

Jail

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Ceremony of Investiture) February 21, 1989
)
of) Superior Courtroom No. 302
) Public Building
HON. NORMAN A. BARRON) Wilmington, Delaware
)
As an Associate Judge of) 3 o'clock P.M.
)
the Superior Court)

PRESIDING: HON. ALBERT J. STIFTEL, PRESIDENT JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

SITTING: CHIEF JUSTICE ANDREW D. CHRISTIE
SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

PRESENT: HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE, GOVERNOR
STATE OF DELAWARE

HON. CHARLES M. OBERLY, III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

HON. LAWRENCE M. SULLIVAN
PUBLIC DEFENDER

ARTHUR G. CONNOLLY, JR., ESQUIRE
PRESIDENT, DELAWARE BAR ASSOCIATION

TIMOTHY H. BARRON, ESQUIRE

And others.

Tuesday, February 21, 1989
3 o'clock P.M.
Courtroom No. 302

(The Bailiff opened the Court.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: This is a Special Session of the Superior Court.

Please remain standing for the singing of "God Bless America" by Judge Vincent J. Bifferato -- That's Vincent J. Poppiti.

("God Bless America" was sung by the Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Judge Poppiti.

Please be seated.

This Court has been called into Special Session to welcome a new judge, Norman A. Barron. Norman will be number fourteen.

The work on this Court presents intellectual challenges, with the infinite variety of problems that must be solved. Finding solutions, and achieving desired results, can bring a feeling of achievement. However, the time and thought we give to each case becomes less as the caseload increases. Thus, the addition of two judges is most

welcome. Appreciation flows to our Governor and Legislature for responding to our cry for help.

Norman has wonderful credentials.

Hamilton College, 1964; Lieutenant in the Navy from '64 to '68.

Finished one year at Syracuse Law School. Would have made Law Review if he stayed, but transferred to Emory University Law School in 1979, from which he graduated in 1971. He was on Dean's List and received scholarships at Emory.

Norman's paternal grandfather, Mortimer Byers, was a Federal Judge in the Eastern District of New York City. Judge Byers received international publicity when he presided at the trial of Russian Master Spy, Rudolph Abel. Remember, Abel was traded for U-2 pilot Gary Francis Powers, who was held and tried by the Russians after being shot down on his famous spy trip over Russia in May, 1960, during the Eisenhower administration.

Norman's father, who is here, is a retired Admiralty lawyer. Tim, the younger Norman's identical,

is a Deputy Attorney General. Norman has two other brothers, Frazer, a lawyer, who is Assistant to the Director of National Endowments to the Arts; and Mortimer, who could not be here today, who is an organist. He is up in Massachusetts with a bad back.

Norman did a great job as Chief Magistrate for eight years. I especially enjoyed his thorough written summations of the law which he distributed. They were helpful to me and others.

I'll let the other speakers mention Norman's work on Sentencing Reform and his many other achievements in Delaware. They are substantial.

But, first, we must get Norman sworn in as a Judge. This will be done by Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie.

Norman M. Barron, Norman's father, and Alice B. Barron, his wife, will hold the Bible.

Following the swearing-in, the robe will be put on Norman by Judge Vincent A. Bifferato.

Please stand while the oath is administered.
Chief Justice Christie.

(Whereupon Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie's opening remarks were unreported.)

(Norman M. Barron (Father) and Alice B. Barron (Wife) holding the Bible.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Norman Barron, are you ready to take the Oath of Office?

JUDGE BARRON: I am.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Please place your right hand on the Bible and repeat after me the following words: I, Norman A. Barron . . .

JUDGE BARRON: I, Norman A. Barron . . .

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: . . . do proudly swear to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware to the best of my ability . . .

JUDGE BARRON: . . . do proudly swear to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware to the best of my ability . . .

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: . . . freely

acknowledging that the powers of this office flow from the people I am privileged to represent.

JUDGE BARRON: . . . freely acknowledging that the powers of this office flow from the people I am privileged to represent.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: . . . I further swear always to place the public interest above any special or personal interests . . .

JUDGE BARRON: . . . I further swear always to place the public interest above any special or personal interests . . .

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: . . . and to respect the right of future generations to share the rich historic and natural heritage of Delaware.

