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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF

THE HONORABLE DIANE CLARKE STREETT

AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

BEFORE :

— — — — —
HON. MYRON T. STEELE
HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN
HON. RICHARD R. COOCH
HON. CARL GOLDSTEIN
— — — — —

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1 February 15, 2010
2 Courtroom No. 8B
3 12:00 p.m.

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6
7 APPEARANCES:

8 HON. MYRON T. STEELE.

9 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN, JR.

10 HON. RICHARD R. COOCH

11 HON. CARL GOLDSTEIN
12

13 -----
14
15 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: Good afternoon,
16 everyone. Welcome to this special session for the
17 investiture for Diane Clarke Streett as a Judge of the
18 Superior Court. Please remain standing for the
19 invocation, which will be given by The Very Reverend
20 Canon Lloyd S. Casson retired Rector of Episcopal
21 Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

22 THE VERY REVEREND CASSON: Holy God, Holy and
23 mighty, holy immortal one, life giving spirit. In your

1 love you pervade all that is, seen and unseen, and you
2 dwell deep with within the midst of us. Your law is
3 perfect, and your judgements are true.

4 Be with us gathered here today for the
5 investiture of our Sister, your servant, Diane Clarke
6 Streett, called to be a Judge of the Superior Court of
7 our State of Delaware. Pour down upon her, we pray, an
8 abundance of your blessing; that she may perform the
9 duties of her office with grace, and dignity, as she
10 dons her gown, and fold her with your love, and the
11 assurance of your constant presence with her. Grant
12 her the eyes to see your image in every person standing
13 before her, according them the dignity and respect
14 which you have conferred upon us all.

15 Grant her the wisdom to judge courageously,
16 wisely, and insofar as is possible, without ambiguity,
17 so that the decisions rendered from her bench are just,
18 and impartial.

19 Give her compassion for the people who stand
20 before her awaiting the judgement of the law, and guide
21 her to know when her decisions need to be tempered by
22 reason, and mercy. When she has exhausted her own
23 sources of wisdom, grant her the insight to seek yours.

1 When she makes a mistake, as all of us do. Grant her
2 the humility to acknowledge and correct it. Give her
3 such strength of character that no one may have cause
4 to question her integrity, and protect her from the
5 temptation to use her office for personal gain. Thus,
6 may she secure and maintain the trust and respect of
7 all of these with whom she interacts in the Courts, and
8 the trust of all the people of Delaware.

9 Finally, give all of us, the will to support
10 Judge Streett, with our prayers and cooperation, not
11 only today, but as long as she serves; as she seeks
12 both from the bench and in her work with others, the
13 realization of the dream of Delaware as a happy,
14 harmonious, and just place to live for its people of
15 every religion, culture and way of life.

16 Anoint then this day, the Honorable Diane
17 Clarke Streett, your servant, with the Oil of Gladness,
18 and grant that as she enters her office, she will be
19 strong, and of good courage, holding fast to that which
20 is good, and right, and trusting that wherever she
21 walks, You will be walking with her.

22 We make this prayer giving voice to all the
23 people gathered, and from around this State who, in our

1 diverse faiths, spiritual paths and with many names,
2 call upon You.

3 Amen.

4 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: Thank you, Reverend.
5 Resident Judge Cooch will now leads us in the Pledge of
6 Allegiance.

7 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
8 conducted.)

9 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: Please be seated.

10 Good afternoon, Ladies and gentlemen. Let me
11 begin by introducing those who are seated with me on
12 the bench today. To my right is Chief Justice Myron T.
13 Steele of the Supreme Court of Delaware. To my left is
14 Judge Carl Goldstein of the Superior Court. To the
15 right of Chief Justice Steele is Resident Judge Richard
16 R. Cooch of the Superior Court. And to the left of
17 Judge Goldstein is where Superior Court Judge Diane
18 Clarke Streett will be seated soon.

19 (Applause.)

20 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: In the jury box are
21 Superior Court Judges and Commissioners for this
22 special occasion. The Court recognizes many family
23 members and friends of our next Superior Court Judge,

1 who are present here today, and in particular, Paula
2 and Dawn Pinnock, Darlene Pinnock and Bryce and Zoe.
3 Judge and Mrs. Grosvenor. The Pinnock family; Ivy,
4 Bobby, Lambert, Sonia, Andre and Michelle. Dreson and
5 Miche Darden, Joanne Clarke, and Betty Taylor. To all
6 of those family members, a warm welcome.

