

COPY

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

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Ceremony of Investiture) Wednesday, April 19, 2000
)
of) Superior Court Courtroom
) Sussex County Courthouse
HON. E. SCOTT BRADLEY) Georgetown, Delaware
)
As an Associate Judge of) 12:05 o'clock p.m.
)
The State of Delaware)

PRESIDING: THE HONORABLE HENRY duPONT RIDGELY,
PRESIDENT JUDGE,
DELAWARE SUPERIOR COURT

PRESENT:

GOVERNOR THOMAS R. CARPER
CHIEF JUSTICE E. NORMAN VEASEY
JUSTICE RANDY J. HOLLAND
CHANCELLOR WILLIAM B. CHANDLER, III
DENNIS L. SCHRADER, ESQUIRE
H. CLAY DAVIS, ESQUIRE

OTHERS PRESENT:

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. QUILLEN
THE HONORABLE JEROME O. HERLIHY
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM C. CARPENTER, JR.
THE HONORABLE JAMES T. VAUGHN, JR.
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. WITHAM, JR.
THE HONORABLE RICHARD F. STOKES
SENATOR THURMAN ADAMS, JR.

KATHY S. PURNELL
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Welcome to the
3 Special Session of the Superior Court commemorating
4 the investiture of E. Scott Bradley as a judge of
5 the Superior Court. We will now have the invocation
6 by Reverend Day.

7 REVEREND DAY: Bow your heads as we pray.

8 We have a great and almighty God that we
9 can acknowledge your presence with us at this event
10 today. We thank you that we can know you as God and
11 that we have the privilege of prayer.

12 We thank you, too, that you work in our
13 lives always for good; for the desire that you place
14 in each of us to strive and to succeed. For your
15 presence, God, in the life of Scott Bradley; for his
16 successes and for his achievement in his chosen
17 profession, and for the nurturing and the support of
18 his parents, the support of Jessica, his wife, and
19 his sons, Conner and Colton, as they come to
20 celebrate with him this day in this investiture.

21 We pray, God, that you will use this event
22 to help him and all of us here today to continue to
23 celebrate the role of law in our community, both

1 locally and nationally, the vision to assure the
2 legal presence and equality, and to settle for no
3 less than justice and to facilitate peace in our
4 communities.

5 Give us the vision, Lord, to labor at laws
6 that balance blessings and responsibilities. May we
7 persist in ever to enforce laws that insist in the
8 kind of good for which we often lack courage while
9 if we are left to our own devices. And as we
10 consider our own relationship to the law personally
11 today, we pray that you would fill us with
12 sensitivity, sensitivity especially to the
13 difference between the civil and the spiritual and
14 the necessity of law and the supremacy of grace.

15 Bless all those who participated in this
16 event today, and may they be inspired as well in the
17 results of all of this. In Jesus' name we pray.
18 Amen.

19 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,
20 Reverend Day. Please be seated.

21 I would like to begin by introducing those
22 who are seated with me on the bench today. To my
23 left is Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, Supreme

1 Court of Delaware. To my right is Resident Judge T.
2 Henley Graves of the Superior Court of Delaware. To
3 the right of Resident Judge Graves is where Superior
4 Court Judge Scott Bradley will be seated soon.

5 In the jury box and robed for the occasion
6 are Superior Court Judges Quillen, Herlihy,
7 Carpenter, Vaughn, Witham and Stokes.

8 The Court wishes to recognize the family
9 members of Judge Bradley who are present today, and
10 in particular, Scott's wife, Jessica, and his sons,
11 Conner and Colton. His parents, Robert and Edith
12 Wright. His mother-in-law, Genevieve Crampton.

13 The Court also recognizes Governor Carper
14 and the members of the Delaware Senate and House who
15 are present, and the members the Delaware Judiciary
16 and the Bar, Sussex County public officers, and
17 Scott Bradley's many, many friends, including those
18 who will speak today, and I will introduce them
19 shortly.

20 To each of you, a warm and very special
21 welcome to the Superior Court. We are here today to
22 commemorate the beginning of Scott Bradley's career
23 as a member of the Superior Court, our State's

1 general jurisdiction trial court. The proceeding is
2 one of investiture where the historical robing is of
3 a special ceremonial significance and public
4 commitment under oath. The robe itself is a symbol
5 of impartiality and the judges' solemn duty to
6 administer equal justice on behalf of the people we
7 serve.

8 The robe and the red sash worn by Superior
9 Court judges today symbolize the heritage and
10 continuity of the Superior Court as a law court in
11 Delaware with a history dating back more than 330
12 years. For more on that, check out our web site at
13 courts.state.de.us/superior.

14 Our speakers today will tell you more about
15 the friend, Scott Bradley, a judge who brings
16 impressive credentials and experience to the
17 Superior Court. I've known Scott through his
18 membership in the Terry-Carey American Inns of
19 Court, an organization dedicated to professional
20 ethics and legal essence. I am confident, as are my
21 colleagues, that Judge Bradley will serve the public
22 with distinction as a Superior Court judge.

23 It is now my pleasure to ask the Honorable

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1 T. Henley Graves to publicly administer the Oath of
2 Office. Mr. Conner Bradley and Mr. Colton Bradley
3 will hold the Bible. Mrs. Jessica A.
4 Crampton-Bradley will then assist with the robing.
5 Please rise for this purpose.

6 JUDGE GRAVES: Before we do this, I just
7 want to make you all aware that this Court has been
8 aging quite a bit. When I came on approximately ten
9 years ago, there were ten judges under 50 years of
10 age. There are now three judges under 50 years of
11 age. We'll have our fourth. So it's good to have
12 some young blood, Governor, and we appreciate that.

