphia; and Jen Traxler, from Harrisburg.

And lastly and very importantly, the director of our judicial protection unit, Jay Rycek. And I think Sean is with us today too, Brennan. Please.

From our Harrisburg office, Jeff Bott is also with us today too.

Well, it's another great honor for us to have with us today as a speaker the Speaker of the Pennsylvania house of Representatives. And it's my pleasure to introduce the Honorable Michael Turzai.

SPEAKER TURZAI: Chief Justice Saylor, President Judge Jack Panella, members of the judiciary, to the friends and family members of

Megan McCarthy King, on behalf of the House of Representatives and as Speaker Of The House of Pennsylvania, we want to say this first.

To Megan McCarthy King, as she becomes judge, thank you for running for this office, thank you for your past outstanding public service, and thank you for deciding to move forward in your new role of public service as Superior Court Judge. What an important role it is.

Soon-to-be Judge Megan McCarthy King, here's what so many of us in this room see when we get to meet you, your husband, Rich, and your beautiful family. Here's what we know.

This humility is that you are so appropriately but humbly proud of the fact that you are moving into this important role to do good. But most importantly you are humbly proud because you are so blessed to have your husband and your son and your daughter and your parents here with you today, because you know and we know how important they are to you and that it makes you the rock that you are. God bless you first and foremost for that.

And to each and every one of your family, to Richard, Thomas, Elizabeth, RJ, who I know cannot be here, and to your parents, God bless each and every one of you for being here with Megan. She is so proud of you, as you are proud of her.

We are in the state legislative body – I'm so blessed to have one of my closest friends, Senator Judy Ward. Judy was a House member, by the way. She's here now, of course, with the esteemed Senate. But I wanted to just give you a sense of our perspective on judging.

I come from a body that elects 203 persons. Judy comes from a body that elects 50 persons. But they work together. Everybody knows that. It's elementary.

But it's bringing people from all over Pennsylvania, from a diverse level of communities and backgrounds, to make laws that reflect the public policy that the people of Pennsylvania hope to get done.

The system of checks and balances is in place. It's not easy actually getting a bill to become a law because of that system of checks and balances. But once it does, it's not just an idea or a concept. It's the law. And words meaning things, they are not words to be discarded.

It doesn't mean, of course, that they do not come in front of the judiciary, an independent judiciary, which we certainly respect. And we are an independent legislative body, which we hope the judiciary respects.

We understand that as cases arise with respect to the application of those laws, that it's the judiciary that has to decide exactly how they are to be played out, how do they impact those everyday human beings in everyday facets of life, and organizations through which we live and work, no different than what we care about our own respective families.

I cannot think of a person who many of us were so pleased to see run, to win, to now be sworn in, than somebody with your type of integrity.

Also, your service as a prosecutor will serve you so well in this understanding of the application of the law. You have done it as a career in protecting the most vulnerable amongst us.

In the end we are all about, in our various aspects of public service in the private sector or in the government sector, about making sure that each and every person maintains the dignity that we were given by the good Lord above.

Megan, I am so honored that you would ask me to be here at your swearing in. Please understand you are always welcome to come visit the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. And, last, Godspeed in your journey with your family as you move forward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you very much.

Well, it's always a pleasure to introduce an attorney whom judges always consider to be distinguished. And the next person is well respected by the Bench and the Bar in Pennsylvania, and I'd like to call up to the podium attorney James McErlane.

MR. McERLANE: Thank you for the introduction. I wish my mother was here. She would have believed that.

We welcome Chief Justice Saylor, President Judge Panella, all judges of the Superior Court, and we welcome Judge Danny McCaffery, who is to be sworn in to the Superior Court next week, I believe.

You honor us all with your presence. We thank you for coming. We know you came for Megan, but we share in that. Thank you.

Ten years ago, I stood at this podium. I should say ten years minus two days. I spoke at this podium when Judge Ott was sworn in.

And now ten years later, Judge Ott retires and we have another Chester County success story, Judge Megan McCarthy King.

I don't want to be repetitive in talking about Judge Ott, but let me simply say she made us look good. When she was on the court for those ten years, doing her job every day, writing wonderful opinions, she made us look good because she came from here. And for that we're grateful.

Judge King is a worthy successor to Judge Ott.

Megan is here primarily because of her family. Her parents, Thomas and Carrol, raised a wonderful family of three children. Thomas worked at the post office in the day and went to law school at night.

And as Megan campaigned across the 67 counties of Pennsylvania, Carrol came to the house to take care of the house and the children. So, this was a family effort by genes, by inheritance, and by just plain old hard work.

Her husband, Richard, of course, was there all the way. He's a partner at Stevens & Lee.

And the children put up with all of this and did their part too.

Richard and Megan raised three dynamic children RJ, Thomas, and Elizabeth. And we're glad you're here.

Megan King has a strong work ethic. In her career she learned how to balance responsibilities while adhering to the highest standards.

As supervisor of the child abuse unit in the District Attorney's office, she dealt with the most horrible of crimes. She dealt with victims and their families, prosecutors and investigators.

And she got the job done through the strength of her personality, and by dealing with the victims in a calm, reassuring, competent, and diligent way. That is a real talent, and one which will carry over to the appellate court.

And let me tell you that Megan was so involved in child abuse cases, that while she was traveling across the 67 counties of Pennsylvania campaigning, she took a break in October to try a child homicide case to conviction in this courthouse.

God bless you for that.

As an appellate court judge, Megan will bring the same attention to duty and responsibility. The confidence she exudes in her daily activities will carry over to the Superior Court.

It's that ability to weigh all of the various aspects of a case, not be to distracted by collateral matters; to isolate the issues, and put them back together in a cohesive manner. That is what great judges do and what she will do.

Chester County has been blessed with outstanding judges and we are proud of their success. Megan will follow in that tradition. She will apply proper decorum, and honor the traditions of the court. She will come across sometimes as wearing a velvet glove, but beneath that velvet glove is an iron will. And great judges have iron wills.

As the campaign went on, it went out across every county in this Commonwealth that Megan King had the analytical skills, the judicial temperament, the work ethic, the enthusiasm for the law, and the character to be a distinguished judge, and, with all of that, a lady of grace and distinction,

Socrates once said: One must wait until the evening to see how the day has gone.

The campaign was long. But on November 5, 2019, some 1,252,065 people put their confidence in Judge King.

The people of Pennsylvania have elected you to a high office. We wish you continued success. We celebrate your installation to the Superior Court, and all Pennsylvania will benefit from your service.

God bless you and this Honorable Court.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Our next speaker, we are also privileged to be attended today by the Pennsylvania Senate. And I'm going to call on Senator Judy Ward, who I believe is from Blair County.

SENATOR WARD: Yes, Judge, you are correct. I hail from Blair County, the land of the Slinky and the Mallo Cup.

But what a true honor to be here today to witness this historic event and to say a few words.

You know, there are times in your life when you meet someone and you immediately know that you will be friends forever. That's what

happened with Megan and myself. I saw something about Megan that I immediately liked, and I suspect the voters did as well. She's real.

Megan exudes all of the positive virtues that we want to see in an appellate court judge. She's wicked smart. She enjoys people and sincerely cares about them. She's a fighter for what is right.

Probably one of the things that I saw that I liked about Megan during her campaign was that when she was challenged, she also took the high road, always.

Before going to the Senate, I served with Speaker Mike Turzai for two terms in the House. And I was the first female elected to the House, the 180<sup>th</sup> House District. I went on to run for State Senate, and I was the first female to ever represent the 30<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. That takes a strong personality, a strong work ethic. And that's what I saw in Megan. This will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave women the right to vote. Last month Megan lost her grandmother, her mother's mother, who was just a few weeks shy of being 105.

Think for one moment all the things that she saw in her lifetime. When her grandmother was young, women couldn't even vote; and now her granddaughter is a Superior Court Judge. Think about how proud she was of Megan.

Not only did Megan run statewide, which takes a tremendous amount of energy, but she continued to work in the Chester County DA's office, trying, as Jim mentioned, several high profile child abuse cases, and winning. Not an easy feat.

In addition to that, she's a wife, mother of three children, and never once dropped the ball. I can tell you from personal experience that being a good wife, a good mother and a good daughter is the most demanding job of all, because you want to do it right.

For Christmas, my son Bill, who's here with me today, gave me Nikki Haley's new book, *With All Due Respect*. But the subtitle is *Defending America with Grit and Grace*.

And that perfectly describes Megan McCarthy King. Megan will defend our Constitution, our laws, our values, and our citizens with grit and grace.



Recently I heard a quote: The great thing about new friends is they bring new energy to your soul.

And Megan McCarthy King has done that for me. She's an extraordinary person who is about to take the Bench, and I am so proud of her and so proud to call her my friend.