7 The Court also recognizes Governor Jack A.
8 Markell, Senator Tom Carper, New Castle County
9 Executive Chris Coons, members of the Delaware General
10 Assembly who are here, other elected and appointed
11 officials, members of the Delaware Judiciary and the
12 Bar and Diane Streett's many friends including those
13 who will speak today and I will introduce shortly.

14 To all a warm and special welcome to the
15 Superior Court. We are here today to commemorate the
16 beginning of Diane Clarke Streett's career as a member
17 of the Superior Court, our State's general jurisdiction
18 trial court. The proceeding is one of investiture
19 where the historical robing is a special ceremony,
20 significance and public commitment under oath.

21 The robe itself is a symbol of impartiality
22 and the judge 's solemn duty to administer equal
23 justice on behalf of the people that we serve.

1 It is now my pleasure to ask the Honorable
2 Myron T. Steele to administer the oath of office
3 Diane's daughter Courtney A. Streett will hold the
4 Bible. Diane's "Aunt" Ivy Pinnock will assist Courtney
5 with the robe.

6 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: Are you prepared to
7 take the oath?

8 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Yes, I am.

9 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: Place your right hand
10 on the Bible. Please repeat after me, I...

11 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: I, Diane Clarke
12 Streett.

13 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...do proudly swear...

14 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Do proudly swear.

15 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ... to carry out the
16 responsibilities...

17 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: To carry out the
18 responsibilities.

19 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...of judge of the
20 Superior Court...

21 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Of judge of the
22 Superior Court.

23 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...to the best of my

1 ability...

2 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: To the best of my
3 ability.

4 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...freely
5 acknowledging...

6 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Freely
7 acknowledging.

8 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...that the powers of
9 this office...

10 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: That the powers
11 office.

12 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...flow from the people.

13 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Flow from the
14 people.

15 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...I'm privileged to the
16 represent.

17 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: I am privileged to
18 represent.

19 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...I further swear...

20 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: I further swear.

21 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...that I will always
22 place the public interest...

23 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: That I will always

1 place the public interest.

2 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...above any special or
3 personal interest...

4 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Above any special
5 or personal interest.

6 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...and to respect the
7 right of future generations...

8 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: And to respect the
9 right of future generations.

10 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...to share the rich,
11 historic...

12 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: To share the rich,
13 historic.

14 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ... and natural heritage
15 of Delaware...

16 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: And natural
17 heritage of Delaware.

18 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ... in doing so...

19 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: In doing so.

20 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ... I will always
21 uphold and defend...

22 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: I will always
23 uphold and defend.

1 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ... the Constitutions
2 of my country.

3 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: The Constitutions
4 of my country.

5 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...and my State...

6 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: And my State.

7 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: ...so help me God.

8 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: So help me God.

9 HON. MYRON T. STEELE: Congratulations.

10 (Applause.)

11 (Whereupon the robing ceremony took place.)

12 (The Hon. Diane Clarke Streett takes the
13 bench.)

14 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: I would like to ask for
15 the recognition Congressman Mike Castle. Welcome.

16 (Applause.)

17 HON. JAMES T. VAUGHN: The judicial office
18 which Judge Streett enters today was created in 1985,
19 when the Court expanded from 11 to 13 members. It has
20 been occupied from then until now only by Judge
21 Streett's predecessor, Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.;
22 before recognizing today's speakers I would like to
23 warmly welcome Diane to the Superior Court.

1 She brings outstanding credentials to the
2 Court from her years of experience as Chief Legal
3 Counsel for City of Wilmington Law Department and as a
4 prosecutor and defense attorney. Her qualifications
5 and experience make her fully deserving of the honor
6 which the Governor and Senate have conferred upon her.
7 I know that Diane and I will have no trouble at all
8 working very well together in our new relationship as
9 colleagues on the Superior Court. Each of us on the
10 Superior Court look forward to working with Diane as
11 our newest colleague.

12 I would now like to invite the Honorable Jack
13 A. Markell, Governor of the State of Delaware to make
14 any remarks the Governor wishes to make.

15 (Applause.)

16 HON. JACK A. MARKELL: Thank you. First of
17 all my congratulations to Diane and to the Chief
18 Justice and President Judge Vaughn. I have to say I
19 compliment you for setting the tone for fiscal
20 austerity here because as I sat down I went to try to
21 figure out how to use that water pitcher, Frannie Haney
22 came over and she said I know we should probably have a
23 bottle for you but we are cutting back. So you have

1 done a very nice job getting the message through.