13 I learned recently that that was a
14 consideration, that Scott's youth was necessary to
15 balance some of the oldsters that are now in
16 Superior Court. I also learned that the Governor
17 was trying to balance it in other ways, that he was
18 looking for a quiet judge, a reserved judge, and
19 perhaps a judge that didn't drink coffee. And I
20 said, "Are you talking to me, Governor?"

21 Scott, are you prepared to take the Oath of
22 Office?

23 JUDGE BRADLEY: I am.

1 JUDGE GRAVES: Please come forward. Raise
2 your hand and please repeat.

3 (Whereupon, the Oath of Office was
4 administered, following which the ceremonial
5 robing took place.)

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Putting the sash
7 on is more difficult than it may seem.

8 JUDGE BRADLEY: I received some very good
9 advice about what you can and cannot do in a robe
10 from Judge Bifferato. It saved me from learning it
11 the hard way, I suspect.

12 JUDGE BIFFERATO: I hope.

13 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Please be seated.
14 Scott, we welcome you to the Superior
15 Court.

16 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: I now would like
18 to invite his excellency, the Honorable Thomas R.
19 Carper, the Governor for the State of Delaware, to
20 make his remarks. Governor Carper.

21 GOVERNOR CARPER: Judge Ridgely, thank you
22 very much. To Chief Justice Veasey, it's great to
23 be with you. Judge Graves, how are you today?

1 Thank you for allowing us to be here.

2 And to our new judge and to your family, to
3 those that join us from the judiciary, the leaders
4 of our courts, particularly all the Superior Court
5 members that have been able to come today.

6 To Thurman Adams, Chairman of the Senate
7 Executive Committee, through whom these nominations
8 have flowed, we thank you and the members of the
9 Senate for approving this nomination and for your
10 good advice and counsel to me along the way.

11 Reverend, clergy, to the other members of
12 the bench and bar who are here today, to those who
13 have served us with great distinction who are here
14 today -- Biff, it's nice to see you, and to Judge
15 Ellis, it's always a pleasure to be with you. To
16 the Wrights who helped raise this young man and
17 helped bend this twig into a pretty good sort of
18 tree, we thank you for the work that you did in
19 getting him started in life and turned him over to
20 Jessica to really straighten him out and raising him
21 the rest of the way.

22 Colton and Conner, I asked these guys how
23 old they were and one said he's ten. How old are

1 you, Colton?

2 COLTON BRADLEY: Nine.

3 GOVERNOR CARPER: I've got two boys ten and
4 eleven, and they're the apples of our eyes and the
5 joys of our lives, and we're proud of them and I
6 know your parents are proud of you. And I suspect
7 you're sort of proud of your dad.

8 And to Genevieve, we thank you for being
9 here and for taking those pictures. It's a
10 good-looking family up here.

11 Watching the swearing-in ceremony reminded
12 me of when I was first sworn into office by Tip
13 O'Neil as a member of the House of Representatives.
14 I used to be the State Treasurer for six years. My
15 parents used to say that I didn't have a real job.
16 The State Treasurer, it's a real job. When I stood
17 up and my parents stood with me in the ceremonial
18 service in the Speaker's Office down at the Nation's
19 Capitol, I stood and raised my hand, my parents held
20 the Bible for me, my dad said, "You've got a real
21 job now, Tom."

22 I would say, Scott, you've got a real job,
23 Judge. You had one before. You've really got one

1 now. I'm glad you're willing to take it on and
2 grateful to everybody who has given you advice,
3 including Judge Bifferato, and some real important
4 advice on the personal behaviors for helping to get
5 us to this day.

6 The Chancellor over here told me when I was
7 trying to make up my mind, he was good enough to
8 share some thoughts with me about why I shouldn't
9 nominate this fellow. No. On the contrary, he
10 said, "We run together."

11 I'm a runner. I like to work out every
12 day. And he told me they run together. I said, "Is
13 he any good? He said, "He's too good. He's too
14 good." Even though he's too good, he always lets
15 the Chancellor win. You know, I've got to admire
16 that in a fellow. I've got to admire that in a guy
17 or a gal.

18 Well, you join today, Judge Bradley, the
19 finest judiciary in this country. Not one of the
20 finest, the finest judiciary in this country. Some
21 of you who have been with me before, you heard me
22 say, I never was asked, when I ran for Governor in
23 1992, no one ever asked me or Gary Scott, my

1 opponent -- and we had 30-some joint appearances
2 together -- no one ever asked either of us what you
3 look for in the quality of people that are nominated
4 to the bench. Not one time was that ever raised.
5 And as it turns out, one of the most important
6 things that the Governor of the State does,
7 especially in this State, giving the importance of
8 our courts, not only in America, but around the
9 world, it's one of the most important
10 responsibilities that the Governor has, and I've
11 been privileged to be able to know and to meet and
12 to nominate a number of judges that serve here today
13 and throughout the State.

14 And I would say again, every one of them
15 goes through Senator Adams' committee, and I would
16 like to thank him for helping me along the way and
17 really helping to ensure that the high tradition and
18 high quality of the judicial system is preserved.

19 There are a number of qualities I look for.
20 I just look for somebody whose past is good, and a
21 decent human being. We've got one here. The fact
22 that he is devoted to his family and has come from a
23 wonderful family, is important as well. I'm

1 grateful that you've gone on to prepare him for
2 today.

3 I just want to say to Jessica and Colton
4 and Conner, thank you for the willingness to share
5 with us a very good man. I like the fact that he is
6 young. Look at him. Just look at him sitting up
7 there. He looks like -- I won't say a teenager.
8 But doesn't he look like a young man? I mean we're
9 really bringing some youth to the Court.

10 CHANCELLOR CHANDLER: A lot of miles.

11 GOVERNOR CARPER: A lot of miles. How old
12 is he, anyway? I think it's 40-something. But he
13 looks about 25, and so do you.

