

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE
IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	Thursday, November 2, 2000
CEREMONY OF INVESTITURE)	3:00 p.m.
OF)	
JOSEPH R. SLIGHTS, III)	Superior Court
)	Courtroom No. 301
AS AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF)	Daniel L. Herrmann
THE SUPERIOR COURT)	Courthouse

PRESIDING: HON. E. NORMAN VEASEY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

SITTING: HON. HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY, PRESIDENT JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

HON. RICHARD R. COOCH, RESIDENT JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

PRESENT: HON. THOMAS R. CARPER, GOVERNOR,
STATE OF DELAWARE

DENNIS L. SCHRADER, ESQ., PRESIDENT
DELAWARE BAR ASSOCIATION

SIDNEY BALICK, ESQ.

KENT A. JORDAN, ESQ.

RICHARD GALPERIN, ESQ.

REVEREND EMMANUEL S. HEDGEBETH

Members of the Delaware General Assembly,
Judges of State and Federal Courts,
and Others.



November 2, 2000
Courtroom No. 301
3:00 p.m.

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PRESENT:

As noted.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Please remain standing for the invocation by Reverend Hedgebeth.

(Invocation by Rev. Emmanuel S. Hedgebeth.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Reverend.

You may be seated.

May I begin by introducing those who are seated on the Bench with me today.

To my right is Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey of the Supreme Court of Delaware. To my left is Richard R. Cooch, Resident Judge of the Superior Court of Delaware. To the left of Resident Judge Cooch is where Superior Court Judge Joseph Slights will be seated soon.

In the jury box are Superior Court Judges Stokes, Bradley, Vaughn, Graves, Herlihy, Babiarz, Goldstein, Carpenter, Silverman, Alford, and Del Pesco, all robed for this occasion.

1 The Court wishes to recognize the family
2 members of Judge Slight's who are present today, and in
3 particular, Joe's wife Ellen and his sons, John, age
4 six, and Michael, age four; and his parents, Joanne
5 and Joe Slight's; and his sister, Jean Bleiler, her
6 husband, Rick Bleiler, and their two children, Bobby
7 and Shanlynn; Joe's mother and father-in-law, Caroline
8 and Coke Westbrook.

9 And I would also like to take a moment to
10 recognize Reverend Emmanuel Hedgebeth who we've
11 already heard from, who is Joe's pastor at the
12 People's United Church of Christ and his neighbor as
13 Joe was growing up in Dover. And I see there's many
14 faces from Dover here as well.

15 Reverend Hedgebeth has been with the Slight's
16 family through good and bad times and has graciously
17 agreed to come out of retirement to give the
18 invocation and benediction today.

19 The Court also wishes to recognize His
20 Excellency, Governor Carper, and the members of the
21 Delaware Senate and House who are present, members of
22 the Delaware Judiciary and Bar, New Castle County
23 public officers, and Joe Slight's' many, many friends,

1 including those who will speak today, and I will
2 introduce them to you shortly.

3 To each of you and all of you a very warm and
4 special welcome to the Superior Court. We are here
5 today to commemorate the beginning of Joe Slight's
6 career as a member of the Superior Court, our state's
7 general jurisdiction trial court. The proceeding is
8 one of investiture, where the historical robing is one
9 of special ceremony, significance, and public
10 commitment under oath.

11 The robe itself is a symbol of impartiality
12 and the judge's solemn duty to administer equal
13 justice on behalf of the people we serve. The robe
14 and the red sash worn by the Superior Court judges
15 today symbolizes the heritage and continuity of the
16 Superior Court as a law court in Delaware with a
17 history of more than 330 years.

18 Our speakers today will tell you more about
19 our friend, Joe Slight, a judge who brings impressive
20 credentials and experience to the Superior Court.
21 Joe, you will learn, is experienced both as a trial
22 and appellate advocate. He's also an accomplished
23 author, having authored publications with Chief

1 Justice Veasey as a lawyer.

2 I am confident, as are all of the judges,
3 that Judge Slights will serve the public with
4 distinction as a Superior Court judge. Before he
5 becomes a Superior Court judge, the oath is to be
6 administered, and I would like to ask at this time
7 Chief Justice Veasey to give us his remarks and to
8 publicly administer the oath of office.

9 Ellen Slights will hold the Bible when that
10 is done, and Judge Cooch will assist with the robing.
11 Chief Justice.

12 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Thank you.

13 Joe Slights knows me well enough to know that
14 I can usually be heard.

15 Joe, why did they put you all the way in the
16 back there?

17 JUDGE SLIGHTS: I'm not entirely clear.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Governor Carper, thank
19 you very much for being here. I know you're always
20 busy, but I understand you're unusually busy this
21 week, but thank you for being here and thank you for
22 this appointment.

23 Governor Tribbet, it's nice to see you here.

1 All the distinguished members of the Delaware
2 and Federal Judiciary, those who are currently active
3 and those who are retired, and members of the General
4 Assembly, and friends of the Court, and friends of Joe
5 Slights and his family, we are here to commemorate the
6 investiture of the man we now call Joe Slights, but in
7 a minute, we'll call Judge Slights.

8 As Chief Justice, I am particularly honored
9 to be part of this occasion and to bring you greetings
10 from the Supreme Court. This is a very important
11 event for the Judiciary and for the Slights family,
12 and I am delighted that as many members of the Slights
13 family are here as we see here today.

14 It's also an important event for the Delaware
15 Judiciary, as I mentioned, because Joe Slights is
16 about to undertake the onerous and awesome
17 responsibilities of a judge of the Superior Court.

18 This is an overworked court, our court of
19 general trial jurisdiction. Our judges on the
20 Superior Court handle difficult, complex and extremely
21 important civil and criminal litigation. The
22 significance of the work of this court cannot be
23 overstated, both in human terms and in terms of

1 national importance of the work of this court.

2 It was about 43 years ago that I was admitted
3 to the Bar of the Supreme Court, and young lawyers, as
4 I was at that time, were the beneficiaries of the
5 competence and kindness and the courtesy of judges
6 then sitting and most of the lawyers then practicing
7 law. They practiced civility as well as practicing
8 law and practicing judging, and as true mentors, they
9 instilled these qualities in others.

10 Things are not always as civil in the
11 practice of law today and in the courtrooms of this
12 state and country as they were then, but we do very
13 well in Delaware, and we need to preserve our civility
14 and our mentoring culture.