2 There is clearly a reason that Delaware is
3 recognized as such a leader in corporate law. We have
4 a legal system that is the envy of our nation. And I
5 want to start by thanking all of the members of Bench
6 who are here, as well as members of the Bar because we
7 are able to attract people like Diane into public
8 service and into serving in this capacity, in large
9 part because she is aware of the quality, caliber, and
10 character of her colleagues on the Bench, and the
11 lawyer whose will come before her.

12 She does have, as the President Judge said, an
13 incredible background, to serve on this Court. She has
14 a rich and varied career including service as a state
15 prosecutor in Brooklyn, where she was a member of
16 Brooklyn's first sex crimes unit. She was an assistant
17 US Attorney. She was assistant counsel in the United
18 States Congress, advising the Senate Judiciary
19 Committee's Subcommittee on crime, House Judiciary
20 Committee Subcommittee on criminal justice. She was
21 the City Solicitor of Wilmington, Senior Assistant
22 Public Defender for more than 10 years and the Register
23 of Wills for New Castle County since 2001.

1 For a court that deals both on the civil and
2 criminal side, she has a great background in both and I
3 am delighted to abide her qualifications.

4 But her appointment in my mind goes beyond the
5 qualifications and experience which can be summarized
6 on a resume, or a CV, and they really go to the heart
7 of the person and the character of the person. I have
8 known Diane for many years now. She is somebody, I
9 think you can see it just now, as Courtney helped her
10 with the investiture and to see the pride and passion
11 that came through in Diane's eyes. I mean, this is
12 clearly an emotional moment for her and I think, in
13 large part, this is an emotional moment because of her
14 absolute God given determination to do everything that
15 she possibly can to serve the public.

16 Really, to me, that motivation comes shining
17 through in so many ways, and I think it was on full
18 display for all of us just a few moments ago. I had
19 the opportunity to sit down with Diane as part of this
20 capacity and I want to thank the members of Judicial
21 Nominating Commission who do such wonderful work and
22 they sent me several good names, really, we have such
23 wonderful candidates in Delaware.

1 In my conversations with Diane over the last
2 several months, her commitment to serving in this
3 capacity, to do so many of the things that Canon Casson
4 talked about in his beautiful invocation about being
5 just, about recognizing the need for humility because
6 sometimes mistakes are made. We all make mistakes but
7 the question is; what do you do once the mistakes are
8 made? You take ownership and responsibility for them.
9 And I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever, knowing
10 Diane as I do, about the quality of her character, her
11 temperament, her commitment to public service, and her
12 view that serving in this capacity, as it is for so
13 many people, it's really the pinnacle of a career in
14 public service and in the law. So I am grateful on
15 behalf of the people of the State, Diane, that you are
16 willing to serve the public in this capacity. I am
17 grateful to all of your colleagues that you have so
18 many people to learn from and who will help mentor you
19 and I just, again, on behalf of everybody in Delaware,
20 in a State where, and in a country where the justice,
21 the administration of justice is so important. And it
22 represents, in the very best way, who we are as a
23 people. I have every confidence that you will live up

1 to every expectation, the highest of expectations, for
2 everybody in the State. Congratulations.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Governor Markell. I
5 would now like to recognize the Honorable Joshua W.
6 Martin, III who served as a judge of this Superior
7 Court. Judge Martin.

8 HON. JOSHUA W. MARTIN, III: Thank you,
9 President Judge Vaughn. May it please the Court, Chief
10 Justice Steele, Governor Markell, members of the Bench,
11 and Bar, Judge Streett's family, ladies and gentlemen,
12 it is indeed an honor for me to participate in this,
13 the investiture of Diane Clarke Streett as a member of
14 the Delaware Superior Court. This Court was my home
15 for a number of years and it is a real pleasure to be
16 back for this special occasion.

17 I am also representing Ben Strauss, President
18 of the Delaware State Bar Association. It is a
19 tradition that the Delaware State Bar Association's
20 President offer comments at an investiture, but
21 unfortunately Ben is out of town today, and unable to
22 offer his well wishes in person. He asked me, as past
23 president of the Association to offer congratulations

1 and his apology for not being able to attend.

