

Jean Prost

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:)
Ceremoney of Investitude)
of) November 23, 1994
)
HON. WILLIAM T. QUILLEN,) ESTATE OF
As as Associate Judge of) JOHN M. CLAYTON
the Superior Court) BUENA VISTA
Wilmington, DE.

PRESIDING: HON. HENRY DuPONT RIDGELY, PRESIDENT
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

SITTING:

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

HON. VINCENT A. BIFFERATO,
RESIDENT JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

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

HON. THURMAN G. ADAMS, Jr., SENATOR
STATE OF DELAWARE

AND OTHERS

LASER STOCK FORM B

THE CORBY GROUP 1-800-255-5040

1 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY dUPONT RIDGELY: Good
2 morning and welcome to Buena Vista, where we are
3 assembled at this early hour for the investiture of
4 William T. Quillen as the next judge of the Superior
5 Court.

6 On this day before Thanksgiving, it is
7 appropriate that we begin with a moment of silence where
8 we can all give thanks in our own special ways for the
9 many blessings we have here in Delaware as Delawareans.

10 Please join me in that moment of silence.

11 (Moment of Silence)

12 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY dUPONT RIDGELY: Thank you.
13 I would like to start the ceremony by thanking Governor
14 Carper, who is here and the Delaware State Senate,
15 several of which are here today, for their prompt action
16 in filling the vacancy created earlier this year when
17 Judge Bernard Balick moved from the Superior Court to
18 our sister court, Court of Chancery. There is of course
19 a certain symmetry following that with the appointment
20 of William T. Quillen as a Judge of the Superior Court,
21 because it is Bill Quillen who originally vacated a seat
22 on this Court to go to the Court of Chancery that was
23 filled by Judge Balick.

1 It is appropriate for this investiture to be held
2 here at Buena Vista, in New Castle County, in the
3 beautiful home of John M. Clayton. John M. Clayton, as
4 many of you know who have taken a look at the program,
5 was one of Delaware's most distinguished sons; he also
6 had a significant hand in the drafting of the
7 Constitution of 1831, in particular, the article on the
8 judiciary which created for the first time by our
9 present name, the Superior Court of Delaware. So he is
10 properly - might be considered the father of the
11 Superior Court, and we are in his home here in New
12 Castle County today. His portrait hangs above the bench
13 in Courtroom No. 1, in Dover.

14 The Chief Justice of the Superior Court at that
15 time, in 1836, was also John M. Clayton, so he served
16 as a trial judge on this Court.

17 One point of a particular personal interest to
18 me is that at the time John M. Clayton was a lawyer and
19 practicing in Dover, he lived in the small town of
20 Camden, where I live now, where other Superior Court
21 judges have roots, as well, including Charles Terry,
22 Jr., William A. Story, Byron Steele, and N. Maxson
23 Terry, Jr., myself, as I mentioned, and our next Judge,

1 William T. Quillen.

2 The Judges of the Superior Court are of course
3 very pleased that Bill Quillen will be joining us again
4 on the Court today. He returns at an exciting time in
5 the life of this Court, where the jurisdictional changes
6 recommended by the Futures' Commission underway, and our
7 embracement of new technologies, as well, we will have
8 more time to devote to the increasingly complex civil
9 and criminal litigation which will be found in the
10 Superior Court.

11 Bill Quillen brings his special experience and
12 expertise to our Court, which we welcome with open arms,
13 as we cross this new threshold.

14 I told him, yesterday, that he will be part of
15 our Civil Division in New Castle County, and he will
16 also be part of the summary procedures for resolution
17 of commercial disputes, which I like to call the "World
18 Commercial Court", because there is no limit in terms
19 of the jurisdiction or where the commercial dispute may
20 ultimately arise as long as there is a Delaware
21 corporation involved.

22 With this early start of today, in fact you could
23 perhaps make the analogy to the Dawn of a New Time in

1 both the life of the Court and the life of our next
2 judge.

3 It is now my pleasure to call upon Governor
4 Carper, who is here, to give his greeting to all of the
5 group assembled.