May God bless you, give you wisdom, strength and courage, Megan. Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Immediate and lifelong friends. Isn't that such a wonderful thing to hear.

The Judge now knows the insanity of a statewide campaign. And you really can't accomplish that without strong support at home.

So, we've been waiting for this point, but it's time that we introduce her husband and her children.

So, please Richard James King, would you please rise, and Thomas and Elizabeth.

Now, of course, Richard, you know, after hearing all these great things, you do have to go back home with her tonight.

Well, it's time for us now to get to the actual installation of Judge McCarthy King. And that begins with the reading of her Commission issued by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

And to accomplish that, she has requested that her father, Thomas J. McCarthy, read that.

So, Mr. McCarthy.

MR. McCARTHY: I've been asked to read the Commission, as someone just indicated.

I'd like to ad-lib a bit.

That's another thing that I was honored by, is to be here in the presence of so many eminent, capable people. Okay. And appearing before a number of judges is not bad, from what I understand. I thank you for that and I am deeply honored. The document reads: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office.

To Megan McCarthy King of the County of Chester in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings.

Whereas it appears by the certificates and returns made according to law of the election held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November Anno Domini

2019, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know Ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania, to have and hold this said office together with all the rights, powers and emoluments thereunto belonging by law in anywise appertaining for the term of 10 years, to be computed from the first Monday of January 2020, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

This is given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State and the City of Harrisburg, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December of the Year of our Lord 2019, and the Commonwealth 244<sup>th</sup>. It's signed by Governor Wolf and witnessed by Kathy Boockvar, the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

I thank you all for listening and again for the honor.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, I'm going to ask our new judge to approach the Bench for the administration of the Oath by Chief Justice Saylor. Will you all please stand.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Ready to take the Oath, would you please place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I Megan McCarthy King –

JUDGE KING: I Megan McCarthy King –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: -- do solemnly swear –

JUDGE KING: -- do solemnly swear –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: -- that I will support, obey, and defend –

JUDGE KING: -- that I will support, obey, and defend –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: -- the Constitution of the United States –

JUDGE KING: -- the Constitution of the United States –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: and the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

JUDGE KING: and the Constitution of this Commonwealth –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: -- that I will discharge the duties of my office –

JUDGE KING: -- that I will discharge the duties of my office –

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: -- with fidelity.

JUDGE KING: -- with fidelity.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Congratulations.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Everyone can have a seat again.

And we're going to call upon the Judge's husband and children to come up. It's a formal process with us for a new judge to be robed.

MR. KING: That's a good color for you.

(Whereupon, Robing of Judge Megan McCarthy King was performed by Richard King.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Let the record reflect she's been robed.

Now, Judge, it's time for you to come up and join your colleagues.

JUDGE KING: Well, what an amazing day. May it please this Honorable Court, thank you, Judge Panella.

I could not in the short time I have today mention the names of the many friends and family who have guided me through my life and who have been instrumental in helping me realize my dreams.

I see many faces in this room; friends from elementary school, middle school, college, law school, and colleagues with whom I've worked.

Thank you to my campaign team: Tom Stoner, Mary Lou Doyle, Jonathan Goldstein, Britain Henry, and Mark Harris, who worked tirelessly from one end of the state to the other; and to the many people I met along the way.

I am grateful to everyone who voted, the Republican State Committee, every one of the speakers that came here today. I am so honored. My heart today is bursting with gratitude for all that you've done for me.

I stand on the shoulders of countless people, yet it is an extraordinary family that brings me here today.

My mother has devoted her life to helping others; her mother, my father, my sister, brother, and me, and her grandchildren. She is selfless,

putting others before herself, and truly captures the phrase that actions speak louder than words.

Sitting next to her is my father, who taught me the value of hard work. And he epitomizes the American dream, coming from modest beginnings, working his way as a mailman through law school, and providing me and my siblings with an incredible life.

You both have installed in me the desire to help people and to make a difference.

The past five years my mother and father came to my home every single day when the children came off the bus, and waited there until Richard or I came home from work.

We suffered the loss of my twin sister, a truly sweet soul, a gifted athlete, and my best friend. And together we got through that terrible time and continued to live our lives to make her proud. I know if she was here with us today, she would have whispered to me, I knew all along you could do it.

Just last month we also lost my grandmother, who was just shy of turning 105. She rode a horse to school, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse, and was born at a time when women didn't have the right to vote. And she was able to see her granddaughter win the election for Pennsylvania Superior Court judge in November of this year.

I know that they are here with me today.

Mom and Dad, I know how fortunate I am to have you as parents. I love you very much.

Sitting next to my parents are my husband, Richard, and two out of the three children, Thomas and Elizabeth. RJ is at a leadership conference down in North Carolina. This was not an easy year for them.

And I cannot thank you enough for all of the support that you've given.

Richard, I love you. I am so grateful for the 24 years we've had together; 24 years ago we said our vows before God. We have three remarkable children. They are our greatest life achievement. I thank you for all the support that you've given me and continue to give me.

And to my children, I am so proud of you, your empathy for others, your work ethic, and having the conviction to stand up for the principles in which you believe. We couldn't be more proud.

Richard, RJ, Thomas, and Elizabeth, I love you.

I chose to be a lawyer and ultimately to be a judge because it allowed me to make a difference in the lives of others.

My work as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting the crimes against our most vulnerable, has been rewarding. It allowed me to help give a voice to those who are the most vulnerable, while at the same time addressing intellectual challenges presented by these cases in court.

I thank the District Attorneys in Chester County and Lancaster County who trusted me and gave me the opportunity to lead challenging units in those office.

Justice Saylor, thank you for the opportunity to clerk for you. You taught me to let the law be your guide, as opposed to bending the law to a desired outcome.

I firmly believe in the rule of law as the foundation for all of our basic rights. I have been inspired by the achievement of our Founding Fathers. They set forth principles that have endured for more than two centuries. Those principles are as meaningful today and to each generation as the generation before.

It is going to be a profound privilege for me to play a role in applying those principles and controversies we face today.

These experiences, personal and professional, have helped me appreciate the variety of perspectives that present themselves in every case. It will help me to understand, respect and respond to the concerns and arguments of all litigants, as well as the views of the colleagues on the Bench. I strive never to forget the consequences of these decisions.

Again, I am truly thankful, honored, and humbled to be sitting here with judges whom I hold in such high regard. Thank you to everyone who made this dream possible.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, I told you at the beginning this was going to be a joyous occasion, and I think it turned out to be that way.

From this view, the smiles on Richard's face and Megan's face when she took the oath, that's something that will never leave me. It was just beautiful.

The judge, the new judge, has asked me to announce that everyone is invited to a reception beginning at 12:00 noon at Teca Restaurant.

With that, believe it or not, we've almost completed. Imagine all of these judges together. You hardly ever see this many of us in a group together.

We need Mr. Morrissey to maybe adjourn us.

Mr. Morrissey.

COURT CRIER: This very special session of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

**THE HONORABLE  
DANIEL D. McCAFFERY**



*Assumed Office: January 9, 2020  
County: Philadelphia*

**SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE  
HONORABLE DANIEL D. McCAFFERY**

held at the:  
National Constitution Center  
525 Arch Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

at 5:59 p.m., on the above date, before Felisa D. McCray, a Court Reporter and Notary Public of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**APPEARANCES:****SUPREME COURT:**

Justice Kevin Dougherty

**SUPERIOR COURT:**

President Judge Jack A. Panella

Judge Susan Peikes Gantman, P.J.E.