15 Joe, when you joined Richards, Layton &
16 Finger as an associate in 1988, you and I worked
17 together for a short time, and I had the pleasure of
18 being your mentor and worked closely with you on
19 corporate litigation matters during the hectic
20 takeover period of the late 80's. And I was impressed
21 then not only with your competence and hard work, but
22 your integrity and civility and traditional Delaware
23 values.

1 You were born in Dover, Delaware, and you
2 come from, as they say, "good Delaware stock."
3 Notable in Delaware's history is your late
4 grandfather, the late Vernon Derrickson.

5 Joe Slights will soon undertake, soon embark
6 on this new career, and he will often be treading on
7 unfamiliar grounds as he renders decisions which not
8 only will make law, but I think will make sense.

9 And I'm confident that he'll be an important
10 contributor to what Governor Carper and Governor
11 Castle and Governor DuPont and Governor Tribbet have
12 said is the best judicial system in the country.

13 I'm confident from your background, your
14 family, and your legal career since those early days
15 twelve years ago when you were a fledgling lawyer and
16 we worked together, that those values are in your
17 blood, Joe, and I know you will apply them
18 consistently on the Bench of this great court.

19 And at the end of your twelve-year term on
20 this court, if you're not promoted to a higher court
21 in the meantime, we'll look back over your career as a
22 judge, and I fully expect not only that your career
23 will be distinguished, but that you may also become

1 one of the great ones. And along the way, I expect
2 you'll be a great mentor as well.

3 In a moment, we'll step down to the floor
4 level to administer the oath. Joe's wife Ellen will
5 hold the Bible for the administration of the oath, and
6 after the administration of the oath, Resident Judge
7 Cooch will assist in the robing, and then Judge
8 Slights will ascend the Bench and we will proceed to
9 the rest of the ceremony beginning with remarks from
10 Resident Judge Cooch.

11 So will you all please stand now for the
12 administration of the oath?

13 Are you ready to take the oath?

14 JUDGE SLIGHTS: I'm ready.

15 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Would you please place
16 your right hand on the Bible and repeat after me?

17 I, your name...

18 JUDGE SLIGHTS: I, Joseph Slights...

19 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...do proudly swear...

20 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...do proudly swear...

21 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...to carry out the
22 responsibilities...

23 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...to carry out the

1 responsibilities...

2 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...of the office of
3 judge of the Superior Court...

4 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...of the office of judge of
5 the Superior Court...

6 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...to the best of my
7 ability...

8 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...to the best of my
9 ability...

10 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...freely
11 acknowledging that the powers of this office...

12 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...freely acknowledging that
13 the powers of this office...

14 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...flow from the
15 people I am privileged to represent.

16 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...flow from the people I am
17 privileged to represent.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: I further swear...

19 JUDGE SLIGHTS: I further swear...

20 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...always to place the
21 public interests...

22 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...always to place the public
23 interests...

1 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...above any special
2 or personal interests...

3 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...above any special or
4 personal interests...

5 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...and to respect the
6 right of future generations...

7 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...and to respect the right
8 of future generations...

9 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...to share the rich,
10 historic...

11 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...to share the rich,
12 historic...

13 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...and natural
14 heritage of Delaware.

15 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...and natural heritage of
16 Delaware.

17 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: In doing so...

18 JUDGE SLIGHTS: In doing so...

19 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...I will always
20 uphold and defend...

21 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...I will always uphold and
22 defend...

23 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...the Constitution of

1 my country and my state...

2 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...the Constitution of my
3 country and my state...

4 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: ...so help me God.

5 JUDGE SLIGHTS: ...so help me God.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Congratulations.

7 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Welcome, Joe, to
8 the Superior Court.

9 JUDGE SLIGHTS: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: At this time,
11 Resident Judge Cooch has his remarks to make.

12 Judge Cooch.

13 RESIDENT JUDGE COOCH: Governor Carper, Chief
14 Justice Veasey, President Judge Ridgely, other members
15 of the Bench and Bar, and especially Judge Slights,
16 his family and friends:

17 Those who have studied the subject of the
18 scope of duties and responsibilities of a resident
19 judge of the Superior Court know that the job
20 description of resident judge is a bit lacking in the
21 Delaware Constitution and in the Delaware Code.
22 However, I have recently discovered in the penumbra of
23 Article IV, Section 2 of the Delaware Constitution

1 that one of the more pleasant duties of a resident
2 judge is to extend a warm welcome to a new judge as he
3 or she joins the Superior Court Bench in that resident
4 judge's county. I am therefore very happy to welcome
5 Judge Slights today.

6 I extend this welcome on behalf of everyone
7 in the Superior Court in New Castle County, the
8 judges, the commissioner and masters, the judicial
9 secretaries, the law clerks, the Prothonotary, the
10 Court Administrator's Office, the Investigative
11 Services Office -- that's the new name of the former
12 Presentence Office -- the bailiffs, and the court
13 reporters.

14 Judge Slights, there is no finer group of
15 people anywhere to work with than the employees of New
16 Castle County Superior Court, and we all look forward
17 to assisting you in every way possible.

18 One final comment. From all accounts,
19 including my own observations, you possess that
20 important Delaware judicial quality: a first-rate
21 judicial temperament.

22 The Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges
23 to be "patient, dignified, respectful and courteous to

1 litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, etcetera." As
2 I speak today, I can almost feel the gaze on these
3 proceedings of our good but departed friend, Judge
4 Stiftel, from his portrait behind me. I know that
5 Judge Stiftel, whose judicial temperament was second
6 to none, would join me when I say now that we can all
7 safely predict that there will be no slights from
8 Judge Slights.

9 Welcome aboard, Judge Slights.

10 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Judge
11 Cooch.

12 I would now like to recognize Governor Carper
13 for his remarks, if you would care to make some,
14 Governor.

15 GOVERNOR CARPER: President Judge Ridgely,
16 thank you very much. Chief Justice Veasey, it's nice
17 to be with you, sir. And to our resident judge and
18 newest judge, to members of the Bench and Bar, to
19 members of Joe's family, to Ellen and to John and to
20 Michael, especially, and to those who are here with us
21 today and those that are looking down, I'm sure, from
22 way on high with great pride.

23 I just want to preface my remarks this

1 afternoon -- This is a busy time in my life, as some
2 of you know. I just want to preface my remarks today
3 by saying that I believe we need more people in
4 Washington today that think and act like governors.
5 I'm just kidding. I'm not going to go there. I've
6 only said that about a thousand times this year.