6 Governor Carper.

7 THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER: Good morning.

8 One more time. Good morning.

9 This group is awake, Bill.

10 To our Chief Judge, to our President Judge
11 Ridgely, other members of the Judiciary, to Lieutenant
12 Governor Ruth Ann Minner, and I see at least two
13 legislators here, Senator Adams, who chairs the
14 Executive Committee and Rick Roberto from the House of
15 Representatives, and other elected officials, to
16 friends, to family members, the growing Quillen family -
17 how are you holding up?

18 A VOICE: Fine, thank you.

19 THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR THOMAS R. CARPER: Good.
20 Are you going to have another grandchild?

21 JUDGE QUILLEN: January.

22 THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR THOMAS R. CARPER:
23 January. A lot to celebrate in the Quillen family, and

1 frankly a lot to celebrate for those of us who love the
2 State of Delaware.

3 It was two years ago this month that I stood in
4 this room. This is my favorite room, of my favorite
5 house, in Delaware. It was two years ago that I stood
6 in this room, and we now stay, Ruth Ann and I at
7 Transition Team to help launch a new administration in
8 the First State.

9 Bill Quillen was good enough to serve as an
10 important member of that Transition Team -- and I see
11 Representative Gilligan, and Senator Knox, too. Good
12 to see both of you. But, Bill was good enough to serve
13 as a member of our Transition Team, and at the end when
14 we were casting about for a Secretary of State, the
15 fourth time I went to him on bended knee and groveling
16 as only a Governor-Elect can do, he said, yes, he would
17 serve as the Secretary of State of our State, and did
18 a wonderful job.

19 Good morning, Governor. How are you?

20 All kinds of people in this audience. Who else
21 is here, Ruth Ann, I didn't see? He brought distinction
22 to the position of Secretary of State, as he has to
23 every other position that he has held. One of the

1 legacies, and I'll just mention a few, one of the
2 legacies he's left us with is twenty-one consecutive
3 months of new records for incorporations within the
4 State of Delaware. By that I mean, September past was
5 a record September for all time for the State of
6 Delaware; August, was an all-time record for new
7 incorporations for that month, July was an all-time
8 record before that, and that is the legacy he's handed
9 up to Ed Freel, our new Secretary of State.

10 There's only one direction to go, Ed, and that's
11 not up. That's a tough act to follow and I think you're
12 doing well.

13 Bill was good enough to lead several trade
14 missions, and a couple of us, as I look around, I see
15 a couple who joined him on those trade missions to
16 places like Mexico, where I learned early on his name
17 is really "Gee ar mo", to Canada, he's led trade
18 missions to Europe, and one of the reasons we have now
19 two hundred and fifty thousand incorporations
20 incorporated in our little State is I think because of
21 the success of those missions.

22 We stand in a place that has special
23 significance, not just for me and for many of you, but

1 for Bill Quillen. As you look out the window over my
2 right shoulder and over Bill's right shoulder, you have
3 a lovely view, beautiful view, and it's one that's going
4 to be preserved forever because of his intervention and
5 his leadership. The State Archives, and some of you
6 have been to the State Archives looking for information
7 and trying to find out one thing or the other - Bill
8 Quillen has been more than anyone I think in State
9 Government, probably more than anyone in this State,
10 committed to making sure that we take that operation and
11 bring it out into the 19th century and maybe into the
12 20th century, maybe even into the 21st century - and
13 that is another part of his legacy.

14 Aside from all of that, if I can just say on a
15 personal note, he is a wonderful friend to me, the kind
16 of counselor that any new governor would be very jealous
17 of having. Wisdom. There's an old saying that with age
18 comes wisdom. He's not that old, but there's a lot of
19 wisdom; a lot of good common sense, a wonderful sense
20 of judgment, sound judgment. He's also a terrific
21 writer. Has anyone here ever received a letter from
22 Bill Quillen? Or at least has anyone here not received
23 a letter? He sent me the shortest letter that I've

1 received as Governor - two words, and he sent me the
2 longest, nineteen pages, so I hope that you're falling
3 somewhere in between that range.