Judge Anne E. Lazarus

Judge Victor P. Stabile

Judge Alice Beck Dubow

Judge Deborah A. Kunselman

Judge Mary P. Murray

Judge Maria McLaughlin

Judge Megan King

Senior Judge James Gardner Colins

**COMMONWEALTH COURT:**

Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer

Judge P. Kevin Brobson

Judge Michael H. Wojcik

Judge Ellen Ceisler

**COMMON PLEAS JUDGES:**

Judge Diane Anhalt

Judge Tracy Brandeis-Roman

Judge Giovanni Campbell

Judge Mark Cohen

Judge Dennis Cohen

Judge Robert Coleman

Judge Renee Conger

Judge Paul Cozza

Judge Patrick F. Dugan

Judge Lori A. Dumas

Judge Charles Ehrlich



Judge Joseph L. Fernandes  
Judge Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde  
Judge Christine Hope  
Judge Timika Lane  
Judge Jeffrey P. Minehart  
Judge Margaret T. Murphy  
Judge George Overton  
Judge Ouraina Papademetriou  
Judge Nia R. Perez  
Judge Joffie Pittman  
Judge Kenneth Powell  
Judge Zachary C. Shaffer  
Judge Sierra Thomas Street  
Judge Stella Tsai  
Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper

**MUNICIPAL COURT OF PHILAPHIA**

Judge Bradley K. Moss  
Judge Karen Simmons

**U.S. DISTRICT COURT**

Judge John M. Younge

**ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS**

Senator Lisa Boscola  
Senator Vincent Hughes  
Senator Tim Kearney  
Senator John Sabatina, Jr.  
Senator Sharif Street  
Senator John T. Yudichak  
Representative Tina Davis  
Representative Mike Driscoll  
Representative Maureen Madden

**SUPERIOR COURT STAFF**

Christopher Nace, Executive Administrator

Tom Becker, Fiscal Administrator

Katie Anderson, Assistant to the Executive Administrator

Phil Yoon, Chef Staff Attorney

Ben Kohler, Deputy Prothonotary

Peter Johnson, Chief of Legal Systems

Jay Rycek, Head of the Judicial Protection Unit

Sean Brennan, Judicial Protection Unit

Bob Morrissey, Chief Court Crier

Thomas Morrow, Court Crier

Jeff Bott, Court Crier

**INSTALLATION****OPENING OF THE COURT:**

Robert C. Morrissey, Court Crier

Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS:**

The Honorable Judge Jack A. Panella, President Judge

Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**INVOCATION:**

Father Joseph Campellone, President Emeritus,

Father Judge High School, Oblates of St. Francis De Sales

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Honorable Justice Kevin Dougherty

**REMARKS:**

The Honorable Justice Kevin Dougherty,

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Judge Timika Lane,  
Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Robert Brady,  
Philadelphia Democratic Committee Chairman  
U.S. Congressman, Retired

Mr. Thomas Duffy, Esquire  
Duffy & Fulginiti  
Campaign Chairman

The Honorable Seamus McCaffery,  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Retired  
Remarks on behalf of the McCaffery Family

**PRESENTATION OF COMMISSION:**

Mairead McCaffery, Daughter

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:**

Honorable Judge Paul Cozza,  
Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

Judge McCaffery's Mother, Margaret McCaffery,  
will hold the Bible as he takes his oath.

**ROBING:**

Madison Jenkins & Mairead McCaffery, Daughters

**REMARKS:**

The Honorable Judge Daniel D. McCaffery,  
Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Robert Morrissey, Court Crier,  
Superior Court of Pennsylvania

## OPENING OF THE COURT

THE COURT CRIER: Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. Thank you. Please take your seats. Thank you. Please rise.

The Honorable Judges of the United States District Court.  
(Honorable Judges entering.)

The Honorable Judges of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.  
(Honorable Judges entering.)

The Honorable Judges of the First Judicial District.  
(Honorable Judges entering.)

The Honorable Judges of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia.  
(Honorable Judges entering.)

The Honorable Justices of the Supreme and Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.  
(Honorable Judges entering.)

Let this ceremonial session, the Superior Court come to order. Let all matters and all persons rise and attend. Let the family, friends, and associates of the Honorable Daniel D. McCaffery be joyful. Let the citizens of this Commonwealth be confident and sure as the Superior Court convenes for administration of Daniel D. McCaffery and the oath of office for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

God save the Commonwealth and this honorable court, the Honorable Jack A. Panella, President Judge Presiding. Please be seated.

## INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Good afternoon everyone. Isn't this marvelous. Look at this facility. Judge McCaffery, we have to do this more often. This is just wonderful. This is a very, very joyous day

for us. I don't have to pay for it, Judge, that's why I'm asking you. This is a very joyous day for our newest judge, Judge Daniel McCaffery, and for the family and friends. Judge McCaffery, we welcome you to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and we thank you for joining us and all you out there while we administer the oath of office to Judge McCaffery as he joins this statewide court.

Now in a moment, I'm going to ask all of you to stand for the invocation and to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time, I like to call upon Father Joseph Campellone of the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales for the Invocation. So would all please stand.

## INVOCATION

FATHER JOSEPH CAMPELLONE: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

FATHER JOSEPH CAMPELLONE: In our God of justice, love, and peace, we invoke your spirit right now to be upon us as we ask for your blessings of Daniel McCaffery. We ask you today to be with all of us here, and we also inspire the words of Father Thomas Judge, of be good, do good, be empowered for good, that Dan may inspire those who sit in front of him in a courtroom to always do that. We invoke the spirit of St. Francis De Sales, a patron saint of Dan's high school, who introduced a new way of justice called "Justice under God" as Dan would know as "JUG". Dan never served JUG as judge. Oh, Mrs. McCaffery is saying, "Yes, he did".

Almighty God, we invoke your spirit here for all of us and our country and our city. That our city may continue to be safe from all evils that our judges and those in position may continue to honor with the eyes of God. We invoke your spirit on all our first responders those who keep us safe in our country and in our city.

We invoke your spirit, Lord, to keep our city safe from all the distress. Almighty God, today we invoke in a special way the spirit of thanksgiving for Daniel McCaffery, and we ask you also with his family, his mom, and his dad, who is looking down at us from heaven, to be here with us and to continue to strengthen him to do good and be good and be a power for good. We ask you this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE COURT CRIER: Please remain standing while Justice Kevin Dougherty leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*(Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)*

Please be seated.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Again, what a wonderful day for all of us but especially the McCaffery family. Listen all of you out there, just like I had to do the other day, we had an installation last week. I'm going to call upon all of you to do a lot of work for me. We have a lot of work to do this afternoon and this evening, and I'm going to ask you to join us a good couple of times, but before any member of the judiciary is introduced, it is my great honor and privilege to ask you in a moment to stand and join me in welcoming Margaret McCaffery and her 90 years of experience being here.

*(Applause.)*

Thank you. Did we surprise you? We wanted to.

It's always an honor for the Superior Court to host members of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and we would like to ask all of you to join us in thanking Justice Kevin Dougherty of the Supreme Court for being here with us today.

*(Applause.)*

We are also greatly honored to have with us retired Justice of the Supreme Court Seamus McCaffery, who happens to be related.

*(Applause.)*

I'm just looking for him. I just found him. It's also a great honor to have the United States District Court Judge John Young from Philadelphia here

*(Applause.)*

Now, this time, I'm going to ask you all to hold your applause until I introduce all of the judges and you see I'm going to be going back and forth and watch us as we go back. The first one, Justice Dougherty, President Judge Emeritus Susan Peikes Gantman, then Judge Anne Lazarus. Going back to my right, Judge Victor Stabile. Back to the left, Judge Alice Beck Dubow. Judge Deborah Kunselman who joined us from Pittsburgh. Judge Mary Murray who also joined us from Pittsburgh. One of your own Judge Maria McLaughlin. Our other newest judge, Judge Megan McCarthy King, and Senior Judge James Gardner Colins.

*(Applause.)*

We like to introduce people during the program or else you're going to be sitting there through 30 straight minutes of introduction. So we will introduce everyone else later in the program. Right now I'd like to bring to your attention that this year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and we're going to have a full ceremony honoring that occasion later in the year, and we're going to have it right here in Philadelphia where the first session of the Superior Court was held.

Coincidentally, it's also the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pennsylvania Bar Association this year, and I see many lawyers out there mostly from Philadelphia. I mentioned this because in light of the prior service of

Judge McCaffery in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, as well as our presence here today in Philadelphia, its very appropriate for us to remember that in 1888 a few Philadelphia lawyers decided to start the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and they even wrote an impressive charter for that association.

Then in 1894, five lawyers from Philadelphia decided to take a few formal steps to create this state bar association. So it brings to mind the meeting created in our great nation, in a meeting that was held later in 1895 and the PBA has been with us ever since. Judge McCaffery with this great historical background, and you with us in Philadelphia today and with your history in Philadelphia, what a perfect time for us to install a judge from Philadelphia to the State Superior Court. Thank you so much.

*(Applause.)*

Philadelphia has so much to be proud of, and although Judge McCaffery has not yet picked out his permanent office, we've given him a temporary office at our offices at the Penn Mutual Building at 6<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. We have already given him two panel assignments I want you to know. With his high energy level, I don't think that's going to be any problem at all.

With that, we'd like to begin with our first speaker, and as I told you before, it's a great honor to have with us Justice Kevin Dougherty. So, I'll now turn it over to Justice Kevin Dougherty.

*(Applause.)*

## REMARKS

JUSTICE KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Thank you, Justice McCaffery, family, and Judge Young, President Judge Jack Panella, President Judge Emeritus Susan Peikes Gantman, my colleagues from Superior, Common Pleas, Municipal and CJC Court and Congressman



Brady, family and friends, and my favorite McCaffery, Mrs. McCaffery, welcome to this auspicious occasion.