14 We know, given the age of the kids, he's
15 got to be a little older than that. But to look at
16 him, he has a lot of energy, a lot of vitality. I
17 think he got that from this judge.

18 I was looking for somebody who believes in
19 the Golden Rule. That's why when it comes to the
20 courtroom, treat them, the folks that are appearing
21 there, the lawyers, treat them the way you want to
22 be treated. I want somebody that's committed to
23 excellence, to doing things well. I want somebody

1 that's going to work hard, a lot of energy; somebody
2 who knows the law, who understands it and is able to
3 make us all proud with the way that he serves;
4 someone in whom we can literally entrust a person's
5 life, because of the gravity of decision, whether on
6 the business side or on the personal side, if it's a
7 capital crime where it comes down to that in the
8 end, that important decisions can be made and will
9 be made by this judge, as they're made throughout
10 the course of the year by his colleagues and with
11 others with whom he serves.

12 I believe that the judiciary of this State
13 is better today, is better this hour than it was
14 just a few minutes ago. I think it's better because
15 of the addition of Scott Bradley to the bench.

16 I'm saying this in closing. There are some
17 times the Governor will have the opportunity to make
18 a decision, and I could make either the right
19 decision or the wrong decision. And many times when
20 I have people that have been supplied to me by the
21 Judicial Nominating Committee for the consideration
22 as a candidate for the bench, the decisions are
23 easier. In some cases, they're very difficult. In

1 this instance, I could not have made a bad selection
2 from among those that came before me, before the
3 Judicial Nominating Committee. They're excellent,
4 excellent people. It's a tough thing. Thurman has
5 heard me say this before, "It's a tough thing and I
6 can only nominate one person in the end." I can
7 honestly say, as Joe Biden likes to say, "You create
8 three or four enemies and one ingrate." That comes
9 with the territory.

10 I'm glad we're all here. I'm just glad
11 each of you were able to join us for this
12 celebration. I think the beginning of a new
13 career -- the same business in a way, but a new
14 career for a fellow who I think is going to make all
15 of you very, very proud. He already has, and I
16 think he'll continue to do that.

17 Congratulations, Scott. To your family,
18 and to all the judges, thank you.

19 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,
20 Governor Carper. And also thank you, Senator Adams,
21 and the Senate for confirming Scott.

22 I now invite Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
23 to give his remarks on this occasion. Chief Justice

1 Veasey.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Thank you, President
3 Judge Ridgely, Governor Carper, Senator Adams,
4 members of the General Assembly, members of the
5 judiciary, retired members of the judiciary. I see
6 some of our distinguished retired members of the
7 judiciary out there.

8 Scott Bradley, Judge Bradley, and members
9 of Judge Bradley's family, members of Judge
10 Bradley's former law firm, the distinguished law
11 firm of Young, Conaway, Stargatt and Taylor. I see
12 many of them out here.

13 It's a great pleasure for me to be here in
14 Sussex County. My grandmother was born in Sussex
15 County. I want everybody to know that. She didn't
16 know that, but I found that out later. Does that
17 count for anything, Chancellor?

18 CHANCELLOR CHANDLER: I think it does.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: All right. Good.
20 But it's a great pleasure to be here and to welcome
21 Judge Bradley to the Delaware Judiciary.

22 Governor, I appreciate your words about the
23 Delaware Judiciary, and I think they're true. I

1 think people around the country realize that the
2 Delaware Judiciary is special. And this Court, this
3 Superior Court, has a special place in the Delaware
4 Judiciary. It is nationally recognized as an
5 outstanding court of general trial jurisdiction.
6 Not only in all of the things that a court of
7 general trial jurisdiction does, from criminal cases
8 to contract disputes, but some of the very
9 complicated work that this Court does that is on the
10 national radar screen and has a great deal of
11 following around the country and has a great deal of
12 respect everywhere, including in the Delaware
13 Supreme Court.

14 I think the records affirming the decisions
15 of this Court is very high, and that's a great
16 credit to President Judge Ridgely and all of the
17 members of this Court. And not only does it have
18 that great reputation that Judge Bradley is adding
19 today, but it's an innovative court. I see a lot of
20 bright new ideas that are being followed nationally
21 that find their origins in the Delaware Supreme
22 Court. And they do have a great web site. You must
23 go visit their web site. I'm glad they brought a

1 mouse here so that I could check on the web site
2 while the proceeding is going on.

3 But it is an innovative web site and they
4 do lots of innovative things, like the sashes.
5 These sashes are all new. I don't know how many
6 years it's been, but you see I'm not wearing one.
7 President Judge Ridgely invited me to wear one
8 today, but I said I'd be an impostor if I did. But
9 it's very colorful. And the black robe is much in
10 vogue, because we're still mourning Queen Anne, I
11 think, from centuries ago, and that's why we wear
12 the black robes.

13 But the Delaware Supreme Court and the
14 Delaware Courts of Chancery have innovative new
15 robes. The Court of Chancery's are different and
16 they all have historic origins. So it's a wonderful
17 Court and I'm delighted that Judge Bradley has
18 joined this Court.

19 Governor, I don't know how old Judge
20 Bradley is, either. But while you were talking, I
21 was going through his resume. It doesn't have his
22 date of birth, but I noticed that he graduated from
23 Seaford High School 25 years ago. So we can all do

1 the math.

2 But bringing down the average age is good
3 and, Governor, I commend you for this appointment.
4 And, Senator Adams, I commend you and the Senate for
5 this confirmation of this appointment.