7 I don't know who is going to be the happiest
8 when next Tuesday is over, the voters or me, but I'm
9 sure everyone in my family will be pleased, and my
10 guess is so will your family, too.

11 The seat that Judge Slight's fills has been
12 vacated by a fellow who is pretty good in his own
13 right, and we lost a great one when Bill Quillen
14 decided to hang it up. And we think you've gotten
15 yourselves a fellow who is going to grow into those
16 shoes real well. I'm proud he was willing to apply.

17 And I'll tell you, Ruth Ann Minner, the
18 Lieutenant Governor here, who someday may be sending
19 in names for confirmation to the Senate as well, and
20 Governor Tribbet, who has done that himself, we have a
21 system here that is designed to make sure that we have
22 wonderful names of people for governors to interview.
23 And I tell you, I could not have had three better

1 names to choose from, and could not have made a
2 mistake in selecting any one of the three.

3 I am just pleased, Joe, that you were willing
4 to go through it and that we've gotten a unanimous
5 consent of the Senate to getting you confirmed.

6 I just want to think back in sort of a
7 reflective mood. As governor coming down in the end
8 of my administration, someone said to me the other
9 day, "You're a lame duck." I said, "Better a lame
10 duck than a dead duck."

11 But I remember back when -- I think of this
12 with Ruth Ann on the campaign trail running with John
13 Burris -- that all those times that my opponent and I
14 in 1992 went up and down the State, debates and joint
15 appearances, over 30 times during the course of the
16 '92 campaign, one of the issues, one of the questions
17 that was never raised to us one time was, "What kind
18 of qualities would you look for in nominating someone
19 to the Bench?"

20 And I have shared this with Chief Justice
21 Veasey any number of times, but some of you heard me
22 say this before. I'll say it again. One of the most
23 important things that the governor does in this state

1 is to nominate people to the Bench to each one of our
2 courts. It's one of the most important duties that we
3 have.

4 We are blessed in this state and have been
5 for some time with not just what I believe, but many
6 in our state and outside of our state believe is the
7 finest Judiciary of any state, the finest.

8 And so, Joe, you join this Bench today taking
9 the place of -- I see Bill Quillen out there -- of a
10 terrific jurist, and joining what I believe is maybe
11 the finest Judiciary in America.

12 Over the years, I didn't have to come up with
13 an answer to that question eight years ago about what
14 would you look for, because it was never asked, but
15 the things that I've learned to look for and the
16 qualities that I've learned to look for in the last
17 eight years are, one, just people that are bright,
18 people that are very, very bright; people who know the
19 law and are well-schooled in the law; people who, as
20 Judge Cooch has said, people who are civil, who
21 believe in that golden rule, treating other people in
22 the way they would want to be treated and making sure
23 the people in the courtroom before them are treated as

1 you or I would want to be treated.

2 Making sure that someone works hard. I don't
3 ever want to appoint somebody to the Bench and find
4 out that they've sort of let up when they got there,
5 as my wife likes to say, "retired on the job."

6 And I think it's important that the people
7 that we appoint to the Bench be open-minded, that they
8 be able to make a decision, and even in the toughest
9 of cases, they have good judgment, and that they're
10 willing to make that decision and to hopefully make
11 the right decision more often than not.

12 Those are some of the qualities that I was
13 looking for when we were trying to fill this vacancy,
14 and those are the kinds of qualities that we found in
15 Joe Slights.

16 And for everybody in this room and some that
17 aren't here, I want to thank you for what you've done
18 along the line when he was a wee lad, just growing up,
19 in helping to shape him and mold him, turn him into a
20 man that we can all be real, real proud of.

21 I think you do have the potential to go on
22 and be the great one. You're certainly succeeding one
23 of the great ones, and you're joining some great ones

1 as well.

2 I'm going to ask you to excuse me, because I
3 head out of here on to some other stops, but I'm real
4 proud that you accepted the nomination, I'm grateful
5 to the members of the Legislature that are here and
6 the Senate for unanimously confirming you, and I wish
7 you Godspeed and great good fortune going forward.

8 Thank you so much.

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Governor
10 Carper, and thank you also for all of the appointments
11 you have made to the Superior Court during your tenure
12 as governor.

13 Our next speaker will be Dennis L. Schrader,
14 Esquire, the president of the Delaware State Bar
15 Association.

16 Mr. Schrader.

17 MR. SCHRADER: Thank you.

18 Judge Ridgely, Chief Justice, Governor
19 Carper, Governor Tribbet, and distinguished guests,
20 greetings to all of you from the Delaware State Bar
21 Association.

22 The Delaware State Bar, as many of you know,
23 represents the 3,000 lawyers and judges of this state

1 that come from all of the counties. And among our
2 purposes is that we try to maintain the honor and
3 dignity of our profession, to perpetuate and preserve
4 our legal history. For those two reasons, we come
5 together today to celebrate the investiture of Judge
6 Slights.

7 For those of you who are not lawyers, I'm
8 going to address the rest of my comments. Except for
9 the Sussex County delegation, which is sitting in this
10 area, you may have heard these before. There are a
11 couple of points that I would like to make with all of
12 you who are not lawyers.

13 The first of these is this: A person's rank
14 has an inverse relationship to the length of time in
15 which he speaks. Therefore, I will be quick. It
16 gives me the illusion of being purposeful in my
17 speaking and will give you a benchmark to judge
18 whether or not the other speakers were long-winded.

19 The more important point I would like to make
20 with you is that in this building, in this room, and
21 in particular in this Superior Court, a great deal of
22 the legal history of Delaware has taken place. The
23 Superior Court has the greatest, most diverse

1 jurisdiction of any of the trial courts in this state.

2 It ranges from the mundane collection of
3 promissory notes to complex litigation involving
4 insurance companies. It involves matters as simple as
5 trespass, it goes to murder, it goes to rape. It has
6 a horrible burden in terms of dealing with the very
7 problems that the people of Delaware get themselves
8 into.

9 Ultimately, and I suspect the judges sitting
10 here today will agree with me, sometimes it seems like
11 it's never-ending. And it would seem sometimes that
12 the lawyers don't always help keep things moving. And
13 I suspect some of the gentlemen wearing the red sashes
14 today, they would like to hear at least one case
15 dispositive motion in every case in order to help
16 facilitate the process a little bit.

17 But in this building and in this court, the
18 Superior Court has done many things to try to make the
19 process work better. There's been arbitration,
20 mediation, settlement weeks, innovative technology
21 such as the e-courtroom, all of which have been
22 brought about to try to help serve the needs of our
23 people.