Today we are going to take part in a historical occasion, the installation of Dan McCaffery to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. I first and foremost have to thank you Dan and the McCaffery family for giving me the honor and the privilege. We sit here January 9<sup>th</sup>, yet we know today is a historical occasion, and this event will go down in the annals of Pennsylvania history. It's also the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Paine's release of his pamphlet, *Common Sense*.

*Common Sense* was a pamphlet released in Philadelphia written about five blocks from the Delaware River. It then encouraged the people of Philadelphia and what was then continental United States to decide to leave the crown and develop a republic, basic common democracy. The beauty of that pamphlet at that time was that it in and of itself defined equality for all. It stressed the importance of the common man and woman. It wanted the abolishment of slavery. It was preeminently a progressive document. Twelve years later based upon those writings and in the shadow of the building as we sit, the judicial playbook from which we all follow was written.

Now, we sit today and as you heard we are going to sit back and we are going to enjoy the installation of Dan McCaffery on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. You're going to hear a lot of praising from me about him, Dan's accomplishment.

First and foremost, good afternoon. Dan and I were in the District Attorney's office together. We actually mimicked each other's careers for the most part. We went to the DA's office and followed the years together in similar units. We both left after major trials. We both started law firms. Dan was the rich financial partner. I was not. We both got elected on the Bench. Dan served in the district attorney's office for six years, and then in 2013 the good citizens of Philadelphia elected him to the Court of Common Pleas.

I fought vigorously and tirelessly to get him into family court. But based upon his actions and his abilities, he was best for criminal court. He should have gone to civil court because that's where his true worth

was. But in criminal court, he proves himself to be a fair, independent and bright, intelligent judge.

One of the hardest workers on the criminal bench so much to the point that they wouldn't release him to the civil bench. So what did Dan do? He did not hold grudges. He did not stop work. He got elected to a higher court.

Dan has phenomenal accomplishments. I have to tell you the two greatest are sitting besides him, his daughter Mairead and his daughter Madison. Stand up ladies.

(Daughters comply.)

*(Applause.)*

To know the McCaffery family is the embodiment of Mairead and Madison. One of the special things is that Dan is going to be a grand-pop. Because as phenomenal as Madison is, so you have to meet her husband, Steven Jenkins.

*(Applause.)*

That's an inside joke. For those of you who don't know, Steve Jenkins is a family friend of mine, and when he went out with Dan I asked Dan for his permission to keep Steve around, but once he met Steven and the Jenkins family, he knew this was a keeper for life.

*(Applause.)*

With that being said, Dan comes from a phenomenal family. He's one out of six, and he was mommy's baby. So mom, your baby did good. And the beauty of this, as he sits here with a prestigious title with a brother whose a Supreme Court Justice and an accomplished family, and his mom unbeknownst to all of you is still patting his knee as my first wee wien. That's the beauty and I should say the temperament, that Daniel brings to the Superior Court.

I'd have to tell you there was an old Irish proverb that says, "If you praise a child, you praise the mother". No truer words can be spoken about an individual than that of Mrs. McCaffery.

He's going to come onto this court, and you're going to hear and I assume his brother, Justice McCaffery, will give the family history. Well, let me tell you, as an outsider who became an insider to the McCaffery family, you never know the shoes you're walking in.

People assume stereotypes. People assume that because we're in the law and because we wear black robes that sometimes we feel privileged. Yet, the individual, the person in that robe comes with a history. As I indicated, Thomas Paine 244 years ago wrote about a body of law. Yet, Dan is here in Philadelphia seated here with the good fortunes of the blessings of God that he's on Superior Court as a result of religious bigotry and discrimination.

You'll hear that they were immigrants. Mr. and Mrs. McCaffery came from Ireland and because they grew up in Belfast in a predominantly Protestant area where religious sectarian violence, which is so unbelievable to Americans, caused his beating, if not, I believe, beat to a coma causing them to come to the United States.

You think somebody like Dan and his family haven't heard those stories. You don't think that's important or impressive. Is this your story?

JUSTICE SEAMUS McCaffery: You've done it all.

JUSTICE KEVIN DOUGHERTY: I'm sorry. I'll give up.

JUSTICE SEAMUS McCaffery: Now, what will I do?

JUSTICE KEVIN DOUGHERTY: Bring him up. That being said, we are going to hear real history from the brother. I shared because to me that's who Dan McCaffery is. Not the mystique or the image that we see over the commercials. Not the belief that we're Philadelphians or judges from the great state of Philadelphia, but you have a common man with an uncommon heart. You have a man that understands what family, friendship, and loyalty is. But, more importantly, you have a man

that has tirelessly worked in the poorest biggest city in the country, and he's going to take the lessons learned from the streets of Philadelphia and bring to those lessons to eradicate the problems and social inequities throughout Pennsylvania

For that and more than anything, I'm honored and privileged to be here, and I salute you Mrs. McCaffery, for when you praise a child, you praise a mother. And, you, above all people, deserve it. God bless. Good luck. Congratulations and welcome.

*(Applause.)*

Oh, I'm going to hear it when this is over from Seamus.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: At this time, like I told you, during the program we have three judges up here who come from Superior Court from the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, so I thought it would be nice to divvy up the responsibility of introducing others to them. So the first one would be some judges and some of our staff members and Judge Anne Lazarus.

JUDGE ANNE LAZARUS: Good afternoon, Dan. Who would have thought that 20 years ago when you were the D.A. in my room that you would be here today. I would have thought it. So congratulations to you and your family on this day. It's my deep pleasure to introduce the members of the Commonwealth who are here today with us. Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer, Judge P. Kevin Brobson, Judge Michael H. Wojcik, and our own Judge Ellen Ceisler.

*(Applause.)*

From our Municipal Court, it's a pleasure to introduce Judge Brad Moss, Judge Joffie Pittman, Judge Patrick Dugan, Judge Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde, and Judge Christine Hope.

*(Applause.)*

And with regard to our staff, it's a pleasure for me to introduce Chris Nace, Tom Becker, Katie Anderson, Phil Yoon, our staff attorney; Ben Kohler, our Deputy Prothonotary; Peter Johnson, Chief of Legal Systems; and Jay Rycek, Head of our Judicial Protection Unit. We clearly needed you here this afternoon. Sean Brennan, his associate; Bob Morrissey, Chief Court Crier; Tom Morrow, another Crier; Jeff Bott, another Crier for us.

Thank you all for being here. I would ask that our staff please stand up. Without them we couldn't do what we do.

(Staff complies.)

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you, Judge Lazarus. When you stop and think, we are the busiest appellate court in the nation. I recently had to give a speech at the Pennsylvania Bar Association. And so I did a fair amount of research, and we more than double the court closest to us with a per judge number of assignments per year. We would not be able to do it without all the great staff that we have. We are very pleased that all of you are joining today.

Well, at this time, I would ask the Honorable Timika Lane to walk up to the podium to give us your remarks.

JUDGE TIMIKA LANE: I am so honored to speak on Dan's behalf. Today I'm a little emotional. Please bear with me. But, before I get started I want to acknowledge, Justice Kevin Dougherty. I'm about to say McCaffery. I'm sorry, Judge. I apologize. Justice Dougherty, President Judge Panella, President Judge Emeritus Susan Peikes Gantman, Members of Superior Court, my colleagues on the Court of Common Pleas, Municipal Court, and, of course, I can't forget Judge Young on the Federal Bench, and all the other elected officials and dignitaries.

When I think about integrity a few things come to mind. I'm not going to look at you Dan. I can't do it. Some people reference integrity. When they are speaking of the strength, the soundness of it, as a

structural integrity of a building are vessels, others think of integrity as honesty or strong values. A sense of uprightness. While others define integrity as the state of being whole are undivided.

I first met Dan when we were campaigning, I believe, for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. What I knew about him right way was that he was comfortable in his own skin. Regardless of what community we were in, Dan was the same everywhere. He spoke about his family, hard work, perseverance, and his distinguished military career with passion and truth. That I could not help to not only admire him as a candidate but as a man.

I remember him speaking about his parents coming to the United States from Ireland and how being raised by a boxer shaped his outlook on life. Dan is a scrapper in every sense of the word, and that intentional fortitude, that structural integrity, was on display when he walked into a room. He always entered the room with a smile and with a sense of purpose. He exuded a gregarious spirit on the campaign trail that left no doubt that he would be an amazing judge.

Although we both were running for the seats on the Court of Common Pleas at the same time, I never hesitated to assure people that their vote would not be wasted on Dan or to sing his praises. On the campaign trail, Dan became my friend in the truest sense of the word. After we both were elected, our friendship grew tremendously. I had the great fortune of being placed in a courtroom that adjoined his. We were courtroom 601 and 602.