JUDGE BARRON: . . . and to respect the right of future generations to share the rich historic and natural heritage of Delaware.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: . . . In doing so I will always uphold and defend the Constitutions of my Country and my State, so help me God.

JUDGE BARRON: . . . In doing so I will always uphold and defend the Constitutions of my Country

and my State, so help me God.

* * *

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Congratulations,
Judge Barron.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Congratulations.

JUDGE BARRON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Judge Vincent A.
Bifferato will now place the judicial robe on Judge
Barron.

(Whereupon Judge Norman A. Barron was
robed by the Honorable Vincent A. Bifferato.)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Chief
Justice Christie.

I now call on the Governor of the State of
Delaware for his remarks. The Governor will leave
after his remarks because of his other appointments
and a tight schedule.

Governor Michael Newbold Castle.

(Applause)

GOVERNOR CASTLE: Chief Judge Stiftel, Chief Justice Christie, and I do apologize to the entire Barron family. I think I have known Mr. Barron for thirty years or something when we met. But I apologize to all of you for having to attend a Salvation Army dedication in about ten minutes, so I must leave to do that.

Let me just say, Judge Stiftel, to give us all time, on behalf of the audience, to hear Judge Bifferato sing "God Bless America". That is a very worthwhile idea. (Laughter)

I guess I'm a little hesitant to speak and particularly to leave at any session to which both Larry Sullivan and Charles Oberly are going to speak. I thank you for the rather unique aspect of this, Judge Barron in gratuitously bringing them together. They are sitting together behaving themselves very admirably here.

The Chief Justice cited many of the things that will probably be repeated, and I could say, too; but I do need to touch base on some of these things. I must tell all of you, because many of you in the room

are lawyers, and you may not have any idea what it is like for me and what I have to go through in the selection of lawyers to become Judges in our Court. It is very difficult and perhaps the most difficult thing that I do, because, frankly, I know most of you, and if I don't know you, then I know quite a bit about you. And to make choices among friends is not a very easy thing.

And why I should, as somebody who as a lawyer and now as Governor, have to make those choices, I don't know. But that is what the Constitution states, and sometimes it is very difficult. And we have had extraordinary candidates this last term in office and beginning in this term. I am very pleased about that.

Jerry Herlihy becomes a Judge tomorrow. Judge Barron is one of those two people who have applied and gone through the process, the Screening Committee and such, and is also well qualified. And we thank them for their interest and participation. They have a lot to add.

I think one of the things that I do look for is the experience of the people who come before me.

And I don't know if I ever have seen anyone with more experience than Judge Barron had when he came before me. I think all of you know of his experience, having been a trial judge for many years, experience in the Superior Court building as prosecutor and both defense attorney and, of course, for eight years as Chief Magistrate. Any one of us could have been before him for any myriad of offenses which may have been committed in terms of the road or whatever. It may be that some of you may have actually been before Judge Barron or some of his other judges.

To get through that process for eight years and not have some valid alliances to the State Senate, never being court-martialed, just suggests something short of a miracle. You can do that and be a good Superior Court Judge, in my opinion. And he did a good job as far as that is concerned.

He has had a lasting impact on that system, I might add, beyond anything that would be expected of an ordinary person who would serve there, and we appreciate that.

I chaired the Magistrates' Steering Committee. I know how important a job that is and particularly thank Norm for all the outstanding work he did in that. He has been at the same time -- and again, this is something under the surface you may not know -- he has been involved with our Sentencing Accountability Commission and with the Gander Hill Oversight Committee. These are sometimes small things, but I think very, very important things. I would just urge everyone here in this room to get involved in as many of these activities as you can, because, frankly, lawyers do bring a lot to bear on these issues and we are very appreciative of what Norm was able to do and what many of you could do in helping those particular areas.

This State and Nation is founded on the idea that the laws are above all individuals. I think that you, Judge Barron, carry a heavy responsibility. Each day of your career on the Bench you must prove that the role of the law is absolute and must demonstrate to each plaintiff and defendant, to the law enforcement community, to the average citizen, to the families and friends of the men and women who have appeared before you, which

sometimes is just not always an easy job.