1 In that end, though, not all of those work.
2 And in the end, not all of those things are what the
3 people of the State of Delaware are looking for. What
4 I think the people of this state really care about is
5 not the technology, not the large rooms with paneling,
6 the lawyers with robes or judges with robes. What
7 they look for are judges who will be the final word in
8 all manner of things, whom they believe have been and
9 have become the best judges in this state.

10 It is into this world that we send Joe
11 Slights today. We're going to give him a lot of
12 problems to deal with. I have had the pleasure of
13 being on a Judicial Appointments Committee for almost
14 20 years, and had the opportunity to read some very
15 remarkable resumes. Judge Slights is certainly one of
16 the most remarkable that you will ever see among a
17 practicing lawyer or a newly appointed judge.

18 By taking the Quillen seat, if you will,
19 Judge Slights has a lot to live up to. But if you
20 were to hand-pick someone to follow judge Quillen, you
21 would certainly find that this nominee is the one who
22 has demonstrated the intellectual, the academic, and
23 the practical background required to be successful in

1 his position.

2 Judge Slights brings with him the qualities
3 to the Bench and the personal history that includes
4 graduation with honors at all levels. He has
5 presented and written a number of academic articles
6 and subjects as diverse as criminal defense and health
7 law. His service as an instructor has been as a trial
8 advocacy professor at Widener University. And of
9 great significance, of course, is his corporate
10 litigation practice with two relatively unknown
11 lawyers, E. Norman Veasey and Charles F. Richards,
12 each who have moved to the highest levels and
13 standards of the Delaware Bar.

14 With this type of talent and with these types
15 of achievements, there should be little or no doubt in
16 anybody's mind that Judge Slights will be successful.
17 And this fulfills the saying that we have as lawyers,
18 and that is, "You look to past conduct to predict
19 future success." And today, I think it is fair to say
20 that we will see that great tradition continue.

21 And on behalf of your peers, the lawyers, the
22 judges of the Delaware State Bar, congratulations to
23 you and best wishes for a very successful career.

1 Thank you.

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Our next speaker is
3 Sidney Balick, Esquire, of the Delaware Bar.

4 MR. BALICK: May it please the Court, Chief
5 Justice, Governor Carper, who I think is no longer
6 with us, Lieutenant Governor Minner, Governor Tribbet.

7 I have to always acknowledge Governor Tribbet
8 because I remember so clearly about 30-some years ago
9 when he called me when I was down at the beach,
10 vacationing with my family, and said, "All right, I'm
11 going to appoint your brother."

12 It is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me
13 to be asked to participate today in this ceremony to
14 elevate Joseph R. Slights, III, to the Bench in the
15 Superior Court, and to participate in a great day in
16 the life of my friend, Joe Slights, who from this day
17 forward, I'll refer to as Judge Slights.

18 I'm unable to resist saying how proud I am
19 that our little law firm now counts among its alumni
20 United States Senator Joe Biden, Superior Court Judge
21 Bernie Balick, later Vice Chancellor Balick, Judge
22 Helen Balick, the first federal bankruptcy judge,
23 Court of Common Pleas Judge Bill Bradley, and now

1 Superior Court Judge Joseph Slights.

2 Another reason that it gives me such a
3 pleasure is that over 30 years ago, when I was a young
4 Wilmington lawyer running for Attorney General, having
5 grown up here in Wilmington, a leader and a
6 distinguished Delawarean in Dover took me under his
7 wing, and that man was known to me as Colonel Vernon
8 Derrickson, and it was Joe's grandfather. So I kind
9 of think it's a little bit of a payback.

10 Along with Joe's parents, Joanne and Joe
11 Slights, his sister Jean and her husband, Rick
12 Bleiler, Joe's wife Ellen, who as I'm sure most of you
13 know is a lawyer and Assistant United States Attorney
14 here in Delaware, their two sons, John and Michael,
15 and Ellen's parents, Caroline and Coke Westbrook, I
16 know that Colonel Derrickson is also looking down very
17 proudly today.

18 In the nomination by Governor Carper and the
19 unanimous confirmation by the Senate of Joseph
20 Slights, born and raised in Kent County, now living in
21 New Castle County, to be a judge of the Superior Court
22 of the State of Delaware, the elected representatives
23 of our people have acted wisely and well.

1 Those elected representatives expect Judge
2 Slights to prove to be a wise and good judge, and the
3 public may be confident that their expectation will be
4 realized in full measure.

5 Judge Slights is a cum laude graduate of
6 James Madison University, losing to my alma matter,
7 the University of Delaware, last week on the football
8 field, 33 to 14. He received his J.D. from Washington
9 & Lee University, where he was a Burk Scholar Teaching
10 Fellow and a member of the National Moot Court Team.

11 Judge Slights comes to the Bench with unusual
12 experience. He started his legal career, as you've
13 heard made reference a moment ago, as a corporate
14 litigator in the firm of Richards, Layton & Finger.

15 In seeking a different kind of experience, he
16 came to our firm, where he practiced in the fields of
17 criminal defense, personal injury, and employment law,
18 primarily representing plaintiffs.

19 And in the last eight years at Morris, James,
20 Hitchens & Williams, Joe has been a member of the
21 firm's commercial litigation and health law practice
22 groups as well as in corporate and fiduciary
23 litigation.

1 He's handled complex civil matters, white
2 collar criminal matters, before both jury and non-jury
3 tribunals. He's handled Medicare and Medicaid fraud
4 cases. So he's represented plaintiffs and defendants,
5 rich and poor, individuals and corporations, and
6 before state and federal courts and wherever else
7 needed, to protect his clients' legal rights.

8 When he decided to leave our firm to go to
9 Morris James, I couldn't understand it. He had been
10 so successful with us, why would he move back to some
11 corporate litigation and representation of clients in
12 complex civil matters?

13 And I was musing about that last week, and I
14 picked up the Delaware Law Weekly, and there was one
15 article about Chancery judges approving payment of
16 legal fees, two of which surpassed a million dollars.
17 And in the same issue, one of my Industrial Accident
18 Board cases was reported. My client was awarded two
19 weeks of compensation for disfigurement, and I was
20 awarded a \$75 fee. Suddenly, it dawned on me.

21 Of course, I'm kidding. The reality is that
22 a lawyer of Joe Slight's ability makes a substantial
23 sacrifice when he moves from a partnership in one of

1 the state's major law firms to the Bench, and he does
2 it because he has a reverence for the law and a desire
3 to serve the people of this state. And I know that
4 that fits Joe exactly.