For those not familiar with the Justice Juanita Kidd Center for Criminal Justice, let me just paint a picture for you. Each courtroom was a hallway of sorts behind it with robing rooms and small rooms, small offices.

I'll never forget the day when I had a little dust up in the courtroom. Dan knew that I was on an attempted murder jury trial, and that there had been some intense moments during the trial. So at some point during closing arguments, a passionate prosecutor began pounding on the jury box. The next thing I knew, I turn around, my door flies open behind the Bench, and it's Dan. Not only was it Dan, he has his court clerk and crier with him. They wanted to make sure that everything was

okay and that things hadn't gotten out of hand. That's the Dan that I knew, my big bro.

The man who pulled over on the turnpike while it was snowing to help me with my car on our way home from new judges school. The generous man who brought in ties and clothes for young men who could not afford work clothes. The man who coached rugby for over 20 years. The man who is always ready for a piece of advice for me about my career, family, personal life, and even a good contractor. Where's Shawn?

Dan is straightforward and he doesn't shy away from telling the truth. He calls it as he sees it as we all know. He has strong values and integrity, and Dan is a workhorse as you already heard Justice Dougherty state. On the Bench, Dan is known as the judge that gets it done. He can plow through a high volume list of cases while still being meticulous and thoughtful about the justice he is dispensing. He hates to be idle. I bet you know that about you, don't you Dan. And he never hesitates to call around for work.

I have to tell you that this day is bittersweet for me. I am so proud of you, and I know how hard you worked to get there – to get here. However, I already miss you terribly. I already have blown up your phone and I apologize. I respect his staff on the other hand missing me yelling “Dan Dan” and you yelling “Yo, Tee” from our robing rooms everyday.

Thank you for the years we served together on the Court of Common Pleas and congratulations on this hard one accomplished. I know that the integrity you possess will be a great asset to the entire Commonwealth as it has been for the citizens of Philadelphia. Good luck and I wish you nothing but the best.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Now, this is nothing that you seek out often but it shows you the popularity of Dan McCaffery. We have over 30 members of the trial bench here with us today, and I'd like to ask Judge Alice Beck Dubow to introduce them. Please, Judge you need a microphone.

JUDGE ALICE BECK DUBOW: Yes. As Judge Panella said this is a long list, but it also shows the amount of respect that the trial judges have for Judge McCaffery that there are so many judges here. Also, I have to apologize if I have forgotten anybody and hopefully I have everyone. I would like to acknowledge the following judges who were my former colleagues and my friends.

Judge Diana Anhalt, Judge Tracy Brandeis-Ronan, Judge Gwendolyn Bright, Judge Giovanni Campbell, Judge Robert Coleman, Judge Renee Conger, Judge Paul Cozza from Allegheny County, Judge Lori A. Dumas, Judge Charles Ehrlich, Judge Joseph Fernandes, Judge Timika Lane, lovely comments; Judge Jeffrey Minehart, Judge Margaret Murphy, Judge George Overton, Judge Oraina Papademetriou, Judge Mia Perez, Judge Kenneth Powell, Judge Zachary Shaffer, Judge Sierra Thomas Street, Judge Mark Cohen, Judge Yang Glynn, Judge Dean Gray, Judge Paula Patrick, Judge Dennis Cohen. I'm not done yet. Judge Stella Tsai, and Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper.

*(Applause.)*

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT BRADY: Seamus, you'll never be lost for words.

Good evening everyone and President Judge Jack Anthony Panella, my dear friend and good friend from Easton, PA, who tried to set up boxing matches because I spar a little bit, with me and his client, Larry Holmes. Larry Holmes was champ. Thank God that didn't happen. My nose would be looking out that way, but I appreciate that.

To our Philadelphia judges, our diocese, Judge Collins, Judge Lazarus, Philadelphia delegation, and my dear friend Reva Lockland, give mom a kiss; and to all the judges and to all of you.

You know this is about family. As you know we have the front row here, the McCaffery family and that's what it's all about, this is a boss, that's Mrs. McCaffery alias Saint Margaret, to be able to put up with three boys: Seamus, Daniel and three girls: Molly, Colleen and Kathleen. The girls I'm sure were a pleasure. I know about Seamus and



Danny and they tell me Gary wasn't such a walk in the park either. But what Seamus and Danny put me through for three elections and now two elections from Danny and maybe probably more to come.

It's a credit to you and to Mr. McCaffery smiling down at us for instilling to get them, you know, it's a reflection for the family that he has shown the work ethic that they possess. On behalf of me and all our friends in labor and all other orders, I just want to present to you a small token.

*(Applause.)*

Well you made our job a lot easier by bestowing upon your son's principles. I told Danny, you know, don't worry about Philadelphia because you took care of us for a lot of years when you were attorney for the Democratic City Committee, and you made us all proud when you were in the Court of Common Pleas, Judge. But you demonstrated integrity, temperance, and fairness, and class as a Philadelphia judge in the Superior Court.

As I said Danny worked the rest of the state. I got calls every night to tell me where he was, what he did, and what he was doing that night, and I really wished I didn't have to tell him to keep calling every night because he really did every night. And I got calls from counties he had been to: milking a cow, a farm show, a racetrack, racing cars, feeding chickens. Sheep, were never mentioned by the way but there is no doubt that he would be an excellent addition to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

And once again, you made all of us in the great city of Philadelphia proud. So with that, I have a flag that I had flown over the United States capital. God bless you and God bless the McCafferys.

*(Presentation of the United States Flag.)*

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, we're very fortunate to have a number of elected officials here this afternoon. We would like to

introduce the state senators and the representatives, and I'll ask Judge Maria McLaughlin.

JUDGE MARIA McLAUGHLIN: So Danny, right, I just want to say that we are so proud of you to be from Philadelphia. I know that on election night Jonathan and I were so excited watching the results, and to have you as a member of our court. So I think I speak from all our colleagues and Philadelphians that were cheering you on along with everybody from the state but us especially. We are so happy to have you on the court. And for the elected officials who are here, thank you. Because we know what it takes to be elected, and we appreciate your service.

For our members of the general assembly, all of whom are friends, I'm honored to announce who are here today: Senator Lisa Boscola, Senator Vincent Hughes, Senator Tim Kearney, Senator John Sabatina, Senator Sharif Street, Senator John Yudichak, Representative Tina Davis, Representative Maureen Madden, Representative Jen O'Mara, Representative Ryan Bizzarro, and Representative Scott Conklin.

I think you should be very honored that you have people from Erie and to all through Philadelphia, I think that speaks volumes to who you are. Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, it wouldn't be right to have this ceremony without having a representative from the Pennsylvania Bar Association. And it's really my great great pleasure to introduce a highly respected member by both the Bench and the bar in Pennsylvania, and that's Attorney Thomas Duffy.

ATTORNEY THOMAS DUFFY: I'm not sure how I got here, and I'm overwhelmed.

Members of the Bench, the bar, elected officials, for a kid from a row house from West Philly to be standing here and looking out to be a part of this, I'm really honored and really privileged. I also joke with

Judge Young. I was over this end of town a couple of weeks ago. He rode here and also when I see Senator Joe just a couple of kids from West Philly doing the best we can. Here's how I ended up here.

About 15 years ago, I get a call from Seamus who I barely knew at the time. He says, "I'm having dinner" and he named some restaurant I never heard of around 4<sup>th</sup> and Locust. "I want to come over and talk to you," and he comes over and he says, "My mother's maiden name is Duffy, and we always associate with both the McCafferys and the Duffys." And Seamus says to me, "I want to make you an honorary Duffy, an honorary part of our family. I say, "Seamus, I am a Duffy, you can't make me an honorary Duffy." And Gary was there and Dan, who I didn't know all that well, "We've decided that we're going to make you a member of our family." And I said, "Okay."

It has been the most wonderful experience. It has been the greatest of honor to then become associated with the McCaffery family. I then attend Mr. McCaffery's funeral, to attend weddings, to be in contact daily almost daily with Seamus with his emails and texts. I won't talk too much about how crazy his texting is, still texting, making jokes, and whatnot, but it is great. A great family to be a part of.

So a year and half ago when Dan pretty much makes it clear that he's going to run for Superior Court, I went over and I said "Can I be with you?" and we met and I said "Can I be your campaign chair?" He said "why do you want be to my campaign chair?" Don't you have a practice" Aren't you busy?" and I said, "Dan there's no way I do not want to be part of what you're going to go through the next year and after."

Now, I have to admit, at that time I wasn't. I thought we weren't going to have a primary, and I also thought that the Republicans weren't going to put up such formidable candidates as they did, and maybe had I known that I would've said, "No, Dan you're right. I am pretty busy." But I had the privilege aside from being an adopted member of the McCaffery family to then spend more time with Dan."