4 Most important to me, he is the one person in
5 this State who when we meet, he consistently addresses
6 me as "Excellency", something I've never gotten Marcia
7 to do yet. But he has held more interesting and
8 challenging jobs than any five people that I have known,
9 and today he comes full circle. I think you would have
10 been a terrific governor for our State, or at least as
11 good as any I have known, and I think arguably a lot
12 better than the one you now have; but he comes full
13 circle today, full circle today by returning to the
14 Superior Court. I believe he will lend new stature, and
15 this is an exciting time for the Superior Court; new
16 stature to his reputation and I think to the reputation
17 of the Court, to the Judiciary in general - we have a
18 wonderful Judiciary, and to the State of Delaware.

19 Is this his last job? Probably not. But I feel
20 real lucky that he is willing to take on this
21 assignment, and I'm here to congratulate him and to join
22 all of you in this celebration.

1 Tomorrow's Thanksgiving, but for me, in a very
2 real sense, this is Thanksgiving, as well.

3 Congratulations.

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY: Now I will
5 ask Senator Thurman G. Adams to provide his greetings
6 on behalf of the State Senate. I will leave it to him,
7 whether or not he wants to tell you where John M.
8 Clayton was born.

9 THE HONORABLE THURMAN G. ADAMS, JR.: Could it
10 have been Sussex County?

11 This is a very important, certainly for Bill
12 Quillen and everyone else, and he told me that I could
13 say whatever I wanted and speak as long as I wanted, as
14 long as it wasn't over two minutes.

15 So I'd better get started.

16 Back in September, I think the 19th, the Governor
17 called the Senate back in session, and the only thing
18 we had to do that day was consider the nominee for
19 Superior Court. It went very well. We had the hearing
20 before the Executive Committee - sort of felt like old
21 home week. I think that was the fourth time that I had
22 been, or Bill Quillen had been before our Committee, and
23 really, we didn't know really what to ask him because

1 we had asked him all of these questions before. But it
2 went very well, and later that day the only business we
3 had was to consider this nominee. And not everyone gets
4 twenty-one votes in the Senate, but Bill Quillen got the
5 twenty-one votes, which is, unanimous, and which is an
6 honor I think to anyone, but it was an easy vote. It was
7 an easy vote, because as I said, I voted for him I think
8 three times before, to be in the Judiciary, and the last
9 time I voted before the 19th of September, was to be
10 Secretary of State, and I think he served with
11 distinction as Secretary of State, because I feel that's
12 one of the most important duties in this State, with our
13 corporate structure and fifty percent of our Fortune 500
14 companies being incorporated in Delaware, and we people
15 that are tax payers, 300 million dollars coming to
16 Delaware, many other states are very jealous of that.
17 But Bill received a unanimous vote that day, and he did
18 it because many of us had worked with him over the
19 years. We had found that whatever he did, whatever you
20 asked him to do, he always served with distinction, and
21 I'm just glad to say that on behalf of the Senate -
22 Bill, we're very proud of what we've done in the past,
23 you have always served the State well and I know you're

1 going to serve the State well in the future, and I'm
2 just glad to be part of that process.

3 JUDGE QUILLEN: Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY: Our next
5 greetings will come from our distinguished Chief Justice
6 of Delaware, the Honorable Chief Justice Veasey.

7 THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE E. NORMAN VEASEY:
8 Governor Carper, Senator Adams, President Judge Ridgely,
9 Judge Bifferato and Jean Crompton, Judge Crompton, Frank
10 Balotti, who will be up soon, and distinguished members
11 of the Judiciary, the General Assembly and the Executive
12 Branch of Government and growing family of Bill Quillen
13 and friends of Bill Quillen and friends of Delaware.

14 Senator Adams was right about the limitation on
15 the time.

16 I pulled out the letter that Bill Quillen sent
17 to all of us, which said, "I hope the ceremony will be
18 dignified and informal and brief, no robes, Jacksonian
19 simplicity, without a mob in a quick setting. Please
20 limit your remarks to two or three minutes; greetings,
21 as the announcement suggests."

22 Well, these are greetings from the Delaware
23 Judicial Branch of Government, and I'm honored to have

1 the privilege of doing that today. Today we celebrate
2 what I can only think of as a glorious re-potting, a
3 reincarnation of a dear friend and a very capable
4 colleague into a position of complexity, demanding time
5 and exactitude, but nonetheless, a position he knows
6 well. And I'll certain echo what President Judge
7 Ridgely said about the exciting times for the Judiciary,
8 and particularly the Superior Court, as we venture into
9 - what did you call it, the "World Commercial Court",
10 and that's exactly right.