5 The late James Tunnell has been quoted as
6 saying that the power of the judge is a power that was
7 once given to kings. It is the power to decide
8 whether a person should be imprisoned or even put to
9 death. It is the power to decide whether or not
10 property should be taken from one party and given to
11 another. And these are the powers which, in our
12 society, we give to judges. And today, they vest in
13 Judge Slights the honor to judge responsibly.

14 A judge, it has been said, must listen
15 respectfully and patiently, he must reflect wisely,
16 and he must decide impartially. I know Judge Slights
17 well enough to know that he has the ability to perform
18 these duties with distinction, and I know that he
19 will.

20 As many of you know, it's the practice in
21 these ceremonies that a sitting judge would speak to
22 sort of welcome a new judge to the Bench. And in
23 preparing for these remarks, I had occasion to read

1 some words by former Judge O'Hara. And he talked
2 about some of the obvious characteristics of a judge:
3 that he be learned in the law, that he be even-handed,
4 that he have integrity.

5 But he also spoke of some of the less obvious
6 characteristics, such as the need to be a workhorse.
7 As has been stated, this is a very, very busy court,
8 and the judges are required to work very hard. And
9 the need to have courage to call them as you see them,
10 and not what is expedient in the moment.

11 Judge O'Hara stated that the character that
12 meant the most to him when thinking about good judges
13 is that they are humane in the sense that they
14 understand, revere, and respect the human dignity of
15 the individual who comes before the Court. He spoke
16 not only of litigants in civil cases, but individuals
17 charged with criminal acts and the victims of criminal
18 acts.

19 I expect Judge Slights to exemplify all of
20 these characteristics.

21 As has been mentioned, Judge Slights succeeds
22 Judge William Quillen, in my view, one of the most
23 respected judges in the history of our state. And in

1 his letter of retirement to the governor, a copy of
2 which I was able to receive, Judge Quillen refers to
3 this seat as the ninth seat, which has existed for 34
4 years. And he stated that it has only been held by
5 two people: Bernie Balick, who was 33 when first
6 appointed, and himself, Judge Quillen, who was 31 when
7 first appointed. Compared to them, Joe is an elder.

8 Judge Quillen stated that to him, the seat is
9 precious, and needs a special person. And having had
10 the privilege of knowing all three pretty well, I can
11 state without reservation that the ninth seat will
12 continue to be occupied by a special person.

13 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Sid.

14 Our next speaker is Kent A. Jordan, Esquire.

15 Mr. Jordan.

16 MR. JORDAN: President Judge, Chief Justice
17 Veasey, members of the court, honored guests, Joe,
18 it's really a great pleasure to be here and such an
19 honor to have the opportunity to speak.

20 I appreciate and am grateful for the chance
21 to speak, and I think Joe probably offered this to me
22 because he knew I'm a charter member of the Joe
23 Slights, III Fan Club, and that I would be certain to

1 assure you that no matter what stories Rich Galperin
2 gets up and tells right after I sit down, he's really
3 a great guy, Joe.

4 I want to take a few minutes to tell you
5 about the qualities that I have seen and know in Joe
6 that will make him, in fact, one of the great ones
7 that Chief Justice Veasey has referred to. I'll take
8 a moment to talk about Joe's balance and sense of
9 scale, Joe's humility and sense of humor, and his
10 intellect and sense of self.

11 First, his balance. I got to know Joe first
12 when he was representing criminal defendants, having
13 first gone to work with Sid, and I was an Assistant
14 United States Attorney. And one of the things that
15 was immediately evident about Joe was he had a
16 maturity far beyond his years in understanding where
17 to press and not to press his case and how best to
18 serve his client.

19 And I have reflected on it since, wondering
20 if a sense of balance like that is inborn or learned
21 or a bit of both, but somehow or other, Joe has it,
22 and he's had it for as long as I've known him.

23 And I can safely say that although I never,

1 ever saw, in either representing the United States on
2 the other side of Joe when he was defending criminal
3 cases or representing clients with Joe after we became
4 partners at Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams, that
5 Joe ever lacked for intensity of commitment to a
6 client. And yet, he never had that surfeit of
7 zealotry which sometimes infects attorneys in the heat
8 of battle and poisons the opportunity to find a
9 rational solution to a dispute short of verdict.

10 It's a wonderful thing to have that kind of
11 balance, and he does have it.

12 He has the sense of scale to go with it. He
13 knows what the big things are, knows what the small
14 things are, he knows not to sweat them, and it made
15 practicing with him a pleasure. And I know it will
16 make appearing before him both an honor and a pleasure
17 and working with him for those who will be his
18 colleagues on the Bench a pleasure as well.

19 Joe's wisdom and his humility and his sense
20 of humor -- We'll get to wisdom. He's got that too.
21 I think humility can be seen in many different facets
22 of a person's life. The thing that most strikes me
23 about humility in Joe Slight's -- and humility is a

1 rare quality, unfortunately -- is that he has, as has
2 already been referred to, a powerful work ethic.

3 I never saw anybody work harder to be
4 prepared to go to court. And it takes a certain
5 degree of humility to know you don't know it all and
6 that you have to put in the spade work to get the
7 understanding of the facts and the law.

8 Joe and I represented a criminal defendant
9 once in a Court-appointed case in Federal Court, and
10 Joe pulled off one of the most masterful cross-
11 examinations of a law enforcement officer I ever
12 witnessed in many years of being involved with
13 criminal cases, and he earned accolades from everyone
14 in the courtroom, including the law enforcement
15 officer whom Joe knew well, who said afterwards, he
16 did a beautiful job, and he did.

17 But only a couple of us in the courtroom knew
18 this: that that cross-examination was the product of
19 hours and hours and hours of the most arduous and
20 careful investigation and work outside the courtroom.
21 So much of what passes for talent in court is really
22 the product of a humble and diligent soul ready to
23 work outside it.

1 And I believe that Joe will bring those same
2 qualities when he sits on the Bench and is deciding
3 other people's disputes and evaluating the
4 cross-examinations and the examinations that will be
5 performed before him.

6 With that goes a sense of humor. Joe has the
7 terrific ability to not take himself too seriously,
8 and I don't believe that wearing a robe will change
9 that. And I also believe it will help him be a mentor
10 to the attorneys who appear before him.