I might add, there is a tendency among lawyers to use the language of boilerplate, mumbo-jumbo, routine courtroom procedure to impress their client, to create an aura, mystery about the law. But the fact really is that the average citizen needs to understand the law and understand that the law is fair and uncomplicated. And that is my very simple chore to you, to reach beyond the small circle of the legal community, to the community at large with your decisions, and to help the rest of us in government convince our constituents and our citizens that the system they created and supported is up to their expectations and deserves their continued support. I am convinced that you have the background and experience to do this, and I wish you the very best of luck with it, and the very best of luck with your career. And I thank you, sir, for being willing to serve.

Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much, Governor Castle.

Now, our next speaker will be Arthur G. Connolly, Jr., the President of the Delaware Bar Association.

Arthur.

MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you, Your Honor.

On behalf of the Delaware State Bar Association, I congratulate Norm Barron and extend to him our best wishes for a fulfilling, productive, and happy tenure as a Superior Court Judge. We know he will be a valued addition to this respected and important court.

We share confidence in his ability and his integrity, as Governor Castle has shown by nominating him and the Senate has shown by confirming him.

We also appreciate the efforts of Governor Castle, the Legislature and the many others who worked for the much needed expansion of Superior Court.

Norm has a background which perfectly prepares him to be a Judge of this Court. He has a distinguished

academic record at Hamilton, Syracuse, and Emory Law Schools.

He comes from a family of lawyers, one of whom, as Judge Stiftel has mentioned, has sat in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

He has extensive experience as a prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office and also served as Chief Deputy Attorney General. He has experience as a Public Defender.

He has served as Delaware's Chief Magistrate for over eight years and in the process very competently guided the Magistrates of Delaware and actively participated on many committees dealing with all aspects of the administration of justice in Delaware.

There is an ad on TV about the football coach who is never sure which of the two twin brothers he's sending into the game. If Tim Barron intends to at times sit on this Court, we extend our congratulations to him, also.

(Laughter)

Seriously, though, Judge Norman Barron, we congratulate you and your family on this happy day and

we convey our best wishes.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you,
Arthur.

The Honorable Charles M. Oberly, the
Third, the Attorney General of the State of Delaware,
will now speak.

Charles.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OBERLY: Mr. Chief Justice,
it gives me a great deal of pleasure to come before
you today. When I asked Norm what he wanted me to say,
he said, "Keep it short". So, I'll try to do that.

I want you to all know that we have decided
at our office, we absolutely have no objection to Tim
Barron prosecuting in all cases before Judge Norman
Barron, if we can get the appropriate waivers from
the defense. (Laughter)

Judge Barron, it's hard for me to believe
ten years ago when you were driving a police vehicle,
a van, if I'm not mistaken, through the hinderlands
of Sussex County, across the border to Maryland, with
me and your brother in the car, that some day either

one of us would get to any higher position. I'll let Mr. Barron tell you that story in private at a later time.

It is an honor for me to congratulate Judge Barron, who for the next twenty-four hours will be the newest Associate Judge in the Superior Court.

One thing which gives me the greatest pleasure is the experience Judge Barron brings to the Bench. The overwhelming majority of trials conducted by Superior Court Judges in this State are criminal trials -- approximately fifty percent of the entire workload of every judge is a criminal case -- and Judge Barron brings something to the Court that is no longer provided in 1989 in most private practices, namely, his experience.

Judge Barron himself has tried numerous cases. He has perhaps tried as many cases as most all the judges in the Court put together throughout this State, where he actually has been the trial attorney. Judge Barron is acutely aware of the plight of victims and witnesses who are also entitled to justice under our system. In Judge Barron's hands

I believe the scales of justice are evenly balanced. I believe the playing field is leveled in his hands. And as Attorney General, I can either ask for no more nor can I expect any more, and as a representative of the entire police community, we don't ask any more than that.

Judge Barron, in closing I want to extend a hand of cooperation to Judge Barron and to all the Superior Court Judges. To truly provide justice, we must be just; to have justice, we must make the system justly serve everyone; to serve everyone, we must assure the public that justice is timely administered. That is why we are here today, to help ensure proper administration of justice. Judge Barron is a welcome addition to the Court. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Charles.

I now call on the Honorable Lawrence M. Sullivan, the Public Defender of the State of Delaware, who will say a few words.

Lawrence.

PUBLIC DEFENDER SULLIVAN: Chief Justice Christie, Members of the Supreme Court, Members of the

Court of Chancery, Members of the Superior Court, General Oberly, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Someone once said, the post of danger is the post of honor. I feel honored today because I am in a dangerous situation.