11 I have known Bill Quillen and his family --
12 actually I've known Marcia, longer, for well over thirty
13 years, mostly as a friend, but I've known him in other
14 roles as well - sometimes as a Judge, before whom I
15 appeared, sometimes as a colleague in the practice of
16 law, sometimes as a client, sometimes as a
17 representative of the Executive Branch of Government
18 when I was representing the Judicial Branch of
19 Government, but never have I know Bill Quillen as a
20 judicial colleague.

21 I have been in the present position that I hold
22 now for two years, seven months and sixteen days, but
23 strange as it may seem, during all of that time, I have

1 not contemporaneously been a "colleague" a "judicial
2 colleague" of Bill Quillen until today. I marvel at his
3 renaissance nature, Air Force "Jack" officer, law clerk
4 to Superior Court Judge Terry, associate at Richards,
5 Layton & Finger, counsel to Governor Terry, Associate
6 Judge of Superior Court, Chancellor of Delaware,
7 counselor to Wilmington Trust, partner at Potter,
8 Anderson & Corroon, candidate for Governor, Justice of
9 the Supreme Court, counsel of the Hughes Medical
10 Institute, distinguished professor at Widener University
11 School of Law, Secretary of State, private citizen and
12 now, Associate Judge of the Superior Court.

13 That is fifteen chapters of a very interesting
14 and comprehensive book, and it shows a rich, textured
15 and marvelously diverse career. We all know through
16 Bill's reiterations that he does what he does with
17 fervor and with quality. He brings back to the bench
18 the talent, the industry, the dedication to public
19 service and the vast experience which is plan for all
20 of us to see, and on behalf of the Judiciary, we welcome
21 Bill back to the fold - his talents are very much
22 needed, and we look forward to yet another brilliant
23 career.

1 Congratulations, Bill.

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY: Thank you,
3 Chief Justice.

4 Our next greeting on behalf of the Delaware Bar
5 will come from its president, R. Franklin Balotti.

6 R. FRANKLIN BALOTTI, ESQUIRE: Good morning.

7 Governor Carper, Lieutenant Governor Minner,
8 Chief Justice Veasey, President Judge Ridgely, other
9 members of the Bench and Bar, members of the General
10 Assembly and members of the family of "Grampy" Quillen.

11 Before I start, I wanted to note for all of you
12 that dressed blues are now back in fashion, and that's
13 why I'm dressed the way I am, and I think only several
14 of you, including Justice Duffy, had the good sense to
15 dress appropriately.

16 Before I start, Bill, I just want to say one
17 thing: I have never thought of you as a "Potted Plant".
18 Please don't associate me with that. And another thing
19 is, I don't understand why I wasn't given the same
20 freedom as Senator Adams. I only hope I can read this
21 laudatory remarks as you wrote them, Bill.

22 Several of you heard me before at these occasions
23 say that it is the time to honor our State, honor the

1 Governor and thank the Governor for his excellent
2 choice, and thank the General Assembly for its prompt
3 approval of the Governor's choice of Bill Quillen to
4 fill this seat. As you all know, the Superior Court is
5 a very important court in our State, and it is only
6 fitting that William Quillen, with his vast experience
7 as Chief Justice Veasey noted, as a judge, businessman,
8 practicing lawyer, and academician become the newest -
9 - and maybe the oldest in time - member of this Court.

10 I would also like to take this opportunity to
11 thank Bill and Marcia for being here before dawn on the
12 coldest day of the year, for breakfast in their new
13 house. And those of you who are wondering why Bill
14 picked today to be sworn in, he is a very smart man.
15 He will be on the job one day today, and then get four
16 days off.

17 Now you also heard many of his accomplishments
18 from Chief Justice Veasey, and you heard from President
19 Judge Ridgely how in Delaware, and probably only in
20 Delaware could this come full circle with Vice
21 Chancellor Balick. Well, it's also full circle as far
22 as Chief Justice Veasey is concerned. Bill Quillen's
23 first job was working for Chief Justice Veasey at

1 Richards, Layton & Finger, and in accordance with his
2 management style of empowering others at that time,
3 Chief Justice Veasey actually let Robert Richards and
4 Aaron Finger and others like that, Henry Canby, think
5 that they had something to do with running the firm.
6 But that wasn't true.