11 Chief Justice Veasey talked about that
12 tradition at the Delaware Bar, and what a great one it
13 is. And Joe has not only been a beneficiary of it,
14 he's already shown in his career that he knows how to
15 mentor, to lead others, in a wise and good way.

16 I think back on the story he has told me
17 before, and I know I won't do it justice, but he was
18 representing a defendant in Federal Court in a
19 criminal case as a brand new lawyer with Sid's firm,
20 first foray, one of his first forays into criminal
21 law.

22 It was the prayer conference, and he was
23 nervously engaging in one of his habits. If you know

1 him well, you know Joe will occasionally chew on a
2 pen. So he's in Judge Longobardi's chambers. It was
3 a big case, many attorneys from other firms, and
4 indeed, from out of town, surrounding the table.
5 Beautiful, newly furnished chambers, "no briefcases on
6 the table, please" sign on the desk, and Joe chewing
7 on his Bic pen, the allegedly indestructible Bic pen,
8 chewing, chewing, chewing.

9 And about halfway into the conference, he
10 proved the lie of the big advertising campaign and
11 caused the Bic pen to explode all down the front of
12 his shirt, all over the papers on the desk. That's
13 something that would make other people, like me,
14 wince, but he was able to take it in good humor.

15 And Judge Longobardi was so gracious. Joe
16 talks about Judge Longobardi leading him back into his
17 little, private restroom and taking a towel and
18 dabbing off his shirt. "Are you okay, Joe? Are you
19 going to be okay? Okay. Well, why don't you -- I'll
20 just hold court. You go over to Wright & Simon and
21 get yourself a shirt."

22 Joe knows what it's like to have something
23 explode in your face when you least expect it, and I

1 think he'll be, in accordance with that, ready to make
2 up the allowances for the surprises that happen in
3 court and to help lawyers through the tough times they
4 encounter when they least expect it.

5 I also wanted to mention Joe's intellect and
6 his sense of self, because I think these are so
7 important. Sid has already mentioned it and others
8 have and I'm sure will. Joe has a great mind. In
9 fact, you don't really know who is important in a law
10 firm by how high their name is on the letterhead. You
11 know how important someone is in a law firm by the
12 marks in the carpet on the way to their door.

13 And it's hard for me to say this without
14 getting a little bit emotional, which Joe knew I would
15 do. I forewarned him. I beat many a path to Joe's
16 door, because he has an uncommon wisdom, which is a
17 rare gift.

18 Indeed, I think you could safely say that the
19 combination of the intellect and the work ethic, the
20 sense of self, that grounding in good Delaware
21 tradition, the humility and the sense of humor, the
22 balance, all those things combined, add up to wisdom.
23 That's sort of the sum of the parts.

1 The Book of Proverbs says, "The chief thing
2 is wisdom, so in all thy getting, get wisdom. In all
3 thy getting, get understanding." And I can tell you
4 that Judge Slights has already gotten those things,
5 and that in getting Judge Slights on the Bench, we,
6 the members of the public of the State of Delaware,
7 are enormously blessed.

8 Congratulations, Your Honor.

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Kent.

10 Our next speaker is Rich Galperin, Esquire.

11 Mr. Galperin.

12 MR. GALPERIN: Members of the Bench, family,
13 friends of Joe Slights, thanks again for making it so
14 easy to follow that act. I received some mixed
15 messages here from Joe as to what I'm to speak about.
16 Initially, when he asked me to speak, I knew he wanted
17 me to because I am the person that hired him, I
18 trained him, I was his mentor, I made him what he is,
19 I am his hero, I am, in Joe's words, the wind beneath
20 his wings. But Joe also said to me that he wanted me
21 to keep it light, tell some jokes, and take a few
22 chances.

23 But then I come in here, and where am I

1 seated? I'm seated next to the Reverend and next to
2 this large Bible, as if perhaps some decency should
3 rub off on me before I make my remarks; but that won't
4 happen.

5 There have been some very, very nice, very
6 powerful things said about Joe here today, but
7 something was missed. Joe invented the Internet.

8 Joe is not perfect. Joe has some problems
9 and flaws. I'm going to talk about them today.
10 There's nothing left good to say. And some of these
11 problems he has I think are going to be a problem on
12 the Bench. And I think we can help him, or I think
13 that -- some people in the office and I think that we
14 can help him. And we've actually brought a gift along
15 to try to help him out.

16 Joe has a problem that some of you may know
17 about, and if you don't, I'm going to reveal this.
18 Joe is a fast food addict, a junk food addict. He can
19 only go very, very short periods of time without some,
20 you know, McDonald's food. That's going to be a
21 problem for him on the Bench.

22 We thought about that and wondered what we
23 could do. I have here a book that we have bought for

1 him that he can bring with him up onto the Bench, sit
2 it up there where, to everyone else, it will look like
3 simply another law book. But in the event that Joe
4 gets one of those munchie fast food attacks, he will
5 see that inside, we have placed small McDonald's fries
6 for him, and then he can pick that up and enjoy that
7 without anybody watching. There are some fries
8 already in here for tomorrow.

9 Actually, if you can see this, you would know
10 this is really just a joke because this is a federal
11 income tax book, and no one would use that on a
12 Superior Court Bench.

13 Actually, there is a better solution to this
14 fast food problem that Joe is dominated by, and a deal
15 was actually struck by Joe that's probably not known
16 to the rest of the members of the Bench yet, but he
17 has worked something out.

18 I think many of you who are members of the
19 Bar know about Judge Silverman and Judge Carpenter's
20 e-courtroom, the electronic courtroom. Joe has a
21 deal, well, it's going to be the Mickey D courtroom,
22 in which he has a deal with McDonald's, in exchange
23 for putting their logo behind his Bench, he will get

1 all the fast food that he wants and the jury will be
2 served McDonald's hamburgers for lunch. In fact, I
3 also understand that the metal detector is going to be
4 in the shape of the big M, so it's all going to work
5 out very well.

6 Another problem I think that Joe is going to
7 have is going to be with sentencing. I don't do
8 criminal work, but I was a clerk many years ago for
9 the late Judge Stiftel whose name has already been
10 invoked here today. And Joe, he gave me some -- I
11 witnessed, actually, a sentencing in his courtroom
12 that many people did not get an opportunity to
13 witness. And I can tell you about this real briefly,
14 and perhaps you can use this for a lesson when you
15 have your first sentencing.