Here I am, expected to make a representative contribution to these proceedings, following speakers the likes of Governor Castle, General Oberly, President Judge Stiftel, and Art Connolly. And as I expected, there is little left to be said if I were to approach this post, this duty in a traditional way.

And so, as I prepared my remarks, I resorted to certain reference material which I have in my library and I found some interesting items. I discovered that the great Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall, resembled Norm Barron in all outward appearance except for the length of their foreheads. So what I was about to do was what was done over a hundred and ninety years ago, before photographs, before films, before television. I was going to present a graphic word picture memorializing the man Norm Barron as he appears today, and memorializing the moment. But, then I came

across something which I believe is more suitable. It is unusual, it is non-traditional, it is what I call near-appropriate.

I came across a eulogy presented in the United States Senate in the year 1900. It was the eulogy on Benjamin Hill, and only God knows who Benjamin Hill was. But the words seemed near-appropriate.

So, with apologies to the late Benjamin Hill and the late Senator John J. Ingalls from the State of Kansas, who in all sincerity presented the eulogy in its original form, I hereby present a modest tongue-in-cheek tribute to the Honorable Norman Barron on the occasion of his passing, from Bar to Bench.

(Laughter)

Norm Barron has this day gone to the other side, to the undiscovered country. Whether his journey is but one step across an imperceptible frontier, or whether he crosses an interminable ocean, black, unfluctuating and voiceless, which stretches between these earthly coasts and those invisible shores, we do not know.

Whether tomorrow morning Norm will see a

more glorious sunrise with unimaginable splendor above a celestial horizon, or whether his apathetic and unconscious ashes will sleep in cold obstruction and insensible oblivion, we do not know.

Whether his strong and subtle energies will find instant exercise in another forum, whether his dexterous and disciplined faculties will be contending in a higher forum than ours for supremacy, or whether his powers were dissipated and dispersed when he left us, we do not know.

Whether his passions, ambitions, and affections will still sway, attract, and impel, and most importantly whether he will remember us, as we remember him, we do not know.

These are the unsolved, the insoluble problems of mortal life and human destiny, which prompted the troubled patriarch to ask that momentous question, for which the centuries have given no answer, and I quote: "If a man goes on the bench, shall he live again?"

Of all those who have gone on the Bench whose obsequies we have paused to solemnize in this chamber, I recall no one whose untimely fate seems so

lamentable, and yet so rich in prophecy as that of Norman Barron. He has reached the meridian of his years. He stood upon the high plateau of middle life, in that serene atmosphere where, much to his regret, temptation no longer assails, where the clamorous passions no more distract, and where the conditions are most favorable for noble and enduring achievement.

He had reached the pinnacle of success. He was a Public Defender. (Laughter) His upward path had been through stormy adversity and contention, such as infrequently falls to the lot of men.

He was born a polemic and controversialist, intellectually pugnacious and combative, so that he was impelled to defend any position that might be assailed, even the sentence accountability options, or to attack any position that might be entrenched, not because the defense or assault was essential, but because the positions were maintained, and those who held them became, by that fact alone, his adversaries.

His rise to this new orbit was at once meteoric and planetary. It flourished with irregular

splendor and shone with steady and penetrating rays. His advocacy of any cause was fearless to the verge of temerity.

He appeared to be indifferent to applause or censure. He accepted intrepidly any conclusions that he reached, without inquiry whether they were politic or expedient. Witness some of those DUI decisions.

To such a spirit, partisanship was unavoidable; but with Norm Barron nobody knew whether he was a Democrat or Republican. He was capable of broad generosity, and extended to his opponents the same unreserved candor which he demanded for himself. He was not a posturer or phrase monger, despite the fact that he named a piece of legislation, "The Truth in Sentencing Bill." He was too intense, too earnest to employ the cheap and paltry decorations of discourse.

Not many men of this generation have been better equipped for a judicial role than he with his commanding presence, his sinewy diction, his confidence and imperturbable self-control.

But in the maturity of his power and his fame, with unmeasured opportunities for achievement

apparently before him, with great designs unaccomplished, and surrounded by the proud and affectionate solicitude of this great constituency gathered here today, the pallid messenger with the inverted torch, Governor Castle, has beckoned him to depart.