2 I checked my files and I have been privileged
3 to speak at eight of these special sessions of our
4 State and Federal court, but today is, indeed, special.
5 I have known Diane since she started in Delaware as an
6 Assistant City Solicitor back in Wilmington, back in
7 the mid '80s. Although she has referred to me as a
8 mentor, and supporter, I consider myself simply a
9 friend, which hopefully includes those two other
10 attributes.

11 We both attend the same church, the Episcopal
12 Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. I can't say that
13 we've prayed about this judgeship, or asked for any
14 divine intervention, so Diane could become a judge, but
15 I will tell you this has been a dream of hers for a
16 very long time. It is an important event when a member
17 of our Bar is singled out for the high honor of
18 ascending to the Bench. This is both an acknowledgment
19 of a lawyer's honesty, integrity, confidence and the
20 prediction that decision making can be entrusted in
21 what is one of the highest of callings; that is the
22 administration of justice.

23 I am reminded of the words of former Chief

1 Justice Daniel Herrmann spoken at my own investiture
2 when he said, "No greater honor may come to a fellow
3 citizen, no more serious responsibility may be
4 undertaken by a fellow citizen, and no more sacred duty
5 may be entrusted to a fellow citizen than the honor,
6 and the responsibility, and the duty of sitting in
7 judgement of his or her fellow citizens." But what do
8 we know about Diane Clarke Streett?

9 She was an honor student throughout her
10 educational endeavors. You heard she has an extensive
11 background in criminal law as a prosecutor and defense
12 attorney. She has civil experience representing
13 Chapter 13 Bankruptcy debtors, nine years in a
14 quasi-judicial capacity for Chancery Court as New
15 Castle County Register of Wills. She served as head of
16 the City of Wilmington's law department, the City
17 Solicitor.

18 There is so much more, such as this was the
19 first woman of color to graduate from Cornell Law
20 School. First person of color to serve --

21 (Applause.)

22 First person of color to serve as full-time
23 Assistant Public Defender in Delaware and she has had

1 many other firsts on the diversity front. Moreover,
2 she has been involved in a number of organizations in
3 our State, so she has a good feel for the pulse of the
4 community, but in an attempt to find out a bit more
5 about our new judge, I decided to confer with someone
6 who has known her for a long time, someone whose
7 intelligence I respect, and someone with the training
8 to give me the real scoop.

9 As many of you know, Diane's daughter
10 Courtney, a graduate of the St. Andrews School -- don't
11 be embarrassed, Courtney. She is a graduate of the St.
12 Andrews School here in Delaware, Wellesley College.
13 Now she is in the Columbia University Graduate School
14 of Journalism. I asked Courtney; what do you think are
15 your mother's qualifications to be a Superior Court
16 Judge? I wanted her reactions as if she had
17 interviewed her mother over a period of time. I was
18 looking for a clear, unvarnished insightful view of our
19 new judge.

20 Courtney shared three vignettes with me that
21 help us to get our new judge just a little better.
22 First she mentioned that when her mother called to
23 indicate she had been confirmed, Diane lamented this

1 was her first Saturday day off in years. As many of
2 you will appreciate, having been the Register of Wills,
3 she -- an elected position, meant you couldn't pass up
4 the opportunity to meet a new friend or new supporter
5 at any time. Saturday were filled with festivals,
6 parades, meetings, performances, you name it. And
7 Diane made practically all of them as people in this
8 community know, including being at the GM plant at four
9 and five in the morning when the shifts were changing
10 to greet those arriving and leaving work.

11 The second story Courtney shared with me is
12 that before becoming Register of Wills, Diane was a
13 Public Defender, and a single mother. Courtney recalls
14 one incident she was in fifth grade and violently ill
15 one morning. Her mother had a trial, and there was no
16 one else to stay home with her, so Courtney went to
17 school. Her mother did the right thing to the
18 consternation of Courtney and the school nurse, but she
19 stuck with that client who really needed her support
20 that day.

21 The third story that Courtney share with me is
22 a little-known story about her mom. She is one of the
23 few defense attorneys in our State who has had the

1 sentence of defendant overturned in a capital case with
2 that client having now been released. You see, the
3 client was wrongfully convicted and has now been
4 rightfully returned to society as a free man.

5 (Applause.)