6 The judicial selection process in Delaware
7 is unique and it is very well respected. I have a
8 meeting this afternoon that's a conference call
9 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Conference
10 of Chief Justices, and we are supposed to act upon a
11 nationwide judicial selection model that goes on for
12 pages and pages and pages. But no model is any
13 better than the Delaware model, and all around the
14 country we see problems with elected judges having
15 to campaign for office, having to raise money for
16 office. And we see problems between the Legislature
17 and the Executive Branches and the Judicial Branches
18 that come out of those other systems. We don't have
19 those problems in Delaware, and that's because the
20 Legislative Branch, Executive Branch and the
21 Judicial Branch all work every day about
22 interdependence of the three branches of government,
23 and that's a wonderful thing for Delaware.

1 So I think when I have this conference call
2 this afternoon, I'm going to throw that piece of
3 paper away and just follow the 1897 Delaware
4 Constitution and the way it's being implemented
5 today by our Governor and our Senate. We are one
6 system. As the Governor indicated, it's not just a
7 bunch of independent courts of Superior Court, and
8 the Court of Chancery and Family Court and the
9 Justice of the Peace Court and the Common Pleas
10 Court going off in all different directions, we are
11 a unified system and we're trying to get toward a
12 common goal enhancing and building public trust and
13 confidence in the Court system. Delaware is light
14 years ahead of many other states in that regard.

15 So I'm very proud and honored to be a part
16 of the Delaware Judiciary and to be here with Judge
17 Bradley and his family and all of you today. So
18 thank you.

19 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you, Chief
20 Justice. Governor.

21 GOVERNOR CARPER: Could I just have a P.S.?
22 He's too modest to say it, but he talked about the
23 Board of Directors of all the Chief Justices around

1 the country joining in the conference call. What he
2 didn't say is he is the leader of all the Chief
3 Justices in all the United States.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: And I followed the
5 leader of all the Governors in the United States,
6 Governor Carper.

7 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: I now would like
8 to invite Justice Randy J. Holland of the Supreme
9 Court of Delaware to give his remarks. Justice
10 Holland.

11 JUSTICE HOLLAND: Governor Carper, Chief
12 Justice, President Judge Ridgely, Judge Graves, and
13 Judge Bradley, distinguished members of the Superior
14 Court, and other members of the Judiciary, General
15 Assembly:

16 It's an honor for me to participate today.
17 In an occasion like this we tend to reflect on
18 history and how it has influenced the development of
19 our legal system, and also on how the historical
20 events in Judge Bradley's life have selected his
21 development.

22 President Judge Ridgely mentioned that the
23 Superior Court traces its heritage back to 1669. In

1 fact, sashes like those were worn in 1669. But the
2 word "Superior Court" first appeared in the Delaware
3 Constitution of 1831. The primary draftsman of that
4 provision was John M. Clayton.

5 John M. Clayton, we've all heard about. He
6 grew up in Dagsboro, Delaware, a Sussex Countian
7 like Judge Bradley, and he came back to Delaware
8 from the United States Senate to serve with Henry
9 Clendaniel Webster, to participate in the Delaware
10 Constitutional Convention that led to the 1831
11 creation of the Delaware Superior Court.

12 Like Judge Bradley, John M. Clayton had
13 many opportunities. We've heard several references
14 to Judge Bradley's age. Like Judge Bradley, at the
15 same age, after serving in the United States Senate,
16 John M. Clayton served on the Superior Court of the
17 State of Delaware. We're very fortunate when a
18 person like Scott Bradley, who was a partner in one
19 of the most prestigious firms in the State, is
20 willing to forego personal compensation, with the
21 agreement of his family, and dedicate himself to
22 public service. It really is an act of personal
23 sacrifice for the good of the legal system.

1 Judge Bradley has been influenced by his
2 partners in making that decision because his
3 partners have a long history of commitment to Sussex
4 County and to public service. The name of the firm
5 is Young, Conaway, Stargatt and Taylor. Many of us
6 know that Jim Conaway was a native of Georgetown,
7 Delaware. And although he went to practice law in
8 Wilmington, he came back to open an office here in
9 Georgetown, and that's the office that Scott joined.

10 It was that Sussex County heritage and the
11 Sussex County tradition that caused John M. Clayton
12 to come back, to cause Jim Conaway to come back, and
13 that now brings Judge Bradley back to us.

14 In the firm, there was also a substantial
15 influence by H. Albert Young, the Attorney General
16 of Delaware. In particular, the Attorney General
17 during the desegregation crisis. After Brown versus
18 Board of Education was decided, the U.S. Supreme
19 Court directed the Attorney Generals of the United
20 States to integrate the schools with all reasonable
21 speed. H. Albert Young was called by other Attorney
22 Generals that were invited to go to a meeting to
23 frustrate the implementation of that order. Hy

1 Young's response to those other Attorney Generals
2 was that the United States Supreme Court had spoken,
3 the decision might be unpopular, but the decision
4 was correct, and he intended to enforce the law of
5 the land.

6 That's what Judge Bradley is committing
7 himself to doing. He also will be making decisions,
8 some of which may not be popular, all of which will
9 undoubtedly be correct, and he will be called upon
10 to enforce them. Judge Bradley has not only been
11 influenced by the history of people like John M.
12 Clayton and the history of his law firm, but he's
13 also influenced by the history of the Delaware
14 Judiciary, and in particular, the Delaware Superior
15 Court.

16 I mentioned that Jim Conaway was from
17 Georgetown, but it's interesting to note that he
18 also was a law clerk for Judge Rodney, another judge
19 of the Superior Court. Judge Rodney is a collateral
20 descendant of the famous horseback rider, Caesar
21 Rodney. Now that Judge Bradley has taken his seat
22 on the Superior Court, one of his colleagues will be
23 Judge Rodney's grandson, Judge Cooch.