7 Actually, Bill, you wrote here that you've been
8 here twice, this is your second time at Superior Court
9 and it says here that you have been in a lot of jobs.
10 I only hope that you last longer the second time in
11 Superior Court than you did the second time at Richards,
12 Layton & Finger. We know you've had a bit of a problem
13 holding a job, and want to suggest to you that if you
14 follow the instructions of Chief Judge Ridgely, Judge
15 Bifferato, and don't pick a quarrel with the Chief
16 Justice - as maybe you did when you were at Richards,
17 Layton & Finger, I don't know, - you will have more
18 success.

19 Actually, in all seriousness, on behalf of our
20 State, on behalf of the practicing lawyers and on behalf
21 of the Bar Association, itself, I want to welcome both
22 you and Marcia back to the Bench, where we believe you
23 have always belonged, and we have missed you as a member

1 of our bench.

2 You have been as a Judge a very wise friend and
3 counselor to the lawyers, and you have been a fair and
4 learned dispenser of justice to the litigants who
5 appeared before you, and I know that those will again
6 be the Hallmarks of your tenure as a Judge of the
7 Superior Court.

8 Bill, it's good to have you back again.

9 JUDGE QUILLEN: Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY: Thank you,
11 Mr. Balotti.

12 Before our newest Judge can assume his duties,
13 we have the administration of the oath. It has changed
14 somewhat since he was last sworn in on Superior Court,
15 but he will be sworn in and the oath will be
16 administered by a former colleague of his while he was
17 on the Superior Court, Resident Judge Bifferato.

18 Judge Bifferato.

19 JUDGE BIFFERATO: Place your right hand on the
20 Bible. Repeat after me: I, William T. Quillen . . .

21 JUDGE QUILLEN: I, William T. Quillen . . .

22 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . do proudly swear . . .

23 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . do proudly swear . . .

1 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . to carry out the
2 responsibilities . . .

3 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . to carry out the
4 responsibilities . . .

5 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . of the office of
6 Associate Judge, Superior Court . . .

7 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . of the office of Associate
8 Judge, Superior Court . . .

9 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . to the best of my ability
10 . . .

11 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . to the best of my ability
12 . . .

13 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . freely acknowledging .
14 . .

15 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . freely acknowledging . . .

16 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . that the powers of this
17 office . . .

18 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . that the powers of this
19 office . . .

20 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . flow from the people .
21 . .

22 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . flow from the people . . .

1 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . I am privileged to
2 represent.

3 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . I am privileged to
4 represent.

5 JUDGE BIFFERATO: I further swear . . .

6 JUDGE QUILLEN : I further swear . . .

7 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . always to place the
8 public interest . . .

9 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . always to place the public
10 interest . . .

11 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . above any special or
12 personal interests . . .

13 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . above any special or
14 personal interests . . .

15 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . and to represent the
16 right of future generations . . .

17 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . and to represent the right
18 of future generations . . .

19 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . to share the rich . . .

20 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . to share the rich . . .

21 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . historic . . .

22 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . historic . . .

1 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . and natural heritage of
2 Delaware.

3 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . and natural heritage of
4 Delaware.

5 JUDGE BIFFERATO: In doing so . . .

6 JUDGE QUILLEN: In doing so . . .

7 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . I will always uphold .
8 . . .

9 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . I will always uphold . . .

10 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . and defend the
11 Constitution . . .

12 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . and defend the Constitution
13 . . .

14 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . of my country . . .

15 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . of my country . . .

16 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . and my State . . .

17 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . and my State . . .

18 JUDGE BIFFERATO: . . . so help me God.

19 JUDGE QUILLEN: . . . so help me God.

20 JUDGE BIFFERATO: Congratulations.

21 JUDGE QUILLEN: Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY: We will
23 now get to hear from Judge William T. Quillen.

1 THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. QUILLEN: I didn't send
2 that letter to myself. Actually, I'm the perfect age
3 to begin a career on the Superior Court. I'm half way
4 between George Foreman and Bill Roth.