16 I was sitting in the courtroom and watched
17 this happen. Judge Stiftel had a man come before him
18 who was being sentenced to jail, and the man came up
19 and he said, "You know, Your Honor, you really can't
20 put me in jail. I have a family. I have just started
21 a terrific job. I got a job as a butcher. And if I
22 go to jail, I'm going to lose the job, and this is
23 just a terrible thing."

1 And Judge Stiftel looked am him and listened
2 to him and said, "Well, the problem is you committed a
3 serious offense and you have to do jail time, and if
4 it results in the loss of your job, that's what
5 happens." They hauled the poor man off, sobbing.

6 The next sentencing came up, the man came up
7 and Judge Stiftel sentenced him to a very stiff fine,
8 I think it was in the thousands of dollars, at the
9 time. And the defendant got up and he said, "You
10 know, Your Honor, this is really unfair. This is a
11 lot of money, and I have a family to feed. I don't
12 have a job. How am I going to raise this money?"

13 And Judge Stiftel looked at him and said, "Do
14 you know anything about cutting meat?"

15 I think there's a lesson there. You can take
16 that and use that in your future.

17 And I will get serious for one brief moment
18 at the end. I think at this time, we're not just
19 seeing the investiture of another person onto the
20 Bench. I have been practicing for 25 years. We have
21 a terrific Bench in this state. And I practice in
22 Superior Court, and there is a terrific Bench here in
23 the Superior Court. I think we're looking at perhaps,

1 and those of you who are here are lucky enough to be
2 witnessing it, what is the threshold of a truly great
3 judicial career that I suspect will not end at this
4 level. And we may all someday be here for an
5 investiture at a higher court level, and I hope that
6 I'm invited to that as well.

7 Thank you, Joe.

8 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Rich.

9 It's now my pleasure on behalf of the Court
10 and on behalf of all of us to invite our newest judge
11 to give you his greetings.

12 Judge Slights.

13 JUDGE SLIGHTS: Thank you.

14 President Judge Ridgely, Chief Justice
15 Veasey, Resident Judge Cooch, members of the Bench,
16 Lieutenant Governor Minner, who was here, Governor
17 Carper, who was here, and distinguished members of the
18 General Assembly, members of the Bench and Bar, my
19 good friends, thank you so much for coming.

20 This really means a great deal to me. This
21 has been a wonderful day. I'll remember it forever.
22 I'm seeing so many faces here that I haven't seen for
23 a while. I'm actually reminded of my wedding. People

1 have traveled some great distances to be here, people
2 have cut short their vacations to be here, and I'm
3 truly moved.

4 I do want to recognize, at the risk of being
5 a bit Oscarsque, I want to thank some people who have
6 been very helpful to me not only during this process
7 of trying to become a judge, but also throughout my
8 career and throughout my life, for that matter. So if
9 you'll indulge me for a few more minutes, I would like
10 to express thanks to some special people.

11 I'd like to first start with my wife, Ellen,
12 who has been rock solid throughout this process, a
13 terrific supporter. She knew this was something that
14 I wanted to do, and that's really all that she needed
15 to hear to get behind it. And I thank you very much.
16 I wouldn't be here without you.

17 My parents are here today, which is very
18 special to me. And I just want to thank you for being
19 there for me for so many years. I can't tell you how
20 special your help has been, and having you here on
21 this day is very special for me.

22 Our two boys are here, John and Michael,
23 thoroughly bored and frustrated. They're six and four

1 years old. And I promise that I will move more
2 quickly through this than I have so far so that we can
3 get out and get some food and have some fun, but this
4 would not be complete without them being here and I
5 thank them. I'm proud of them.

6 My sister Jean and her husband Rick and their
7 two children are here. I think my sister is actually
8 happier about this moment than I was. She screamed
9 and yelled in the phone when I announced that this had
10 happened, and it means a lot that she's come up to be
11 here.

12 There are some lawyers that I'd like to thank
13 who over the years have been very important to me in
14 my development as a lawyer and as a person. And some
15 of them are here, some of them, I don't think are
16 here, but I would like to recognize them as well.

17 At the outset, let me just thank the lawyers
18 who are here from Morris James. Working at that firm
19 has been probably, up to this point at least,
20 professionally the best thing that's ever happened to
21 me. Great people, friendly, and excellent, excellent,
22 talented lawyers, from whom I have learned a great
23 deal. And seeing so many of them here is a real treat

1 for me, so thank you.

2 Moving chronologically, I'd like to start by
3 thanking Allen Terrell. I haven't seen Allen today.
4 I'm not even sure that he's here. He was my first
5 mentor and a terrific teacher. Everything that I
6 learned about being a mentor, and I have been to
7 several lawyers in our firm over the past several
8 years, everything I've learned about that process, I
9 learned from Allen, who is just a great teacher.

10 He's also an excellent lawyer, and worked
11 harder than anyone I have ever seen to prepare a case,
12 and he prepares effectively and efficiently. And when
13 he enters the courtroom, he knows how to behave as a
14 lawyer in a courtroom better than anyone I've ever
15 seen, and I appreciate his guidance.

16 Chief Justice Veasey was also one of my first
17 mentors, and I've learned a great deal from him, but I
18 think most critical of the things that Justice Veasey
19 taught me was the importance of the written word in
20 our profession.

21 I remember writing a memo for Justice Veasey
22 probably my second week at the firm, and it was sent
23 back to me, and it looked like a piece of art,

1 literally, with the red ink, from a distance. I
2 probably could have framed it. And that was a bit
3 overwhelming, I have to say, as an initial matter.

4 Justice Veasey took the time to walk me
5 through his comments, to walk me through his
6 suggestions, and in doing so, made me, I think, a
7 better writer and a better lawyer. And I think every
8 young lawyer should be so lucky, so thank you.

9 Sid Balick is a trial lawyer, plain and
10 simple. Probably the best compliment I could pay him
11 is just that. He is one of the best trial lawyers
12 probably this state has seen. He knows how to talk to
13 jurors, he knows how to communicate a theme, and he
14 cares deeply about his clients; and all of those
15 things, I learned from him. And in addition, he's
16 been a great friend and a great counselor, so I'd like
17 to thank you, Sid.

18 Kent Jordan I consider to be one of my
19 closest friends, and obviously, I'm still shaken up by
20 his remarks. It's tough to recover from that. But I
21 mention him not so much because he's been such a good
22 friend to me, which he has been, but mainly because he
23 showed me how much fun it could be to be a lawyer

1 practicing with Kent.