1 Undoubtedly, Judge Bradley has also been
2 influenced by the other people he sees on the
3 Superior Court. For example, President Judge
4 Ridgely, who is descended from one of the people
5 that signed the Constitution, ratified it to make
6 Delaware the First State.

7 We see other illustrious members of the
8 bench here. Some are in the audience. Judge Ellis,
9 Judge Bifferato, Judge Lee. It's the examples of
10 those role models that inspire a person like Judge
11 Bradley to consider a judicial career.

12 Undoubtedly, he is influenced the most by
13 the two colleagues he'll serve with, Judge Graves
14 and Judge Stokes. He could not have two better
15 mentors, and to the extent he's aligned his values
16 with theirs, it speaks volumes.

17 The only thing I will say on behalf of
18 Judge Stokes and Judge Graves is that if I was ever
19 called upon to go into court personally, I would
20 have no reservations waiving a trial by jury and
21 having either one of them pronounce what would be a
22 fair judgment in my case. That's the type of
23 example he will see.

1 But he's also been influenced by another
2 former member of the Superior Court that's now our
3 Chancellor, his companion and running mate,
4 Chancellor William Chandler. Chancellor Chandler
5 began his judicial tenure on the Superior Court.
6 And I mentioned John M. Clayton. Like John M.
7 Clayton, Chancellor Chandler is not only from Sussex
8 County, he's from Dagsboro, and he lives across the
9 street from where John M. Clayton grew up.

10 Now, something I didn't tell you about John
11 M. Clayton, because I'm afraid that Judge Bradley
12 might get lorded away from the bench, is that John
13 M. Clayton was lorded away from the bench by
14 President Zachary Taylor. He became Secretary of
15 State of the United States. During his tenure as
16 Secretary of State, he negotiated and had signed
17 what's known as the Clayton Bullworth Treaty, one of
18 the most famous events in our American history.

19 When I was getting ready to speak today, I
20 was struck by the fact that the Clayton Bullworth
21 Treaty was signed on April 19th, 1850. So here we
22 are, on April 19th, 2000, with the influence of John
23 M. Clayton present, who created Superior Court, who

1 lived in the same town with Chancellor Chandler, and
2 like Judge Bradley, is from Sussex County.

3 But I think what tells us most about Judge
4 Bradley is a reference that President Judge Ridgely
5 made. I, like President Judge Ridgely, came to know
6 Judge Bradley as a member of the Terry-Carey
7 American Inns of Court. It's a group of judges and
8 lawyers, many of whom are in this room, who have
9 committed themselves to legal excellence, legal
10 ethics, professionalism and civility. Judge Bradley
11 has all of those qualities. Judge Bradley will
12 bring all of those qualities to the bench.

13 We talked about the Superior Court, and I
14 really think if we were writing a history of the
15 Superior Court, the better title would be, "The
16 History of Superior Court Judges," because that's
17 what we have had on the Superior Court, and Judge
18 Bradley joins that tradition. I agree with Governor
19 Carper, that he has enhanced it. I have no doubt
20 that when we write the history of the Superior Court
21 in the 21st Century, we'll remember that on April
22 19th, 2000, one of the most distinguished members of
23 the Superior Court began his judicial career.

1 Scott, congratulations and welcome to the
2 Delaware bench.

3 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,
5 Justice Holland. Justice Holland mentioned the
6 American Inns of Court. That is a nationwide
7 organization which charters various inns around the
8 country, hundreds of them, and I'm pleased to note
9 that Justice Holland, later in the year, will be
10 president of that national organization, which again
11 speaks very well for Delaware, Governor, and to all
12 present.

13 I now would like to invite Chancellor
14 William B. Chandler, III, Court of Chancery, State
15 of Delaware, to give his remarks. Chancellor
16 Chandler.

17 CHANCELLOR CHANDLER: Thank you, President
18 Judge Ridgely. Governor Carper, Senator Adams,
19 Chief Justice Veasey, fellow colleagues, bench, both
20 active -- and I shouldn't say inactive of the bench;
21 active in other ways now that they're not on the
22 bench -- members of the bar, members of Judge
23 Bradley's family, friends and family of Judge

1 Bradley:

2 It's my great privilege and honor to have
3 the opportunity to say a few words to you. And I
4 have the misfortune of following right after Justice
5 Holland, which is not an enviable spot to be in, or
6 after Governor Carper, it's a difficult spot to be
7 in.

8 But fortunately, Judge Bradley, seated in
9 his jurisdiction, and I, entered an injunction
10 confining me to just two minutes of remarks. So I'm
11 going to do my best. I don't know what the motives
12 might have been in trying to restrict what I could
13 say at this special occasion, but it is a special
14 occasion for him and his family. So for that
15 reason, I feel privileged that he would invite me to
16 say a few words.

17 It's also a special privilege because it's
18 an opportunity to thank you, those who are really
19 responsible in a way. That's the Governor and
20 Senator Adams and the members of the Senate, who
21 with the nominating affirming authorities, had the
22 good judgment, I think, to add to the luster and the
23 strength of Superior Court. We've heard a lot said

1 about that, but it's really true.

2 I have a special fondness in my heart for
3 the Court, and I'm especially pleased that there are
4 some of the personal judicial heroes of the
5 judiciary for me personally here today: Judge
6 Ellis, Judge Bifferato, Judge Lee and others. They
7 have been a great deal to me in the formative years
8 of my life, and, you know, I'm hopeful that some day
9 one will look back and they'll say that Judge
10 Bradley was their hero. So I think that's what
11 gives the ceremony some special meaning for me.