5 One does nothing without help.

6 I want to thank Secretary Clayton, his current
7 successor as Delaware Secretary of State, Ed Freel, the
8 Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural
9 Affairs, Dan Griffith, Pam Swan and the staff of Buena
10 Vista for the privilege of being here in the Clayton and
11 Buck home that Senator McBride calls the "Flagship of
12 Delaware Properties".

13 Moreover, I was hoping he would be here but I'm
14 not sure he is. I want to thank our Good Morning
15 America TV star, George Coyle, and all of the employees
16 of the Department of State for their outstanding service
17 during my recent tenure as Secretary of State.

18 The President Judge is right that this house does
19 have special meaning for me. My father was born in
20 Camden, and my father was in Governor Buck's poker club
21 which met in this room.

22 I want to thank each participant this morning,
23 the one we haven't met yet is my old and dear friend,

1 Judge Crompton, "old" in friendship terms, who will
2 shortly lead us in honoring our country as well all sing
3 our National Anthem; the distinguished Resident Judge
4 of this County, Vincent A. Bifferato, Sr., with whom I
5 had the privilege of serving on the Superior Court the
6 first time around, and who is now a twenty-five-year-
7 plus veteran, held with such deep respect and genuine
8 affection by the members of the Bench and Bar; the
9 distinguished President of the Bar Association, R.
10 Franklin Balotti, whose down-to-earth work ethic cannot
11 mask a kind and gentle concern for his fellow lawyers,
12 including judges; the distinguished Chief Justice of
13 this State, only the sixth person to hold that position,
14 whose well-known and respected skills at law are matched
15 by his experience and skill at management; I can't
16 resist telling one story, since my association with
17 Norman at Richards, Layton & Finger was mentioned.

18 I was in the law library one day, off in a
19 corner, and Norman came into research -- I don't think
20 he knows this story, - to research something, and was
21 apparently alone in the library, and he started humming.
22 You know he's a great musician, and I never will forget
23 it because the song he was humming was, "Hail to the

1 Chief".

2 THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Are you
3 sure?

4 THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. QUILLEN: Hail to the
5 Chief; the distinguished Senator from Bridgeville,
6 Thurman Adams, who has been a bulwark in the Senate for
7 excellent appointments, judicial and other wise, and
8 equally important for the financial stability of this
9 State.

10 As I was walking out of Legislative Hall on the
11 day I was confirmed as Secretary of State, I was walking
12 with Senator Adams, and I turned and headed over to the
13 Tatnall Building, which now houses the Governor, and he
14 tapped me on the shoulder and he pointed to the Townsend
15 Building, and he said, "Bill, you work over there," and
16 he was telling me something. He was telling me
17 something and I knew exactly what he was telling me.
18 He was saying you were hired to preserve the financial
19 base of this State; let the Governor worry about his job
20 and you worry about yours, and that tells you the type
21 of supervision that we have from the Senate; and, the
22 young -- anybody that's younger than me is young,
23 energetic and highly competent President Judge of the

1 Superior Court, Henry duPont Ridgely, who preserves and
2 enhances the traditional Kent County collegiality of
3 this Court, and who leads gracefully through shared
4 responsibility.

5 I want to particularly thank Governor Carper,
6 His Excellency, Governor Thomas R. Carper, who has given
7 me the opportunity to serve as Secretary of State, and
8 now the opportunity to return to the Judiciary. Through
9 the institutional presence of the Governor, I also want
10 to acknowledge three gubernatorial predecessors: And
11 I acknowledge the presence of Governor Peterson,
12 Governor Terry, who created this very Superior Court
13 seat and made me a judge in 1966, before anyone,
14 including me, had given the idea any thought; Governor
15 Tribbitt who in 1973 granted me unique privilege to
16 serve as Chancellor, and particularly Governor duPont,
17 who graciously, I suspect with some help from the
18 Senate, permitted a Democrat to serve as an expansion
19 Justice in 1978.

20 Our current Governor, a fellow parishioner of
21 mine at the New Castle Presbyterian Church, does us
22 proud. He comes from marvelous parents, is well
23 educated in the business of management and statecraft,

1 is patriotic in deed as well as word, is a marvelous
2 husband and father, and is the most successful
3 politician in our history, nine straight statewide
4 elections. I have felt very lucky to be associated with
5 him. He is a genuinely good man who will continue to
6 make major contributions in improving government
7 service, in implementing educational reform, in leading
8 our economic progress and perhaps, most importantly, in
9 supporting family values -- and of course he's going to
10 build a new Archives.