2 Trying a case with Kent is one of the
3 funnest, most fulfilling professional experiences I've
4 ever had. And it saddens me that he's no longer
5 trying cases, and I hope one day he will decide to
6 return to that. But it's meant a great deal to me to
7 watch him in action, and I think that I'll be a better
8 judge because I've seen Kent Jordan try a case.

9 Lastly but by no means least, I'd like to
10 thank Rich Galperin. I think that the notion that I
11 can't hear any cases that Rich presents for another
12 year or two is a good thing. In light of his comments
13 today, maybe we'll have to extend that out a little
14 bit. I don't know.

15 Those of you who know Rich or know of Rich
16 know that he has probably one of the best track
17 records in this court as a trial lawyer, of any lawyer
18 practicing today, and probably in the history of this
19 court. And there's a reason for that. He appreciates
20 jurors. He understands their role in the process. He
21 really has an innate sense for what is persuasive and
22 what will make a jury adopt a position. And he
23 understands the trial dynamic too, and how that can

1 affect the jury.

2 And most of what I know of jurors and what I
3 think I understand about jurors, I've learned from
4 Rich. And I think for a judge, that's important to
5 have an understanding of how jurors work and how they
6 think, so I thank you for that, Rich.

7 In addition to those people who have been so
8 important to me professionally and personally, there
9 are some folks that I'd like to thank who have just
10 been helpful to me throughout this process of trying
11 to achieve the long-time goal and dream of mine, to
12 become a judge.

13 My paralegal, Elise Duszak, is here
14 somewhere, I think. She has been a trusted friend for
15 seven years, which is amazing when you think that we
16 were together that long, but we were. She basically
17 put together my application to submit, so for anyone
18 who has ever seen that, it's a pretty intimidating
19 document. She rustled everything up and put that
20 together, so I thank her for that.

21 I'd also like to thank Lori James, who is
22 with the governor's office, who literally held my hand
23 and the hand of four other appointees through the

1 confirmation process, which can sometimes be a bit
2 anxiety-provoking, to say the least. So thank you.
3 She was terrific.

4 Two other people that I'd like to recognize,
5 and in saying this, I'm looking around the room and
6 seeing so many people who have been encouraging to me
7 and who have been very supportive through this
8 process, and I hope to be able to thank all of you
9 personally during the reception downstairs, if you can
10 come.

11 I have a sense that I probably will be held
12 in contempt of court, which would be a good way to
13 start my judicial career, if I started to identify
14 each of you, but there are two that I'd like to name.

15 First is Adam Balick, who was a very good
16 friend to me, and convinced me that this was the thing
17 that I needed to do, and I appreciate that a great
18 deal.

19 Secondly, Bruce Hudson, who was also very
20 helpful and very patient, too, I might add, during
21 this process. Thank you.

22 I, of course, would like to thank Governor
23 Carper, extend a special "thank you" to him for having

1 the confidence in me to open this amazing door of
2 opportunity and allow me to fulfill a long, long-time
3 dream of mine to do the work I've always wanted to do.
4 I'm truly grateful to Governor Carper for that
5 opportunity.

6 Lastly, I want to recognize a special person.
7 The seat that I occupy now has been occupied by only
8 two other judges, one of whom occupied the seat on two
9 occasions. The book hasn't been written yet on Judge
10 Quillen. I think everyone is waiting to see what he's
11 going to do next. And it will probably be a long time
12 before the final chapter is written, but suffice it to
13 say he is certainly now regarded as one of the finest
14 jurists that Delaware has ever seen.

15 He has set the bar for his fellow judges in
16 the clouds, and the shoes that he leaves to be filled
17 are huge. My feet stopped growing I think when I was
18 18, so I have my work cut out for me, and I understand
19 that, but I will pour my heart and soul into this
20 opportunity.

21 It's funny, I was moving into my office
22 yesterday, and there was a piece of furniture there,
23 and in the drawer, there was a note. And the note

1 says, "To Whom it May Concern, from William Quillen,
2 dated September 15, 2000," I'm certain before he had
3 any inkling whatsoever who would be occupying his
4 office. And the note reads simply, "Congratulations
5 and good luck. I'll be watching."

6 I know that Judge Quillen will be watching,
7 and I intend to make him proud.

8 One of the judges that I've admired in law
9 school and throughout my legal career is Judge Learned
10 Hand, who was a Circuit Court judge with the Second
11 Circuit Court of Appeals, first appointed to the Bench
12 in the early 1900's.

13 Upon his appointment to the U.S. District
14 Court in New York, he did what all good sons or
15 daughters should do when they're appointed to the
16 Bench. He called his mother. Actually, he didn't
17 call his mother. He wrote to his mother.

18 On my part, I called my mother, and we
19 screamed and hollered at each other for two minutes,
20 hung up the phone, and that was that. Judge Hand, on
21 the other hand, wrote a very eloquent letter to his
22 mother, and in that letter, he closed with this
23 passage:

1 "I believe that this opportunity is a very
2 fine one, if I am man enough to discharge the duties.
3 I know this is what I want. Now I must justify the
4 authorities who appointed me and satisfy my friends,
5 my colleagues at the Bar, and the citizens of this
6 fine state, that there has not been a blunder. It is
7 time to set about this task."

8 As always, just as we were taught in law
9 school, Judge Hand is directly "on point." He has
10 expressed my feelings at this moment better than I
11 ever could. And so with his words, I will close my
12 remarks this afternoon.

13 And thank you so much again for coming. This
14 means a great deal to me. Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Joe.
16 And again, on behalf of all the judges -- please
17 remain standing because we're about to have the
18 benediction -- but on behalf of all the judge, a warm,
19 warm welcome to the Court. We're all with us now,
20 back to the full strength of nineteen.

21 We'll now have the benediction of Reverend
22 Hedgebeth.

23 (Benediction by Rev. Emmanuel S. Hedgebeth.)

1 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: You are invited to
2 greet our new judge in person at a reception to be
3 held in the rotunda two floors beneath us.

4 And I would ask the judges of the Superior
5 Court in the jury box, if you will exit first.

6 The Court is now adjourned.

7 (Investiture ceremony adjourned at 4:20 p.m.)
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STATE OF DELAWARE:

NEW CASTLE COUNTY:

I, Jeanne Cahill, Official Court Reporter of the Superior Court, State of Delaware, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate transcript of the proceedings had, as reported by me in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, in and for New Castle County, in the proceedings herein stated, as the same remains of record in the Office of the Prothonotary at Wilmington, Delaware.

WITNESS my hand this 27th day of November,
2000.

Jeanne Cahill, RMR, CRR