6 Courtney says that her mother, as modest as
7 she is, has always worked hard, fought for the
8 underdog, the person who needs the most care. You
9 could just feel the love and pride in her written
10 words. But, now, the significance of being a judge,
11 with all of her preparation, Diane's work on the
12 Superior Court will not be easy. Judging is very
13 difficult work, not for the timid, or the weak. The
14 infirmities, frailties, and the missteps of human
15 beings have to be adjudicated by people who understand
16 the law, but who also understand people. As important
17 as it is to be erudite, and intellectual, it is also
18 important to simply care.

19 Persons who come before the Court in civil and
20 criminal matters deserve respect, patience, firmness
21 and compassion. But our entire community requires
22 jurists who will insure that the administration of
23 justice is efficient, focussed, and designed to

1 maintain on ordered society. Judging, although
2 difficult, is more than pomp and circumstance, more
3 than the grandeur of courtrooms, majestic though they
4 may, more than the honor and acclaim that go with
5 the appellation judge.

6 Judging carries with it the awesome
7 responsibility of righting, or maybe just adjusting
8 life's wronging. Restoring order where just maybe none
9 exists. Redirecting property to its rightful place,
10 affecting with one decision wholesale populations of
11 people, preserving liberty where appropriate, while
12 maintaining the peace and tranquility that everyone in
13 this room cherishes so much. Diane will be tested in
14 this new role in her life. She will need the support,
15 during her tenure on the Bench, of everyone who is here
16 today to congratulate her on her ascendancy. It is not
17 important that you agree with the decisions that she
18 will make. What is important is that we can be
19 comforted in the knowledge that someone with integrity,
20 intelligence, professionalism, and perseverance has
21 accepted the call sit in judgement of the conduct and
22 deeds of those who come before her.

23 Before coming here this afternoon, I had the

1 distinct pleasure of speaking at the DuPont Company for
2 its Black History Month program with the theme "In Our
3 Lifetime; Celebration of African American Achievement."
4 What we are witnessing here today, in this courtroom,
5 is a significant achievement, and an opportunity to be
6 a prime mover in the administration of justice by an
7 outstanding citizen of our State, who happens to be an
8 African American. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 HON. JOSHUA W. MARTIN, III: I leave you with
11 this thought, judges are human. Never, never lose your
12 sense of humanity. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 THE COURT: Thank you, Judge Martin. I would
15 now like to recognize the Honorable Aida Wasserstein,
16 Judge of the Family Court for her remarks.

17 (Applause.)

18 HON. AIDA WASERSTEIN: May it please the
19 Court, Chief Judge Steele, Chief Judge Vaughn, Judges
20 Cooch and Goldstein, Judge Streett, Judge Sleet from
21 the Federal Bench, other members of the Bench and
22 colleagues, members of the Bar, Courtney and other
23 family members, members of the Saints Andrews and

1 Matthews groups has almost become a second home for me
2 and other esteemed guests.

3 It is my pleasure to address you at this
4 momentous occasion. The swearing in of a new judge is
5 both serious and tender. Serious because of the
6 tremendous responsibility that is being placed on the
7 person's shoulders, responsible to adjudicate fairly
8 for the citizens in our state, in a very busy and
9 nationally renowned court, which among its other
10 obligations has the significant obligation to decide
11 Capital cases, cases in which someone has lost his or
12 her life, and which the defendant's life is literally
13 at stake.

14 Tender because it is a special time both
15 professionally and personally for the person and her
16 family. It is the beginning of a new stage and start
17 of something wonderful, and fresh, and new. In this
18 case, it is particularly pleasing for me to perform
19 this function of welcoming Judge Clarke Streett for
20 three reasons. First, I feel close to my sister court
21 because many of those already sitting on that Bench are
22 dear friends and people for whom I have great respect.

23 I want your court, the Superior Court to

1 continue to excel and to continue to set a high
2 standard for which it has become nationally known
3 during its 175-year tenure.

4 Second, I am personally looking forward to
5 seeing Diane flourish in this new role. I have known
6 Diane since my adult daughter was in elementary school.
7 The two of us used to get together regularly for dinner
8 with our children and with a third mother and her son.
9 The six of us used to hang out at dinner, share
10 experiences, and support each other. I learned from
11 those dinners that Diane will ask for input. She will
12 research a problem, and then once she has decided, she
13 will face it head on. She is persistent and she
14 resolves it effectively.