Tommy Sheridan is here from the Trial Lawyers. His nickname for Dan was Waldo. Because if you see Waldo, "Where's Waldo", no matter where you ask where's Dan? He's at the Boy Scouts breakfast in Cambria County. Where's Dan? He's in Erie at the tractor pull. Where's

Dan? He's in Clarion. Nobody has been to Clarion since they made the movie the Deer Hunter out there. And you people have run for state elections you didn't go to Clarion, admit it, okay. Dan went there, and nobody worked harder, and nobody took the responsibility of running for office harder than Dan. And we've had the pleasure of everybody we approached for support. The first thing they would say is, "I-love-Dan-McCaffery. I was a criminal lawyer in front of Dan. Nobody knows the law or treats people better than Dan McCaffery. Nobody is fairer than Dan McCaffery."

So it became a very easy lift to become his chairman. It became easy outside the Trial Lawyers CBT PAC to make a pitch for Dan and everybody said, "Of course we are going for Dan". And Celeste put together a wonderful campaign program. Dan knew everybody in every state, I mean, across the state and all 67 counties, and it became an easy thing. I was honored to be a part of this and I am privileged to be a part of this.

I know we have the best Superior Court judge candidate that we have ever seen, and who will do an outstanding job. And I would just like to say God bless you to everybody in this room, and thank you so much for letting me be a part of this, Dan.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: It's no more introductions by the way.

It's now my pleasure of asking him to speak as a former member of both this Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court retired Justice, Seamus McCaffery, who just happens to be the brother of our newest judge.

*(Applause.)*

JUSTICE SEAMUS McCAFFERY: You know you took the entire – why did he even show up.

Mr. Justice Dougherty, President Judge Panella, members of the Superior Court, members and good friends of the Court of Common Pleas, it's wonderful to see you all. My old court, is dear and near to my heart, Municipal Court of Philadelphia. Elected officials, ward leaders, state senators, everybody here, thank you so much. We are so honored as a family to have you here.

Dan called me up the other day to make sure I would fly in from Florida to speak on behalf of the McCaffery family. And, you know, you usually get that call from somebody from upstate Pennsylvania. Like, you drive six hours round trip just to stay for five minutes. It's kind of like, really.

I'm here to talk about our family, and we're all so very proud of Danny. One of the pictures I cherish near and dear to my heart is a picture of me graduating boot camp, Parris Island 1968, in my Marine Corp uniform holding the hands of a little baby boy, that little baby boy is my brother. I am not going to get choked up.

ALL: Yeah, you are.

JUSTICE SEAMUS McCAFFERY: I am. Let me tell you how this all came about. Let me tell you why we're all here. Let me tell you what started this, It just so happens this is January 2020, eighty years ago, January 1940, Mary Ellen Devlin Lynn died. Why is that important? Mary Ellen Devlin Lynn died at the age of 40. Four years earlier, Thomas Lynn died at the age of 36. They were husband and wife. When Mary Ellen died, she left six children orphans at the beginning of World War II. Babies, 8, 9 and 10 years; four girls, two boys. The government stepped in and put those orphan children with a relative, I might add, that relative was not the right person because those children lived an abusive life in Northern Ireland at that time. And I mean an abusive life.

Low and behold, this is a terrible thing to say, World War II started and the Nazis started to bomb Belfast, Northern Ireland. When you tell this story to people they say, "what do you mean the Nazis bombed Belfast?" Belfast Northern Ireland is the largest installation all over the

British islands, called island of ‘new hope’. My mother and her family literally grew up within an eyesight of bombing Terenure.

When the Nazis bombed London, they then flew in, there was a forecast in London, and they flew in and dropped their bombs on Belfast. Belfast was torn apart. People never knew it. They don’t see the stories. That all was World War II. You see London, but you don’t see Belfast. Luckily, my mother and her siblings, they were evacuated. Remember these are orphans, no mom, no dad. The three youngest were sent to a small village outside of Belfast called Magherfelt. As my mother would tell you, it was the happiest four years of her life. There she was in the farms surrounded by cows and people that cared about her. The Nazis were blowing over her city but my mother and her siblings were safe.

Four years after the war, she was allowed to come home. Home to what? She had a 16-year-old sister, Sally, raised these kids. At 17-years-old, two years later, my mother met our father. He was an upcoming professional boxer. At 17 years old, she married and never kissed another man in her life. They were married for 65 years. My father was the brains in the outfit. He’ll tell you. He went to tenth grade. My mom went to eighth grade. Let me tell you why I say he’s the brains in the outfit.

My father got a job as a printer. He’s the only Catholic there. Remember this is a man who’s a boxer. One day on the 12th of July his co-workers, friends, co-workers happen to be Protestants. They saw that my father was a Catholic. They held him down. They beat him down into a coma with a ball-peen hammer. For the sole reason that he’s a Catholic. I mean, the thought of somebody just – your co-worker, your friend and one day because of a certain date from a battle that took place hundreds of years before, these sickos tried to kill this man, our father. And when he came out of the coma my grandfather gave him a phone number for my father from all the way from Canada and said, “Seamus you got to leave.” So my father being the smart one got on a plane and left.

For two years, he was in Montreal getting us a house, a job, everything. He left my mother in Ireland with my older sister Molly, myself, and my younger brother Noel, and this is where it became interesting.

My mother took three babies and put us on a boat, and we sailed out of Northern Ireland. You want to talk about immigrants, I came here on a boat. To this day in my basement, in Northeast Philadelphia, I still have the trunk. It says Cunard. It's the trunk of our family that it belongs to.

We go to Montreal, Canada. My father had a job. My mother said it was too cold. She couldn't stand it up there. It was too cold. I mean, can you imagine Montreal, it's too cold. We had a brother who died up there. My mother suffered through the loss of a baby, my brother Noel, then birth of my brother Gary. Talk about lessons. God works in strange ways. He gave us our best brother, our favorite brother. Right Dan?

My father then applied to come to America. How do you get to America besides crossing over illegally? Back then you had to have a job. You had to have a sponsor. You had to have a home. My father had all that and he took us and put us on a train from Montreal, and we came to Philadelphia where we've been ever since. And my father once upon a time grabbed me by the throat once, when I was acting like Seamus and he said, "Listen punk we came here to be Americans not Irish. You understand that?" And my father was around long enough and my mother has been around long enough to see their children grow up ok.

In fact, Father Judge graduates, one of the great schools in Philadelphia.

FAMILY MEMBER: Which you couldn't get into right away.

JUSTICE SEAMUS McCAFFERY: That's true. Right. Anyway. I want you to think about this ladies and gentlemen, that my mother and father had seven children, one died, six alive, 25 grandchildren, 34, 35 close to it great-grandchildren, okay. That's what my mother had. My mother took that boat ride by herself with three babies. You want to talk about strong. As a result of coming to this refuge she has Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Veterans, because we were here to be Americans not Irish Americans. We were here to be Americans.

As my father the one who told us the greatest country in the world where their children can grow up to be a nurse, a school teacher, lawyers,

Army, Navy, Marines, FBI agents. We personify the American dream. We really do.

Municipal Court for me, Superior Court and by the way, it's such an honor to have a brother in that court because I found out that we're the only brothers that served on the Superior Court, but that we were out shown by a mother/daughter team, my former colleagues Judge Beck and Judge Beck. So I'm just – how is mom. God bless one of the sweetest ladies, great daughters, that I know she's doing well. She comes from a great family too.

But, again, you know, I just want to say folks to my great parents at the age of 40 and 36 a total of 76 years my two grandparents lived. My mother is now in her 90's, and she's out lived all of her siblings and she gets to see all these children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and she's now telling me to shut up. Okay.

So mom, your oldest daughter Molly is here. Your beautiful daughters Kathleen and Colleen are here, and the best son Gary is here. And hopefully now Danny is going to get a pay raise this year. Danny is known in the family that every Sunday after mass he brings our mother Dunkin Doughnuts. We call him Dunkin Doughnut Danny. Now he has a pay raise mom ask him please, Antonio's once in awhile and spring for a nice lunch.

And last, but not least, and I'll close with the Judge. We all wondered for years, another Seamus and Danny – our careers are just as different as day and night. I mean, being the merciless my favorite four-letter word was jail and then there is Dan. Well, I found out at Christmastime what was the difference. What happened? Why we're so different, mom? And you're not going to believe what my mother told me. My mother said that when she was pregnant with me, she drank and smoked. Not with Danny. Now, you see he's the golden child and I'm the sin. Thank you very much.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Very soon we're going to be getting to the actual installation of Judge McCaffery. You know, last



week we did the installation ceremony of Judge Megan McCarthy King, and it was just a beautiful, wonderful ceremony at the Chester County courthouse. It was absolutely gorgeous that day, we met the judge's family, her husband and children, your mom and dad. Like I said, what a beautiful ceremony, and here we are and its nice to have you here with us.