No man has greater inducements to live. I know, I presented those inducements. But in the long struggle against my inexorable advances, he did not falter or repine. He has retreated with the aspect of a victor, and though he has succumbed, it seems he has conquered.

His sun went down at exactly 3:10 o'clock today, but it sank amid the prophetic splendors of an eternal dawn.

With more than a hero's courage, with more than a martyr's fortitude, Norm Barron awaited the inevitable hour and went today to the other side, to the undiscovered country.

We'll miss you, Norm.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Larry.

I now want to introduce someone who had an

indispensible part and the reason for the swearing-in ceremonies today.

Mrs. Barron, would you please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Frances Barron (Mother) stood up.)

(Applause)

Norman's wife, Alice, please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Alice B. Barron (Wife) stood up.)

(Applause)

Norman's mother-in-law, Louise Bricker, please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Louise Bricker (Mother-in-law) stood up.)

(Applause)

And how about, Auntie Alice.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Alice Holding (Aunt) stood up.)

(Applause)

And how about Tim's wife, please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Timothy Barron (Sister-in-law) stood up.)

(Applause)

Thank you very much.

Now, Timothy H. Barron, as you heard, Deputy Attorney General, Norman's identical twin brother, will now speak.

MR. TIMOTHY H. BARRON: Mr. Chief Justice Christie, Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court, President Judge Stiftel, Honorable Judges of the Superior Court, Members of the Judiciary, General Oberly and Public Defender Sullivan, Mr. Connolly, Distinguished Guests, Friends and Family of Norm Barron:

It is indeed an honor to have been asked by Norman to speak here today. And why not? Nobody on earth has known Norman longer than I. After all, we were wombmates.

(Laughter)

When we were young and wondering about what to do with our lives, I told Norm that I'd like to be a lawyer like Dad. Well, I'm now a lawyer, but I've still got a long way to go to be the lawyer our dad was. Anyway, Norm told me that he'd like to be a judge like Grandpa. Well, I've been a lawyer now for several

years and still have a long way to go to be the lawyer that our dad was. And today, now, Norm is a Judge and he has some big shoes to fill if he wants to be a Judge like Judge Byers. But knowing Norman as I do, I know he can and will fill those shoes.

He joins today some really superior, Superior Court Judges, people who have dedicated their careers to the public administration of justice. And there can be no higher calling. That it is a difficult job, nobody can doubt. And I personally have marveled over the years at the able, erudite manner with which our Judges perform their difficult duties on a daily basis. We have seen Judges retire or go on to serve at the Appellate or Federal level. And each of them and those who preceded them, and those who serve now, contribute to what has been rightfully called the greatest judicial system on this planet.

And that system, in the words of Learned Hand, who incidentally was a friend of my grandfather's, is, "A structure indubitably made by the hands of generations of Judges, each professing to be a pupil, yet each, in fact, a builder who has contributed his few bricks and his little mortar, often indeed under the

illusion that he has added nothing. A Judge must manage to escape both the horns of this dilemma: He must preserve his authority by cloaking himself in the majesty of an overshadowing past; but he must discover some composition with other dominant trends of his time -- at all hazards he must maintain that tolerable continuity without which society dissolves, and men must begin . . ." anew the long work.

So today, Norm begins to add his small contribution, his few bricks and his little mortar, to the strong legal foundation indefatigably laid by Delaware Judges, past and present.

And as he embarks upon his service today, let him become the kind of Judge as described by Rufus Choate:

"The Judge shall know nothing about the parties, everything about the case. He shall do everything for justice; nothing for himself; nothing for his friend; nothing for his patron; nothing for his sovereign." No, it doesn't say anything about, not do anything for his brother. "If, on one side, is the executive power, and the Legislature and the

people -- the sources of his honors, the givers of his daily bread -- and on the other an individual nameless and odious, his eye is to see neither, great nor small; attending only to the trepidations of the balance."

I know, Norm, you will follow that ideal. I can't tell you how terribly proud I am of you. And I know, so are your friends and colleagues, your wife, Alice, and your mom and dad and the rest of your family.

How do I personally as a twin regard Norman and his achievement?

Again, I must look to the words of Rufus Choate, who said as follows in describing the former late Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, Lemuel Shaw: "I regard him as the Indian does his wooden log, curiously carved; I acknowledge he's ugly, but I bow before a superior intelligence."