12 But in reflecting on the Superior Court and
13 its strengths, I do have a couple of statistics that
14 I wanted to share, both with Judge Bradley and with
15 the rest of the audience. When I was appointed to
16 the Superior Court in 1985, there were, during that
17 year, 80 or 100 civil and criminal files in that
18 fiscal year. In 1999, there were 2,800
19 civil/criminal files. And on the disposition side,
20 the number of cases that were being resolved, there
21 were 700 in 1985; there were 2,700 in 1999. We've
22 gone from two judges to three. Now that to me is
23 testimony to the strength and the work ethic

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1 dedication and ability of the people who have
2 occupied those positions under the leadership of
3 Bill Lee, the resident judge, and now under the
4 leadership of Henley Graves. It's a very strong
5 court.

6 The Sussex County Superior Court Bench is a
7 strong one with great tradition and great history,
8 and I think that's a compliment to them and to their
9 colleagues in the rest of the State under the
10 leadership of President Judge Ridgely.

11 So it's a difficult court, though it's one
12 in which the judges are called upon to make
13 extremely difficult decisions, and they have to make
14 them alone in the heat of battle, usually not after
15 exhaustive briefing or opportunities for rehearsed
16 and timed oral argument and reflect then afterwards,
17 but in the heat of battle, immediately. So it
18 requires almost the intuitive, automatic grasp for
19 what's right, for doing the right thing, for doing
20 the fair thing.

21 So I think that's what we look to and
22 expect in the appointment, and I think in this
23 Governor's case and in past Governors' cases, we've

1 gotten just that caliber of people, and Judge
2 Bradley would have the same ability. To use
3 Governor Carper's own words that we've heard used
4 from time to time, I think you'll find Scott to be
5 an individual of tremendous work ethic, very small
6 ego, great work ethic, a very abled and dedicated
7 judge.

8 Now, he's had to adjust a little bit in the
9 past few days. He did share with me that he's a
10 little unnerved, upsetting. He's had to get
11 accustomed to the new lexicon of Superior Court --
12 VOP's, DUI's, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4,
13 Level 5, all this new terminology that he has to
14 master. I think he's learning that.

15 Also he's had to adjust to the deference
16 and the way people treat you differently. He told
17 me he's very unaccustomed to other lawyers calling
18 him "Sir" and "Your Honor", and this notion of older
19 men and women opening doors for him. It's totally
20 out of his experience. But I think what that says
21 is it's the prestige and honor of the position.

22 But the important factor, I think the
23 Governor talked about, is the family, Scott's family

1 and his friends who will be steadfast in their
2 support to him. They'll provide for Scott the
3 balance in his life that will enable him to meet
4 those difficult times of a judge, but not forget
5 where he came from.

6 And so, Scott, Judge Bradley, good luck to
7 you, and congratulations.

8 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,
10 Chancellor Chandler.

11 Our next speaker will be Dennis L.
12 Schrader, Esquire, who is president-elect of the
13 Delaware State Bar Association and a member of the
14 Sussex County Bar. Mr. Schrader.

15 MR. SCHRADER: Thank you. President Judge
16 Ridgely, Governor Carper, Senator Adams, Chief
17 Justice Veasey, members of the bench and bar, and
18 distinguished guests:

19 Somewhere along the line I think we take a
20 look at very youthful Scott Bradley and wonder
21 what's going through his mind at this moment.
22 Surely it must be somewhere between being a Maalox
23 moment and a Hallmark moment.

1 He sits in the historic courtroom that's
2 been here for over 160 years, where the issues of
3 life and death and property has been decided by
4 judges in this county and on this site for the last
5 210 or so years.

6 As a practicing attorney, along with Clay,
7 the ones without titles who will speak this morning
8 or this afternoon, it needs to be noted for those
9 who are not practicing lawyers that every once in a
10 while we're called upon to advise our clients of the
11 stability and the consistency of the law as it's
12 interpreted or enforced by our judges. Our clients
13 very often will ask what to look for in public
14 hearings and hearings of criminal matters and will
15 ask what the judge is like. Can you predict for me
16 the outcome? What argument will appeal to Judge
17 Bradley, in particular since he now is the unknown
18 quantity on the Superior Court? Will he have a
19 sense of fairness that you don't see or that you do
20 see in other judges?

21 Well, I think the Governor has correctly
22 pointed out that the attributes Judge Bradley has
23 that make him well suited for this bench is he is

1 young, he's healthy, he's intelligent, he's full of
2 mixed emotions, he's been a good student. And just
3 a few minutes ago, Judge Graves passed on to him a
4 power that's unique. That power allows Judge
5 Bradley now to do everything from ordering the
6 repossession of mobile homes that haven't been paid
7 for, to authorizing the execution of a prisoner for
8 committing murder, a very serious thing, a very
9 heavy weight that he will carry.

10 And if I had to guess, Judge Bradley sits
11 at the bench and he's anxious to begin his new
12 career and wonders where it will take him, how do I
13 get it started, where will it end. He probably
14 wants to appear wise, but at the same time he
15 doesn't want to appear foolish. He wants to act
16 decisively, but at the same time doesn't want to
17 reveal his weakness, which he must certainly now
18 recognize. And he has also got to be uncertain of
19 the powers and how to use them that goes with a
20 judge.

21 We will want to offer two solutions to
22 Judge Bradley. Judge Bradley has been a friend for
23 a long number of years. He's been a professional

1 neighbor, and I think he'll take these suggestions
2 well.

3 First, the lawyers of the Delaware State
4 Bar, and in particular the Sussex County Bar, are
5 advocates to come to the Court and place before him
6 facts, issues, current law on current situations,
7 and at all times, trying to be candid and honest
8 with the Court about the cases that are being heard.
9 The theory is, and the practice should be in all
10 cases, that we the trial lawyers will provide him
11 with the correct law and the true facts so that he
12 can make good decisions.

13 As Justice Holland is often fond of saying,
14 each case is a new story to be told. And Judge
15 Bradley will hear many new stories, some of which he
16 may have not seen or heard of before. But in the
17 end, it is good lawyering that will make Judge
18 Bradley a good judge.