11 There is another group to whom I am greatly
12 indebted, and I would ask you to bear with me, because
13 I do want to make these comments - for help during my
14 frolic of eleven years since I left the Supreme Court
15 in 1983, I thank Charlie Crompton and the partners of
16 Potter, Anderson & Corroon for permitting me to practice
17 law with them. I found in filling out the judicial
18 application that I did more than I thought, thanks
19 largely to Rod Ward and his associates at Skadden, who
20 sent me the business. I want to thank Irv Shapiro, who
21 is here, Jim Gilliam, the other trustees and President
22 Purnell Choppin at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute
23 for permitting me to serve as general counsel of the

1 largest charity in the world, an association that
2 enabled me to visit the leading academic medical centers
3 of our country and literally to help plan the future of
4 medical research. It also gave me first hand experience
5 in helping to manage a major corporation, including a
6 contentious leadership change, a complex tax settlement
7 and a labor of love, the planning and building of a \$75
8 million headquarters and conference center. It was
9 indeed an experience for which I am grateful.

10 I especially want to thank Bob Bruce, the
11 President of Widener University, and the law deans, Tony
12 Santoro and Arthur Frakt, for giving me in-and-out job
13 privileges in an atmosphere, a healthy atmosphere of
14 constant academic growth that has come to epitomize
15 Widener, and particularly, its marvelous law faculty.

16 There was a political campaign in the midst of
17 the frolic. And I want to thank all who helped,
18 including my brother, Jim, who gave up working for two
19 years, Jim's wife Barbara, Ned Davis, who has always so
20 graciously supported me, Governor Jim McGinnes, my loyal
21 friend, Darrell Baker, who to this day calls me "Boss",
22 and I think is still asking for a recount; Lin Herndon,
23 Jim Soles, Frank Biondi, Henry Topel, and so many

1 others, including many in this room. I also thank
2 Governor Castle, who gave a State dinner in my honor
3 after he beat the hell out of me. I thank Bruce
4 Stargatt and Victor Battaglia and all my former clerks,
5 led by Vice Chancellor Jack Jacobs, who have continually
6 helped me over the recent years in more ways than I can
7 mention. In short, I thank all who supported me in my
8 eleven-year frolic.

9 My family has put up with a lot, but we are very,
10 very lucky. Our two daughters are well and productive
11 and nice. They have good husbands. Marcia and I have
12 one granddaughter in Texas, where her mother, Carol,
13 teaches history at Rice, and another grandchild in the
14 room, on the way, in January, in Delaware, where the
15 mother-to-be, Tracey, works for Senator Biden. Marcia
16 of course has a full-time job. She takes care of me.
17 I might add, she takes care of numerous other people
18 when they need help, as does her mother, Virginia
19 Stirling.

20 Thank you all for coming. It is a bit
21 presumptuous to have even an informal swearing-in
22 ceremony on your fifth commission, but your presence
23 makes it worthwhile.

1 Finally, I thank my colleagues on the Superior
2 Court for the warm reception they have given me. The
3 law court of general jurisdiction is the parent of all
4 our courts, since all the rest are spin-offs from this
5 core. Service on the Superior Court is not an honor,
6 it is a privilege. I thank Bernie Balick for keeping
7 my Superior Court seat warm for 21 years, and I know
8 Judge Terry smiles this day as I happily return to the
9 Court he loved best.

10 All I want is to be, useful.

11 Now let us honor our Country, have a second cup
12 of coffee, and go to work.

13 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY dUPONT RIDGELY:
14 Congratulations again, Bill, and welcome home.

15 We will now be led in the Star Spangled Banner
16 by Judge Jean Ashe Crompton. Please join her in the
17 singing of the National Anthem.

18 JUDGE CROMPTON: (Presentation of the National
19 Anthem.)

20 PRESIDENT JUDGE HENRY dUPONT RIDGELY: You're
21 welcome to stay and greet our new Superior Court Judge.

22 This ends this special ceremony, God save this
23 State and this honorable Court.

24 (End of proceedings.)