One note of caution to Norm: Always keep in mind, in days, months, and years to come, that the lawyers and judges who are here to honor you today may in the future either be cursin' you or reversin' you.

I wish you the greatest success, my brother, and my friend. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Tim.

Judge Barron, our new Judge, will now speak to us.

JUDGE BARRON: Chief Justice Christie, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the United States District Court, Colleagues on this Superior Court, President Judge Stiftel, other Members of the Judiciary, especially Justices of the Peace, President Connolly, Attorney General Oberly, Public Defender Sullivan, Members of the Criminal Justice Council, and Sentencing Accountability Commission, Family and Friends:

I have been advised that my role in today's ceremony should be brief. I should simply thank those who participated in the investiture and those who made it possible. Even under such a self-imposed limitation, it is difficult to be concise, since my thanks must encompass so many people if my appreciation is to be accurately recorded and understood.

I thank Governor Castle for the faith, trust, and confidence he placed in me by nominating me to this position and for lending his presence to this occasion.

I thank the members of the Delaware State Senate for confirming me as a Superior Court Judge.

I thank Chief Justice Christie and President Judge Stiftel for their kind remarks and support given to me over the course of many years.

I thank Judge Poppiti for giving me goose bumps and Judge Bifferato for lending a hand.

I thank President Connolly for his kind remarks and his presence as President of the Delaware Bar Association. Mr. Connolly pilots perhaps the most prestigious and respected Bar in the nation. We members of the Delaware Bench and Bar are proud to share membership in that association, and for the leadership provided by Mr. Connolly and his predecessors in office.

I thank the Attorney General, the Public Defender and my confidant and twin, Tim, for their participation in today's event.

Through my brief tenure as an Assistant Public Defender, I have learned first-hand that good persons advance the positions of both the State and the accused. I thank Larry for permitting me to serve in his Office, though, mercifully, such service turned out to be of short duration. Through it, however, I have gained a new admiration for these men and women who defend daily the rights of persons charged with having committed offenses against the State. It's a very difficult and demanding responsibility. I confess that I found it more palatable wearing the white hat and carrying a badge, but the satisfaction of each position is equal, seeing that justice is done.

I thank the State's Justices of the Peace for giving me their support as I tackled the duties of Chief Magistrate. They are a fine and dedicated group of men and women. I believe that they constitute a very important component of the State's judicial system. Because I know that the Governor and Chief Justice share this view, I am confident that the Justice of the Peace Court System will continue to

have the support it needs and deserves.

I thank my parents for raising my brother and me in a moral, healthy, and loving climate. They gave us financial support, allowing us to pursue our educational goals; but they gave us more, always willing to offer advice and instilling in us the proper values by which to live. Most important, they gave us and continue to give us their love which we can never adequately repay.

I thank my wife, Alice, for putting up with my sometimes warped and zany personality, and for sharing with me her life and her love.

I thank Court Administrator, Tom Ralston, and my secretary, Pam Nagle, for doing much of the coordination for today's event.

When I walked into the Court of Common Pleas seventeen years ago on my first day as a Deputy Attorney General, with heart pounding and knees shaking, I never imagined that one day I would take an oath and become a Superior Court Judge. No words can properly convey the honor I feel, having been given this assignment. It is an honor bestowed upon my entire family, and the occasion

has the aura of a family reunion.

I swore to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Delaware upon the Bible of my paternal grandfather, the late Reverend Alexander Barron; the robes I wear were worn with distinction by my maternal grandfather, the late Judge Byers. Though not present in body, they are here in spirit, as are others who were taken too soon -- my late Uncle Al Holding, my late father-in-law, Charles Bricker.

It is for them that I make this pledge: I seek no further tribute and no higher office. Today marks the culmination of all my hopes and dreams. I seek only to be remembered as a good and fair judge, one who gave fidelity to the laws of my State and the conscience of the people I am privileged to serve.

Norm, did we fool anyone?

(Laughter)

Thank you all very much for sharing with me this exciting occasion.

(Standing ovation)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Judge Barron, and welcome to the Superior Court.

These proceedings are now at an end.

Thank you very much for coming.

A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony in the lobby on the County side. You may greet Norman and family here and downstairs, as you might choose.

Tomorrow Jerry Herlihy will become the fifteenth Superior Court Judge.

Court is recessed.

(Whereupon the investiture proceedings were concluded at 3:45 o'clock p.m.)