19 And what I challenge each of you who are
20 members of the bar to do is to avoid having Judge
21 Bradley come in here in five, six, seven years and
22 look at us and look at our clients and look at this
23 historic courtroom and think of us as some

1 bottomless pit that he can't get out of. Let us be
2 sure to make sure that Judge Bradley is the best
3 judge that we can have for this court and all
4 courts.

5 The second thing I would offer up to Judge
6 Bradley is that there are a great number of role
7 models that he can follow. Chancellor Chandler has
8 identified Judge Ellis, Judge Bifferato, and Judge
9 Lee as three of those people who I think any person
10 would be perfectly happy to follow in their paths
11 and to have a career similar to.

12 I also would like to offer up to you the
13 late Judge Bush, who served up until 1994 in Kent
14 and Sussex County. He was a favorite here. And his
15 reputation among the lawyers who tried cases in
16 front of him and his colleagues on the bench was
17 excellent. He was witty, he was self-effacing, he
18 was a prankster, he was scholarly without being
19 condescending. He worked hard and he was always
20 pragmatic, looking for a solution to problems. And
21 most of all, through his career, he was every man.
22 He was identified as a person who was just plain
23 folks. He was comfortable with himself and the job

1 that he had. No one can repeat all of the
2 personality traits of Judge Bush. I don't think I
3 can, but, you, Scott Bradley, would be able to
4 succeed in being another Judge Bush.

5 But if nothing else, I would encourage you,
6 Judge Bradley, do not take yourself seriously.
7 Think of yourself as a problem solver. Let good
8 lawyers guide you through the tough cases that
9 you're going to soon hear, and in return for that, I
10 would ask that you teach all of the lawyers that
11 come before you and all of the judges who may
12 succeed you, the same lessons that you're going to
13 learn in this courtroom. And if you do that,
14 there is little doubt in my mind that at the time of
15 your retirement, you will have had the same
16 successful and admirable career that Judge Ellis,
17 Judge Bifferato, Judge Lee, and in particular, Judge
18 Bush had, and you will enjoy a good reputation with
19 the members of the bench and the bar.

20 The other thing is, I'll be able to go back
21 and tell my clients that we got Judge Bradley today,
22 and it will be a good case. It will be decided
23 fairly. You will be heard and the decisions will be

1 just.

2 Judge, on behalf of your peers, the
3 lawyers, the judges of Sussex County and the State,
4 congratulations and welcome aboard.

5 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,
7 Dennis. Our next speaker is H. Clay Davis, Esquire,
8 president of the Sussex County Bar Association and
9 Vice-President of the Delaware State Bar
10 Association.

11 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Judge Ridgely.
12 Friends of Judge Bradley, on behalf of the Sussex
13 County Bar Association, I congratulate Judge Bradley
14 on his investiture. The Association joins in
15 accolades of praise of the Governor, the President
16 of the Courts and President Schrader.

17 We have seen Scott graduate from the school
18 of experience to become a fine lawyer. We have
19 every confidence that he will follow the careers of
20 such excellent judges from our county as Paul Ellis
21 and the William Swain Lee. We look forward with
22 pleasure to appear before you and say with respect
23 and pride, "Your Honor, Judge Bradley."

1 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Judge Bradley is
3 taking a sip of water for a reason.

4 JUDGE BRADLEY: Nervous.

5 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: It's now my
6 privilege to call upon our newest Superior Court
7 judge for his remarks at this time. Judge Bradley.

8 JUDGE BRADLEY: This is a very big day for
9 me. It's a very great day for me and my family.
10 What makes it so much better is that you all are
11 here to share it with me, and I'm greatly honored by
12 everyone's presence.

13 It's a tremendous honor for me to sit on
14 this Court. It's a tremendous honor for me to sit
15 with these other judges. This is a group of people
16 which I have had the pleasure of appearing before
17 over the years, and I have the greatest respect for
18 them. And to now to get to sit with them is really
19 beyond my wildest dreams. Best of all, I get to do
20 all of this in Sussex County.

21 I was born in Sussex County, grew up in
22 Sussex County. Eight years ago, I returned here to
23 raise my two boys and to practice law. So to get to

1 do all of this here means so much more.

2 I have been very fortunate in this world.
3 I've enjoyed great health, a great family, and I've
4 had many opportunities, many opportunities that not
5 everyone in this world gets. I understand that and
6 I appreciate that, and I'm very thankful for that.

7 I don't have too much more to say, but I
8 would like to thank some people who are responsible
9 for many things for me, you know, not just today,
10 not just becoming a judge, but more than that. I'm
11 in no particular order. If you're first, don't read
12 too much into it. If you're last, you know, it
13 doesn't mean that you're last in my heart.

14 Governor --

15 GOVERNOR CARPER: I'll go last.

16 JUDGE BRADLEY: I'm going to follow my
17 notes here so I don't forget. You may be the
18 Governor, you may be the Chief of the State of
19 Delaware, but you're going first.

20 Thank you very much for the nomination. I
21 certainly hope wherever you are a couple of years
22 from now, or five or six years from now, or 12 years
23 from now, that you can look back and be proud of the

1 nomination. I certainly will do everything I can to
2 make you proud of it.

3 I must tell you folks when the Governor of
4 your State gives you a call and says, "Would you
5 like to be a judge?" it is a great feeling. It is a
6 tremendous feeling, and you very quickly say yes and
7 hang up before he can change his mind.

8 Governor Carper, thank you very much.

9 The Delaware Senate, I thank you for the
10 confirmation. After the Governor has nominated you,
11 which is incredibly exciting, the second most
12 exciting thing that can happen to you is to have
13 that 11th Senator vote yes and you can take a
14 breath. That is a tremendous feeling.

