

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

**CEREMONIES IN CONNECTION WITH) September 1, 1966
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH) 11 o'clock, a.m.
OF OFFICE TO JAMES B. MESSICK) Courtroom No. 1
AS AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE) Courthouse
SUPERIOR COURT) Dover, Delaware**

PRESIDING: HON. ALBERT J. STIFTEL, P.J.

PRESENT:

- HON. STEWART LYNCH, J.**
- HON. GEORGE R. WRIGHT, J.**
- HON. WILLIAM T. QUILLEN, J.**

**HON. CHARLES L. TERRY, JR., Governor of the State
of Delaware.**

HON. WILLIAM DUFFY, Chancellor of the State of Delaware.

**HON. WILLIAM G. BUSH, III, Judge of the Court of Common
Pleas of Kent County, State of Delaware.**

**BRUCE M. STARGATT, ESQ., Vice President, Delaware State
Bar Association.**

and others.

HON. ALBERT J. STIFTEL, P.J.: I wish to welcome the many distinguished public officials who are present in this courtroom. We are honored by their presence and by the presence of all of you and we welcome all of you to this special session of the Superior Court.

On August the second the State Senate confirmed Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr.'s appointment of James B. Messick as Judge of the Superior Court and the Orphans Court of the State of Delaware. Today he is about to assume his new duties.

Mr. Messick is well known to all of our Judges. He has many times appeared in this courtroom and has acquired experience in his profession which will be most useful, I am sure, to the Superior Court in the discharge of his duties. Mr. Messick graduated from Duke University Law School in 1948. Three years later he became Prothonotary of Kent County. While he was Prothonotary he also occupied the position of Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware, and when the new Supreme Court was constituted he continued as its Clerk until January 14, 1955.

In recent years Mr. Messick has served as attorney for the State House of Representatives and just last month he resigned as President of the Kent County Levy Court, which Court he has served since 1962. He has demonstrated a temperament,

experience and ability which will enable him to discharge the duties of his office with real competence.

I had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Messick as a Deputy Attorney General more than a decade ago. He was an indefatigable and conscientious Deputy. We oft times met and discussed our responsibilities and I was always impressed with his interest in his work and his ability to perform it.

I am very sure that this is a proud moment for Jim's wife, Teresa, and their daughter, Lisa. We wish to congratulate them on this occasion.

We are fortunate to have such a fine individual as Mr. Messick join our bench and I feel sure that his services will be most rewarding to the people we serve.

Now I will administer the oath of office to Mr. Messick and then I will call upon Bruce M. Stargatt, Esquire, a Vice President of the Delaware Bar Association and representing the Association here today, to say a few words regarding this occasion. Then I will call on Judge George R. Wright, whom you all know very well, to say a few words.

Mr. Messick, will you please stand and I respectfully request that all in the audience stand.

(Whereupon Judge Stiftel administered the oath of office to Mr. Messick.)

JUDGE STIFTEL: Judge Messick, it is certainly a pleasure.

(Whereupon Judge Wright placed the judicial robe upon Judge Messick.)

JUDGE STIFTEL: Mr. Bruce Stargatt will now say a few words to us.

BRUCE M. STARGATT, ESQ.: Governor and Mrs. Terry, President Judge Stiftel, Judges of the Superior Court, ladies and gentlemen: I rise on behalf of the Delaware Bar Association to discharge the singularly pleasant duty of expressing to Judge Messick our warm and sincere pleasure at his investiture to the Delaware Bench. Judge Messick, it is an honor to be among the first to say it and I would speculate that this title, which has an unfamiliar ring to our new jurist's ear, like the freshly-wedded bride who hears herself called "missus" for the first time, will in time become as familiar as the robe with which he has been mantled today.

My pleasure in welcoming Judge Messick to the Bench on behalf of the Bar Association is enhanced by the richness of my personal feeling. I recall so well twelve years ago meeting our new Judge and his lovely wife when I was stationed at Dover Air Force Base and my family and I were living across the way here at Garden Court Apartments. He was a young lawyer then and

I was a somewhat younger legal officer, and I have watched, therefore, with more than academic interest his steady rise through positions of public service to the current high post which the formality we have just witnessed climaxes.

We Delaware lawyers have the wonderful advantage of practicing before one of the fine trial benches in this country. Our Superior Court epitomizes the best our judicial system has to offer. Judge Messick's addition to this Court will insure its continuing high quality.

On behalf of the Delaware Bar Association let me welcome and congratulate you, your Honor, Judge Messick.

JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very kindly, sir.

Judge Wright, please.

HON. GEORGE R. WRIGHT: I should like now to welcome Judge Messick to our ranks. He begins a unique experience, an experience that one who has not worn these robes can never describe. It is difficult even for those attorneys who customarily practice before us to fully understand the scope of our responsibilities.

Judge Messick will find judicial life rewarding and satisfying. The challenges he will face know no bounds. His judgments will affect the lives and the property of his fellow man. Some of his days will be filled with the cross currents

of human emotion and on other days he will find the judicial chair the loneliest place in the universe. Judge Messick joins a proud and dedicated Court whose Judges look forward to the fresh approaches and new ideas which this vigorous and experienced lawyer will bring to our Bench.

Now Judge Messick takes his place in Delaware history as the forty-fourth Delaware Superior Court Judge. We wish him well.

JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much, Gentlemen. These proceedings are now at an end but Judge Messick will remain here to greet his many friends. Thank you kindly for coming. We all sincerely appreciate it.