Mrs. McCaffery having you two ladies here with us and just feeling the warmth in this room. Everyone isn't it incredible and looking out that window and it's Independence Hall. And here we've had two weeks installing these two great people in appellate court. Isn't this what America is really all about?

*(Applause.)*

Well, it's time to do the installation, and the first step is to have the commission read, and I know it's just a pleasure for our new judge to have his – his daughter, Mairead McCaffery, is going to read the commission.

## **PRESENTATION OF COMMISSION**

DAUGHTER MAIREAD McCAFFERY: From the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's office, greetings.

Whereas, it appears by the certificates and returns made according to law, of the elections held on the fifth day of November, Anno Domini, two thousand and nineteen, that you have been duly elected Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Know, Ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Commission.

To Have and to Hold the said office together with all the rights, powers, and emoluments thereunto belonging or by law in anywise

appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, two thousand twenty, if you shall so long behave yourself well.

It is under my opinion and the great seal of the State and the City of Harrisburg this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord, two thousand nineteen, and the Commonwealth of the two hundred forty-fourth signed by Governor Tom Wolf.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: In a moment, I'm going to ask all of you to stand, and before that I'm going to ask Judge Cozza of Allegheny Family Court to please approach the bench. And Judge McCaffery would you please hold up your hand. At this time, we're going to hear the Administration of the Oath of Office. Would you all please stand with us.

*(Applause.)*

## PRESENTATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

BY JUDGE PAUL COZZA

Q. Would you raise your right hand, I, state your name.

A. Daniel D. McCaffery.

Q. Do solemnly swear that I will support?

A. I will support.

Q. Obey?

A. Obey

Q. And defend?

A. And defend.

Q. The Constitution of the United States?

A. The Constitution of the United States.

Q. And the Constitution of the Commonwealth?

A. And the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Q. And that I will discharge?

A. I will discharge.

Q. The duties of my office with fidelity?

A. The duties of my office with fidelity.

Q. Congratulations.

*(Applause.)*

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Remain standing while the judge's two daughters obtain some photographs, and help him to be robed.

(ROBING OF JUDGE McCAFFERY BY HIS DAUGHTERS,  
MADISON JENKINS AND MAIREAD McCAFFERY)

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Okay. Judge McCaffery a longer walk up here. Please be seated and get comfortable because Judge McCaffery is ready to have his closing remarks.

### **CLOSING REMARKS BY JUDGE MCCAFFERY**

JUDGE DAN MCCAFFERY: First of all, thank you all for coming. I made a couple of drafts. The first three drafts said thank you all for coming. I'll be brief, but when I got to page ten I forgot the I'll be brief part.

I have been to these going on 30 years, 35 years in my professional life and have sat where each of you is sitting out there, and I couldn't wait for the speeches to be over so that I could get to the bar. A few things have to be said and there's too many pieces to this puzzle to really be brief.

Before I get started on my remarks. For those of you who heard a lot about what it's like going around Pennsylvania and going to Clarion County and Elk County, and when you think about everybody on this

stage has run and has been elected to statewide office. And no matter how much you think you may know about politics and elected office, when you run into a situation where there's – until you finally do it, you don't fully understand what it's like.

Before I get started, I just want to take a moment to personally and publicly acknowledge my running mate Amanda Green-Hawkins who came from Pittsburgh to be here today. Amanda can you stand up for us.

(Amanda Green-Hawkins complies.)

*(Applause.)*

Amanda got 1.2 million votes from every county in Pennsylvania, and I don't think we've heard the last of her. I also like to publicly acknowledge Christylee Peck who ran with me as well as my new colleague Megan McCarthy King. What an acknowledgment. Megan, Christylee, and Amanda all three of them are absolute warriors and it's an absolute pleasure to run around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with them and I'm elated to be here with Amanda and Megan.

*(Applause.)*

So a few days after the election I was sitting in my office in the CJC and my cell phone rang. It was a reporter, a friend of mine I have known for a bunch of years and we've played rugby. He said, "Danny, listen the results are pretty much in now and it looks like you almost got 1.3 million votes." He said, "I think I'd like to interview you for an article because when you think about it you got 1.3 million votes. You won running against five women in the year of the woman, in the face of the Me Too Movement, and a lot of people out there are asking, you know, how the hell did you do this?" And I said to him, "To be honest with you it's a puzzle." And at first I think he thought, "Well, I don't really know what happened." That's not what I meant.

Like all good puzzles, puzzles have many many good pieces. If you all could do me a favor, I want each and every one of you to take a look around at the other people in this room because each and every one of

you are the pieces to that puzzle. The reason I'm sitting up here right now in the Superior Court is because of what each of you brought to this campaign and more importantly what you brought to me.

I look out when I first get here and when I first got in this room and I saw some of my friends in the room that I grew up with sitting back there: March Arch, John Basquill, Brian Reidy. These are guys that I grew up with in grade school.

*(Applause.)*

They were friends of mine from the beginning and will be friends of mine to the end. These were the guys that knew me to be more likely to be standing in front of a judge than becoming a judge and they never much wavered in the friendship and never much wavered in the support. These people I grew up with and these people I went to high school with have been lifelong friends, and they taught me about loyalty, and they taught me about friendship, and that's always been a big piece of the puzzle.

I also look and think about my friends in the Army. As you've heard mentioned, I was able to serve three years of active duty in the United States Army. And I don't need to talk about the sacrifices that the members of our military make each and every single day. You all know about that. The military taught me discipline. It taught me commitment, and it taught me to work for a cause much larger than myself and this experience formed a cornerstone of the puzzle that brought me up here today.

I also met a couple of my colleagues from the Philadelphia District Attorneys Office on the way in the door Neil Mara, Ken Zylstra, and a few other guys. These are men who served with me side by side every single day in the Philadelphia DA's office fighting for justice, fighting for victims of crime, and that taught me dedication to a cause better than myself, and in the process it gave me my closest friends and some of my best confidants. I thank you for that.

My home for 16 years professionally when I left the DA's office was a little firm called Jaffe Friedman, Schuman, Nemeroff, and Applebaum.

It was a bunch of Jewish guys from Montgomery County who took a flyer with a little kid from Northeast Philadelphia. Once I joined that firm, they taught me about how to practice law. Some of them are here tonight, Bob Nemeroff and Kerry Schuman, I saw when I walked through the door, and a few of the other guys from our firm. They taught me to practice law with my head and most important always practice with my heart. They took me in. They made me their shabbat goy and they will always be with me in my heart.

There's two other people in my law firm that passed away in the last couple of years that I need to acknowledge who couldn't be here today and that's Gary Jaffe and AJ Sciolla. They were men, again, who literally took a flyer from an Irish Catholic kid, made him a lawyer, and treated him like a son, and treated me like a brother.

My colleagues from the First Judicial District, there's nothing that I can say that hasn't already been said. In my opinion, my humble opinion, the First Judicial District of Philadelphia is the Best Trial District in the United States of America. You work tirelessly, you work a lot of times under horrible conditions. Timika, I'm sorry I have to leave you in a cubbie with all the mouse traps in your office, but you taught me how to become a judge.

More importantly, I knew when I was running for appellate court that my friends and colleagues of the First Judicial District will serve you well in the appellate court. They trained me well, prepared me for my duties on the Appellate Court.

Congressman Brady where I spent a better part of my life working in politics. Most people think the world of politics is a cesspool. I know better. Some of my best friends that I have gotten to know in the last 30 years are people that I met in politics. These are people that get involved in politics to make their neighborhoods, their towns, their counties, and their communities, a better place to live, to work, and to raise their families in.

I made some of my best friends in politics, and I know that my victory here tonight is shared by every single one of you including ward leaders and elected officials and county chairs. I thank you for your friendship, and I thank you for your support.

I avoided pointing out individuals throughout the speeches because inadvertently when you come to these things and you start talking about speeches you name individuals you forget somebody and you go, “Oh, gee. I forgot to mention so and so.” But there are some people with whom I would not have been able to be here and they need to be specifically pointed out. One of the first groups I met with along the way was the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and as Tom Duffy mentions the CBT, Committee for a Better Tomorrow.

As most of you know, I spent the last 28 years of my life in the courtroom. I was a trial lawyer for 22 years, and the last six years I spent as a trial judge. I know what trial lawyers do, and I know why they do it, and it has nothing to do with the money – well, mostly. See Seamus he’ll tell you how verdicts have a lot to do with the money. Understand something, I would not be here without the Trial Lawyers, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did from the start of this campaign to the end of this campaign.

The second group that I have to mention is organized labor. Congressman Brady mentioned and when I look out at this particular room and that everybody knows that when a McCaffery runs for office the first contact you make is organized labor. Again, some of my best friends and I don’t know what I did to deserve them are members of organized labor.

When I went across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and I then decided to speak to people, a lot of people from Western Pennsylvania, from Northeast, Northwest, stopped me and would say, “John Dougherty already made the phone call. We’re supporting you. Joe Ashdale already made the phone call, and we’re supporting you. Ryan Boyer has already been here, and we’re supporting you.” These are men and women who stepped up to the plate every single time I run for office. This is my third shot and never once did they blink on me, and I hope members of labor understand that your faith will be your reward.

Also, my campaign team, I saw them out there somewhere. The first person I want to mention is Mike Veon. Is Mike here? Where are you Mike? There he is. I went to Pittsburgh when I was running for office about a year and a half ago. Paul Cozza and I had dinner.

For those of you wondering why a Pittsburgh judge is here tonight. The first day in my new judge school we were at the gym working out and I ran into this kid. We were working out together, and I started talking to him and my cell phone started blowing up and it's Carmella Mullen calling saying, "Are you in judge school at Penn State?" I said, "Yes. You have to run into a good friend of ours. His name is Paul Cozza, and he just got elected, and he's up there with you." I said, "Why is he a friend of yours?" She said, "Jimmy used to work for his dad, Teddy Cozza, and he was the head of the Pittsburgh Teamsters." Paul and I got to be friends right away. We both found ourselves to be two blue collar kids in a white collar world. We've been very close ever since.

So when I was thinking about this job, I went to Pittsburgh, and had dinner with Paul and some friends of his in the labor community. And every single one of them looked at me and said, "If you run for office out here you have to talk to Veon." I said, "Who's Veon?" He said, "Mike Veon."

So I was out there for the Labor Day Parade and I marched in the Labor Day Parade, and when I get to the viewing stands there stood Mike Veon. And Mike got on his traditional cowboy boots and he's standing there and everybody's walking up and he's hugging and kissing them. I walked up and introduced myself to him and I put my hand out and he looks at me and smiles that big smile of his and he says, "Dan McCaffery I gotta introduce you to about 10 or 12 people." He already had 10 or 12 meetings lined up for me, and it never stopped until the end of the campaign.

If you going to run for office and you want some help from Western Pennsylvania Mike Veon knows everybody, cares deeply about politics, cares deeply about elected politics, and I couldn't have done it without Mike Veon.

Toward the end of the campaign we needed some help in the field, and there were two guys that stepped up. They both volunteered for my campaign rolling along towards the end and that was Steven Kochanowski from Beaver county, and I don't see him here tonight, and also Billy Miller. I don't think he made it. These are two guys we brought on the campaign to run the campaign, the feet of the campaign, and these



two guys became indispensable to us towards the end of the campaign. I wanted to publicly acknowledge them as well.

Most importantly, I have to mention my campaign manager. That's the woman standing over there filming everything. That's the answer to the question. When I thought about running for office statewide, I started talking to other people that had run including some people up here and I started asking them about what should I be doing running for office. And about three or four of the first few people said, "Well, have you talked to Celeste Dee yet?" I said, "no."

So I got in my car and drove all the way up to Allentown, and I pulled into a little strip mall, and I walked up to the second floor and met Celeste Dee, and about 10 minutes into the conversation the light-bulb went off. I said, "I would like you to be my campaign manager."

When somebody wasn't towing the line and wasn't doing what they needed to do, Celeste was out there in their face. And if there's anybody out there thinking about running for statewide office you better be able to answer the question: Who is Celeste Dee?

*(Applause.)*

You want to know how close she gets to our clients, last night she came into town and she slept over with Marie McLaughlin and Ellen Ceisler, okay. They all woke up this morning with hangovers because Celeste Dee was in town. They invited me, but I didn't have pajamas.

So finally my campaign chairman, as anybody up here will tell you anybody around the room will tell you, if you're going to run statewide, I already have touched on this a little bit, one of the first questions that people ask you is where's the trial lawyers. Trial lawyers are winners. That's what they do for a living. They win. And the trial lawyers are the most effective organizing arm in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and everybody asks for elected officials from the governor on down for the trial lawyers.

So when I went around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania people would say to me and look around, "Where's the trial lawyers in this race?" And I smile and I'd say, "Well, my campaign chairman is Tom

Duffy.” Now, most of us up here know and most of the lawyers in this room know that Tom Duffy is probably one of the greatest trial lawyers in his generation. He just is. It’s what he does for a living. He wins.

He helps catastrophically injured people, and he does it because he cares very deeply about the law, and he cares deeply about what he does. But more importantly Tom is one of those guys that cares deeply about who you are, cares deeply about people around him. When I got started with this campaign, Tom told the truth. He came over to my chambers and we were talking and we took a walk and he said, “I’d like to be your campaign chairperson.” We made him an honorary Duffy. Since that time he’s become like a big brother to me. He goes to dinner with us. In many ways, he’s the big brother I never had.

*(Applause.)*

You know, loving, supportive, helpful. That’s Tom Duffy.

So this brings me to the last piece of the puzzle which you already heard about, and in a lot of respects why I’m wearing a robe up here right now, and I think this is more coronation for my mom than for me. The biggest piece of the puzzle of us and why I sit here tonight is my family. My family is my strength, my North star and my moral compass.

On the campaign people would say to me all the time, “Man, how did you connect so well with women?” I said, “Well, it’s so easy. I was raised by strong women.” I have two strong daughters, Madison and Mairead, who are tough, smart, beautiful, independent, fierce, strong, and loving. I have three older sisters the same way.

So when people ask me why I was so strong on women’s issues I said, “I was raised by strong women, and I have raised two strong of my own.”

*(Applause.)*

As Seamus alluded to as Kevin Dougherty stole his thunder, my family’s history starts off in Belfast, Ireland. I’m not going to tell the story any better than Seamus did. So I will leave you with one thing.

Last Friday I showed up to Megan King's installation ceremony and Judge Panella sat me all the way in the back corner which was kind of nice because I'm the newest member of the court. I got to sit out and I talked to Megan afterwards. And when Megan's dad and mom were called up and Megan's dad read the commission and walked up with a walker, you can see the pride oozing out. He was so proud and so choked up and all I could think of is if my father were here today, he would be just as proud. I'm sure he is looking down on me too with the same look on his face as your dad had last Friday.

My father was the toughest best man I've known in my life. I tell everybody and anybody who ever knew my father always said the same thing, your father was fierce. Your father was a great guy. He was by far the best man I ever met in my life and somebody I modeled myself after, and I'm sure my brothers modeled themselves afterwards as well.

But everybody tells me that my father only feared one person and that was my mother. You see everyone who is going to meet my mother later is going to say your mother, she's cute, she's charming, and she's got that little Irish charm, and her little Irish accent, she's adorable. Don't be fooled. Don't be fooled for one second. Seamus alluded to it. Ladies and gentlemen, my father was the toughest best man because my mother made him that way. My mother is the strongest toughest woman wait, sorry – strongest, toughest person I ever met in my life.

Seamus told the story of how she was. She was a cleaning lady for 26 years in Philadelphia Public School System. She was an orphan. She came to this country literally with nothing else besides her husband, three children, faith in God and a funny little accent. And each of her children made it because the two people, one of whom couldn't be here and the other that's my mom.

And ladies and gentlemen, a lot of people who step up to the Bench will quote Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Paul Roberts, but ladies and gentlemen I will quote John, Paul, George, Ringo and they will tell you love is all you need. And literally the reason I'm here right now and the reason you see my family is because our family who was steeped in strength, commitment, and love, and that's the final piece of the puzzle.

I'll leave you one thing and I'll finish up with one thing because I really couldn't do this without acknowledging her. The last 14 months have been very difficult, but I would never have the strength to do what I did without the prior 14 years, and I want to thank Sam.

*(Applause.)*

So mother and everybody else, as the old Irish song goes, when you start the voyage, it's just me and you, is now look around you because you have your own crew. Mom, this is your crew. I want to end by saying as my brother Seamus said and everybody else said thank you all because you all were the pieces of this puzzle. Each and every one of you brought something important, something indispensable to my journey, and indispensable of how I got here today. So I want to say one thing and God bless you all. God bless the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and God bless our military men and women who basically sleep at night in conditions that are horrible so we can sleep in peace, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT JUDGE PANELLA: Well, at this time I will call upon Robert Morrissey to give us our adjournment.

## ADJOURNMENT

THE COURT CRIER: This very special session in the spirit of Pennsylvania is now adjourned.

(Installation ceremony ended at 7:22 P.M.)



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