15 I think those qualities will serve her well as
16 a judge. I have also been impressed by her impeccable
17 attention to detail she devotes to every endeavor. An
18 example of that, in my mind, this I have seen from a
19 distance, has been how she has, in her position as
20 Register of Wills, taken on the responsibility to
21 educate the public and offer assistance. When I go to
22 the N Theater I see there is an announcement there
23 about where to call if you want more information. I

1 know that when I have been with her, sometimes she has
2 had to leave early a particular affair because she had
3 to go somewhere else to speak, at community meetings
4 such at Police Athletic League and other such events.

5 I think this is something that will serve her
6 well in her role in working with the jury. The jury
7 system is a way that our courthouse, and our legal
8 system interfaces with the public. As I walk through
9 the jury pool about three or four times a week on my
10 way to my courtroom, I see the educational effort that
11 the Superior Court undertakes to educate the public
12 about the importance of the role that they will serve
13 as a juror. I have seen various judges welcome the
14 jurors, and explain to them what their role is how
15 important it is.

16 From seeing what Diane has done in the
17 community, and in the office of Register of Wills, I
18 think she will do well in that important capacity.

19 But more importantly, even though I realize
20 that Courtney's father has always been proud of Diane
21 and supportive of her efforts, I have been most
22 impressed personally with how well Diane has carried
23 the task of being a professional, and a single mother

1 of her beautiful, bright and creative daughter who is
2 in right in front of me today.

3 Everything that Diane does is done fully, from
4 the heart, and with undivided attention. This is how
5 she raised Courtney, this is how I expect she will be
6 as a judge. But third, I hope that my voice does not
7 break as I explain this, I am proud to be here today
8 because as the second African American woman to serve
9 on the Superior Court bench, Judge Clark Streett will
10 follow on the footsteps of my dear friend Haile Alford.
11 Haley, through her skill, personality, and effort,
12 helped open the door through which you walk through
13 today. It is my hope that you will experience her
14 legacy as a mantle, a mantle that will envelop you,
15 nourish you, strengthen you, as you face the
16 significant challenges that will be in your way.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE COURT: Thank you Judge Waserstein. It is
19 now my privilege to call upon our new Superior Court
20 judge for her greetings.

21 (Applause.)

22 HON. DIANE CLARKE STREETT: Thank you,
23 President Judge Vaughn. May it please the Court, Chief

1 Justice Steele, Governor Markell, Senator Carper,
2 Representative Castle, Executive Coons, elected
3 officials, my new colleagues, members of the Bar,
4 friends old and new. My church family, Episcopal
5 Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, coworkers, my dear
6 family, and the citizens of New Castle County for whom
7 I had the privilege to serve for nine years I am
8 honored to be standing here today.

9 Thank you, Governor Markell, for the
10 confidence you have shown this selecting me. I would
11 also like to thank the Judicial Nominating Commission
12 for its thoroughness and the State Senators who
13 unanimously confirmed my nomination. I want to also
14 thank the speakers here today for your kind and
15 supportive words.

16 I will not mention all of the names of the
17 elected officials, but I would like to recognize people
18 who have represented me in my District, Senator Harris
19 McDowell, Representative Dennis Williams, County
20 Councilman Penrose Hollins, and City Councilman Charles
21 Potter. Special mention, also, to my fellow row
22 officers who I will miss dearly, Ken Bolden, Michael
23 Kozikowski and Sheriff Michael Walsh and my Register of

1 Wills counterparts in Kent County, Tom Weyant and
2 Sussex, Greg Fuller.

3 Special thanks also goes out to Senator Tom
4 Carper who appointed me Register of Wills, and got me
5 involved in doing politics, politics in the good sense
6 of doing what is good for our community. I've loved
7 every minute of it. Then there is another Senator who
8 I want to single out because she has been an advisor to
9 me, and works tirelessly for the community, Senator
10 Margaret Rose Henry; thank you for all that you do.

11 I also want to take a moment to thank the
12 quiet, hard working people of our community, people who
13 do not have titles or positions, the backbone of our
14 society. Without them, we could not pursue our dreams.
15 In my case there are two special people. I was able to
16 go to work everyday knowing that my child was lovingly
17 cared for. I also knew when the need arose, there was
18 a skilled repairman just a phone call away, and would
19 promptly come and honestly make repairs. Those two
20 people are my daughter's babysitter, Ms. Leila Mowbray,
21 who is sitting right over there and my handyman Mr.
22 Reginald Lee, I don't know if he is here.

23 Everyone should have people in their life as

1 dedicated as they are, who can back them up so that
2 they can pursue their own individual dreams.

3 Finally, as anyone who has spent more than
4 five minutes with me knows, and you have just heard
5 mentioned, I am the proud parent of Courtney.

6 She has grown in wisdom and statute, and in
7 favor with God and man, and I think that she is a great
8 young lady. I want to publically thank you, Courtney.
9 You are a delight and my heart, and I have nurtured you
10 to the best of my ability. You, in turn, constantly
11 inspire me to be my best.

12 Finally, I would also like to thank two people
13 who are not here today; my parents. Cyril and Doris
14 Clarke. I can feel them smiling down from heaven
15 because their dream is now being fulfilled. I would
16 not be here today if it were not for their dreams, and
17 love, and the values that they instilled in my brother
18 and me, who, by the way, is also an attorney.

19 We grew up in Brooklyn, New York. By the way,
20 Haile Alford was also from Brooklyn, New York. There
21 is something special there. We grew up in a section
22 called Bedford-Stuyvesant. At that time it was one of
23 the most blighted ghettos in the country.

1 Nevertheless, my parents, who were immigrants, knew
2 that America had promise. America was the land of
3 opportunity. Although it was not perfect, it was a
4 place where one could help the next generation dream
5 dreams.

6 And so they had dreams for their children, and
7 they were confident that through education, and good
8 values, dreams could be realized. Some of those values
9 were respect for all creation, enjoyment of
10 intellectual challenge, the importance of preparation,
11 and the satisfaction of a accomplishment through hard
12 work. "Study to show thyself approved."

13 This was their foundation, and as we know
14 foundations are crucial. Builders must have a good
15 foundation. Schools are also called foundation
16 schools, and even faith communities recognize and sing
17 about the importance of a firm and solid foundation.
18 Those values, instilled in me, served me in good stead
19 as an attorney in New York, and in Washington, DC, and
20 at that time, although I had little connection to
21 Delaware, I was fortunate to be hired by a young
22 Senator who happened to be named Joseph Biden.

23 (Applause.)

1 Look where he is now. Several years later, I
2 married a Delawarean and I moved here. The family that
3 I married into is Native American, Nanticoke Indian,
4 the Original People, who had fished, hunted and planted
5 in Delaware long before Delaware was a state. There
6 was a sense of history and place.

7 So I settled into the state. I became a
8 Delaware attorney, and I applied the values that my
9 parents and my family had taught. As the Chief
10 Prosecutor in Municipal Court, as Senior Assistant
11 Public Defender, Wilmington City Solicitor, New Castle
12 County's Register of Wills, and a member of several
13 boards, sections, committees, I joined in, greeted the
14 challenges of work and community involvement, and I
15 treated all people with respect.

16 In return, Delawareans have graciously made me
17 a part of Delaware, and I have many deep and fond
18 memories and a vast family of friends, and I consider
19 myself to be truly blessed.

20 But aside from the basics that many families
21 teach their children, my parents also showed us that
22 because life is complex, there may be several ways to
23 view any situation, and, therefore, one should always

1 look for the potential in things, and embrace
2 diversity. For example, Bedford-Stuyvesant, which I
3 just mentioned, was once a reviled area of a wonderful
4 city, but it had potential. My family knew that, and
5 they knew if you waited long enough, things could
6 change. Now, "Bed-Stuy," as it's called, is a highly
7 desirable and trendy and thriving neighborhood.

8 So, too, although as a child I lived in the
9 ghetto, I lived in a close-knit, loving community of
10 extended family and friends. There was spirituality,
11 creativity and joy. Many of the women in my family
12 have worked in the Garment District and designed and
13 created clothes that went to Hollywood, and to this day
14 can be seen in old black and white movies.

15 After marriage, they tended to well kept
16 brownstone houses, and they created wedding dresses and
17 wedding cakes and dreams for their children. Some of
18 my uncles were veterans of World War II and Korea.
19 Others were carpenters, one even helped build the
20 Verrazano Bridge. They were union members, another was
21 a world traveled jazz musician.

22 My father was member of the International
23 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union. That

1 membership provided summer jobs for my brother, and a
2 full scholarship to Cornell University for me.
3 Everyday my father proudly went to work wearing a
4 jacket and tie, carrying a brief case, having read two
5 newspapers. But life is complex. It was many years
6 before I learned that although my father had been
7 trained as a dental technologist, and showed us what
8 the American Dream looked like, once he went to work,
9 that tie came off, and he pushed a broom.

10 Fortunately, because this is a land of
11 opportunity, he eventually was able to become a teacher
12 in the New York City Board of Education in the after
13 school program.

14 On weekends, my father wore white because he
15 played cricket. He organized cricket leagues as an
16 outlet for young men from the West Indies who were
17 lonely in New York. It was his cricket leagues who
18 then hosted mid day teas and receptions for teams
19 visiting from countries that had been British Colonies,
20 including India and Australia.

21 We saw that there is commonality in all people
22 of all colors and much to learn, if we listen, from
23 those who are different from us, or who might not

1 necessarily agree with us. We saw that this is a
2 complex society, and, before there was term from it, we
3 knew that this was a global world.

4 Spiritually, we were raised as staunch
5 Episcopalians with its hierarchy of clergy, elegant
6 clothing and vestments, incense and high rituals; but
7 we also attended a Church of the Brethren Sunday School
8 where there is no clergy, no organ, just the Bible. We
9 saw that there were many ways to worship our Creator.
10 In fact, I am upholding these values in my life. My
11 daughter, here I go again talking about her, has
12 attended public schools and private schools, an
13 Episcopal boarding school, and even a Hebrew day
14 school. Life is complex and there are many ways to
15 learn.

16 Now, more than ever, it is important to
17 understand diversity of perspective and that there is
18 more than one way to look at any issue. It is
19 important for a judge to understand that to be able to
20 listen to all voices is important, because a judge
21 represents all of the people.

22 I am prepared to listen with an open mind, and
23 respect differing perspectives. I know what it means

1 to be on both sides of issues. I was a prosecutor,
2 then I became a defense attorney. I have been a solo
3 practitioner in private practice, but I was also a
4 member of the Government's law firm, I was an Assistant
5 United States Attorney. I have been a criminal lawyer,
6 but I also represented people in civil matters. I have
7 been an advocate for the young in Family Court, but
8 also spoke to the elderly in my wills workshops. I
9 have been a counselor representing the poor, the needy
10 and homeless, but I also ran an office that handled the
11 distribution of the assets of the wealthy. I know what
12 it is to stand for election. I also know how hard
13 politicians work once elected.

14 I understand the beauty and power of the law.
15 It is not a coincidence my daughter shares the same
16 name as the attorney from my community in New York
17 where I grew up, who was so highly respected. Her
18 name, Courtney, is a constant reminder of America's
19 promise of justice for all. I understand that a judge
20 profoundly affects individuals and community. With the
21 stroke of a pen, a judge can resolve disputes, right
22 wrongs, take away freedom, and even sentence someone to
23 death.

1 I will strive to speak wisdom and do mercy. I
2 will aim for the meditations of my heart to be
3 understanding. Through love, respect, intellectual
4 challenge and hard work I promise you that I will
5 undertake my responsibilities with the same care and
6 attention I have given my clients, my workshops, my
7 community, my friends, my family, and my child. And
8 that love may leads to more and more knowledge and full
9 insight to understand that life is complex and help
10 determine what is best.

11 Although I cannot promise you that you will
12 always agree with me or my decisions, I can promise you
13 that I will be firm and fair. With your support I will
14 strive to do what is best for our community, Delaware,
15 and the this Country. Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 THE COURT: Thank you, Diane, for those
18 excellent remarks. Congratulations, best wishes on
19 your appointment as a Superior Court judge.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, if you will now rise,
21 the Reverend Samuel L. Lathem Associate Minister of the
22 Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church will give the
23 benediction.

1 REVEREND LATHEM: "We have come over a way
2 that with tears has been watered. We have come,
3 treading our paths through the blood of the
4 slaughtered. Out from our gloomy past, 'til now we
5 stand at last, where the bright gleam of our bright
6 star is cast."

7 May the most high God, God almighty, the God
8 of Abram, Isaac and Jacob, Jehovah Shalom, may he keep
9 us all in perfect peace. Amen.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen,
11 this concludes this special session of the Superior
12 Court. You are all invited to greet our new judge at
13 the reception which will be held out on the 8th Floor
14 lobby. Please remain in the courtroom for a moment
15 until the bailiffs tell you that the reception is
16 ready. Court is now adjourned.

17 (Whereupon the Special Session of the Superior
18 Court was adjourned.)
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