15 When Senator Adams announces on the Floor
16 of the Senate that you are the newest Superior Court
17 Judge, it really is unbelievable, and I thank the
18 entire Delaware Senate for placing their confidence
19 in me, and in particular, I thank Senator Adams for
20 all of his help and I wish him the best in
21 everything.

22 I also would like to thank the other Sussex
23 County senators, Senator Venables, Senator Bunting

1 and Senator Simpson for all of their support.

2 I enjoyed a very good career at Young,
3 Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor for 13 years. I went in
4 13 years ago because it was a group of very good
5 lawyers, very good staff, and very good people to
6 work with. I enjoyed that time there. Six months
7 ago, I thought and hoped I'd be there another 20
8 years. But for this opportunity, that was my plan.
9 I certainly enjoyed all of those professional
10 associations, and I thank every one at Young,
11 Conaway very much.

12 The Sussex County Bar, the Sussex County
13 attorneys, I really enjoyed practicing law here.
14 When you're a small-town guy, practicing law in a
15 small community and in a small county, it's a great
16 feeling. It's nice to practice law with people that
17 you see in court, you see them in a deposition, you
18 see them in a meeting. Then you may go run at
19 lunchtime with them or you may have a sandwich with
20 them. It's a very collegian bar and I very much
21 enjoyed the practice. I have a great deal of
22 respect for the attorneys in Sussex County and I
23 look forward to seeing you more.

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1 My wife, Jessica, who's been very
2 supportive. Let's see. Can I tell a little story
3 here, Hun? If I get the dates wrong, just forgive
4 me. But I think we got married 16 years ago. When
5 we got married, I had a good job, a good future, and
6 I was making a good living. Two months after we got
7 married, I quit my job, I had no money, and really
8 no future. I said, well, I think I want to go to
9 law school. I think I want to be a lawyer. I think
10 I'll like it more, and, you know, maybe it will pay
11 off. She didn't second-guess me. She was very
12 supportive, and I thank you very much.

13 My two boys, Conner and Colton, thanks for
14 behaving. I know how hard this is. Hang in there,
15 I'm not going to be too much longer; then, you know,
16 we'll find something to do. You guys are being so
17 good. Maybe we can hit Wal-Mart this weekend.

18 My mother-in-law, Genny Crampton. Again,
19 always very supportive in all the decisions my wife
20 and I have made. Thank you much.

21 My parents, Bob and Edith Wright. Thanks
22 for always being there. Thank you for all the
23 opportunities and all the advantages that you didn't

1 have, but you gave to me.

2 I do want to thank all the judges who made
3 me very welcome. Thank you to the staff in the
4 courthouse also, and again who made me feel very
5 welcome. Everybody has been extremely nice to me.
6 It is a little too much. You know, three weeks ago
7 I couldn't get arrested. Today I'm, "Your Honor,
8 can I get that for you?" "Do you want some water, a
9 cough drop?"

10 If it gets out of hand and I don't realize
11 it's getting out of hand -- I have some friends out
12 there -- feel free to say, "Scott, it's getting out
13 of hand, you need to kind of pull it in a little bit
14 and get a grip on things."

15 I thank all the speakers who took the time
16 to come here today. I appreciate it. I hope the
17 court reporter got all that down, because Judge
18 Stokes said to enjoy it while it lasts, because in a
19 few years, they won't be saying those nice things
20 about you. When that stops, I hope I have something
21 to go back and read.

22 I invite everybody to the reception at
23 Sussex Pines. It's on Young, Conaway. Enjoy. It's

1 not very often that you can get into the pocket of a
2 lawyer or a law firm, and if you get an opportunity,
3 I suggest you take it.

4 Again, like I said, it's been a great day
5 and it's made that much greater because everybody is
6 here to enjoy this with me, and I do really
7 appreciate it. I feel very honored and very
8 thankful. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Congratulations
10 again, Scott, and welcome to the Superior Court.

11 JUDGE BRADLEY: Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Please remain
13 standing for the benediction by Reverend Day.
14 Reverend.

15 REVEREND DAY: May we again bow our heads
16 as we pray.

17 We have sensed your presence here today,
18 Almighty God, in this inspiring ceremony and the
19 wonderful fellowship. So as we prepare to leave
20 this place now, we know that you go with us to
21 empower us, and that you go before us to prepare the
22 way for us. Our faith is in you, Almighty God.
23 Lead us wherever you would have us to go and use us

1 in whatever you would have us to do. May our lives
2 continually please and glorify you as our God.

3 May the Lord bless you and keep you. May
4 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
5 gracious to you. May the Lord lift up the light of
6 his countenance upon you and give you His peace now
7 and always. Amen.

8 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Amen. This
9 concludes this Special Session of the Superior Court
10 of the State of Delaware. As Judge Bradley has
11 mentioned, there will be a reception at Sussex Pines
12 Country Club where all of you are invited to greet
13 our new judge here and there.

14 Court is now adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, the Investiture Proceedings
16 were concluded at 1:05 o'clock p.m.)

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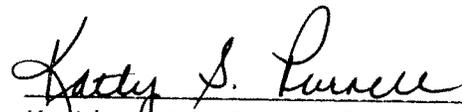
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, KATHY S. PURNELL, an Official Court Reporter
3 of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, do
4 hereby certify the above and foregoing Pages 2 to 46
5 to be a true and accurate transcript of the
6 proceedings therein indicated on April 19, 2000
7 as was stenographically reported by me and reduced to
8 typewriting under my direct supervision, as the same
9 remains of record in the Sussex County Courthouse at
10 Georgetown, Delaware.

11
12 
13 Kathy S. Purnell

14 12-13-02
15 Date

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OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER