

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN AND FOR KENT COUNTY

SPECIAL SESSION

INVESTITURE OF JUDGE ROBERT B. YOUNG

COURTROOM NO. 1

KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

DOVER, DELAWARE

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

3:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER OF THE CEREMONY**

\* \* \* \* \*

OPENING OF COURT:

The Honorable James T. Vaughn, Jr., President Judge

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Robert V. Bresnahan

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:

The Honorable T. Henley Graves, Resident Judge

ROBING:

Karen A. Young, Dr. Randall C. Young,

Jeffrey A. Young, Esquire, will assist

REMARKS:

The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner, Governor of the State  
of Delaware

The Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely, Justice, Supreme  
Court of the State of Delaware

Helen L. Winslow, Esquire, President-Elect,  
Delaware State Bar Association

Jeffrey A. Young, Esquire, President-Elect,  
Kent County Bar Association

GREETINGS:

The Honorable Robert B. Young

ADJOURNMENT:

The Honorable James T. Vaughn, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

SHEILA A. DOUGHERTY  
Official Court Reporter

Courtroom No. 1  
3:00 p.m.  
February 17, 2005

1  
2  
3 PRESENT: As noted.

4 \* \* \* \* \*

5 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Welcome to the  
6 special session of the Superior Court commemorating  
7 the investiture of Robert B. Young as Judge of the  
8 Superior Court. Please remain standing for the  
9 Pledge of Allegiance led by Robert V. Bresnahan.

10 MR. BRESNAHAN: I pledge allegiance to the  
11 flag of the United States of America, and to the  
12 Republic, for which it stands, one nation, under  
13 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Bresnahan, and please be seated.

16 Let me begin today by introducing those  
17 who are seated with me on the bench. To my right is  
18 Justice Henry duPont Ridgely of the Supreme Court of  
19 Delaware. To my left is Resident Judge T. Henley  
20 Graves of the Superior Court of Delaware. To the  
21 right of Justice Ridgely is Resident Judge  
22 William L. Witham, Jr., of the Superior Court. To  
23 the left of Resident Judge Graves is where Superior

1 Court Judge Robert B. Young will be seated soon. In  
2 the jury box are the Superior Court judges and  
3 commissioners with their robes and sashes on for  
4 this ceremonial occasion.

5 The Court recognizes the family members of  
6 Judge Young who are present today, and in particular  
7 Rob's wife Karen, their two sons, Jeff and Randy,  
8 and Jeff's wife Shannon.

9 The Court welcomes Governor Minner and the  
10 members of the Delaware Senate and House who are  
11 present; the members of the Delaware Judiciary and  
12 the Bar; Kent County public officers; and Rob  
13 Young's many friends, including those who will speak  
14 today and whom I will introduce shortly. To each of  
15 you a warm and special welcome to the Superior  
16 Court.

17 I would like to thank Governor Minner and  
18 the members of the Delaware Senate for making this  
19 day possible by the appointment and confirmation of  
20 Rob Young.

21 We are here today to commemorate the  
22 beginning of Rob Young's career as a member of the  
23 Superior Court, our state's general jurisdiction

1 trial court. The proceeding is one of investiture  
2 where the historical robing is a special ceremony,  
3 significance and public commitment under oath. The  
4 robe itself is a symbol of impartiality and the  
5 judge's solemn duty to administer equal justice on  
6 behalf of the people we serve. The robe and the red  
7 sash worn by Superior Court judges today symbolize  
8 the heritage and continuity of the Superior Court as  
9 a law court in Delaware with a history of more than  
10 330 years.

11 Our speakers today will tell you more  
12 about our friend, Rob Young, a judge who brings  
13 impressive credentials and experience to the  
14 Superior Court. Many of us on the Court have known  
15 Rob for a long time. He is a distinguished trial  
16 lawyer. He has always conducted himself with the  
17 highest degree of professionalism and integrity. In  
18 addition to being a leader among the members of the  
19 Bar, he has been active in his community. I am  
20 confident, as are my colleagues, that Judge Young  
21 will serve the public with distinction as a Superior  
22 Court judge.

23 It is now my pleasure to ask the Honorable

1 T. Henley Graves to administer the oath of office.  
2 Rob's wife Karen and sons Jeff and Randy will then  
3 assist with the robing.

4 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Are you prepared  
5 to give the oath of office of the Superior Court?

6 JUDGE YOUNG: Yes, I am.

7 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: I, Robert Young --  
8 raise your right hand.

9 Do you proudly affirm.

10 JUDGE YOUNG: Do proudly affirm.

11 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: To carry out the  
12 responsibilities.

13 JUDGE YOUNG: To carry out the  
14 responsibilities.

15 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Of the office of  
16 Associate Judge of the Superior Court.

17 JUDGE YOUNG: Of the office of Associate  
18 Judge of the Superior Court.

19 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: To the best of my  
20 ability.

21 JUDGE YOUNG: To the best of my ability.

22 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Freely  
23 acknowledging.

1 JUDGE YOUNG: Freely acknowledging.

2 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: The powers of this  
3 office.

4 JUDGE YOUNG: The powers of this office.

5 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Flowing from the  
6 people I am privileged to represent.

7 JUDGE YOUNG: Flowing from the people I am  
8 privileged to represent.

9 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: I further affirm.

10 JUDGE YOUNG: I further affirm.

11 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Always to place  
12 the public interest.

13 JUDGE YOUNG: Always to place the public  
14 interest.

15 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: Above any special  
16 or personal interest.

17 JUDGE YOUNG: Above any special or  
18 personal interest.

19 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: And to respect the  
20 right of future generations.

21 JUDGE YOUNG: And to respect the right of  
22 future generations.

23 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: To share the rich,

1 historic.

2 JUDGE YOUNG: To share the rich, historic.

3 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: And natural  
4 heritage of Delaware.

5 JUDGE YOUNG: And natural heritage of  
6 Delaware.

7 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: In doing so.

8 JUDGE YOUNG: In doing so.

9 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: I will always  
10 uphold and defend.

11 JUDGE YOUNG: I will always uphold and  
12 defend.

13 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: The constitutions  
14 of my country.

15 JUDGE YOUNG: The constitutions of my  
16 country.

17 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: And my state, so  
18 help me God.

19 JUDGE YOUNG: And my state, so help me  
20 God.

21 (Applause.)

22 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Well, Rob, we  
23 welcome you to the Superior Court of Delaware. The

1 Chief Justice was unable to be here today, but he  
2 sends his remarks in a letter which he has  
3 authorized me to read. It is addressed to:

4 "Dear Judge Young, family, friends and  
5 guests. I deeply regret my absence on this  
6 excellent occasion. I use the superlative  
7 "excellent" because my understanding of the word  
8 includes "of the highest quality, eminent, first  
9 rate, sterling," and in a tip of the hat to the  
10 mother country, "ripping." All these words and  
11 phrases typify the personal and professional  
12 qualities you bring to the number one trial court in  
13 the nation.

14 "Thank you, Governor, for nominating and  
15 the Senate for confirming yet another top-notch  
16 practitioner to the very bench before which he  
17 appeared with distinction for so many years.

18 "As with the recent investiture of Judge  
19 Newell to Family Court, Judge Young brings the  
20 wisdom that comes from the experience of  
21 representing litigants in the very courtrooms in  
22 which he will now sit as a judge. Judge Young  
23 covered in the everyday crucible of jury trial work,

1 the pleading, the preparation, the rationalization  
2 of result, the delicate balance of zealous advocacy  
3 with measured professionalism, and the pursuit or  
4 defense of appeals.

5 "Many others today present will wax about  
6 your personal and professional qualities as an  
7 attorney now to be displayed by you as a Judge of  
8 the Superior Court. Few present have known you as  
9 long as I. None are more pleased than I about  
10 today's investiture. Welcome, Your Honor, to our  
11 judicial family. We will be the better for your  
12 presence among us.

13 "Sincerely, Myron T. Steele."

14 I now invite the Honorable Ruth Ann  
15 Minner, Governor of the State of Delaware, to give  
16 her remarks.

17 GOVERNOR MINNER: Thank you very much,  
18 sir.

19 My congratulations and all of my best  
20 wishes as you take on this new endeavor and new  
21 career. It does make a difference. There is no  
22 question.

23 I am very pleased to be here today. You

1 know, all of us should say at least one last time,  
2 "Hi, Rob, it's good to see you." Because after this  
3 we will be saying, "Your Honor, it is good to see  
4 you," or, "Judge, it is good to see you." But it is  
5 indeed my pleasure and I am very happy to  
6 participate in yet another of these services to  
7 appoint another well-respected individual to a  
8 position where he will, I know, serve well.

9           The esteemed Federal judge once said, "The  
10 judge's authority depends upon the assumption that  
11 he speaks with the mouth of others." And I think  
12 the judges do that. In Delaware that authority of  
13 each one of our judges depends on the reputation of  
14 the judiciary as a whole, and yes, that is why I  
15 take each selection very seriously as we look to  
16 uphold what we have gained over a great number of  
17 years: The pride in our judiciary.

18           From the Bar comes outstanding people to  
19 serve, and we realize that in serving they do give  
20 of themselves just a little more than many others,  
21 and we sincerely thank you for that service because  
22 you do our state a good justice, no question.

23           The nominating committee sends me the

1 names. I have the opportunity to then chat with  
2 each one of those and decide to send the name to the  
3 Senate for nomination. The nominating committee,  
4 the Judicial Nominating Committee does an  
5 outstanding job, but unless quality people apply for  
6 these judgeships we would not have the outstanding  
7 judiciary we have, and all of us should remember to  
8 thank those who give of themselves to serve the rest  
9 of us. And it is in that spirit that I was proud to  
10 nominate Robert Young to be sworn in.

11 Well, Your Honor, the fact that you came  
12 with good credentials means that you will serve well  
13 and you have the highest quality people to serve  
14 with, ones who you can depend on, if you seek a bit  
15 of advice, but ones who you will work with and will  
16 share with for many years, I hope. It will make a  
17 difference for Delaware.

18 We recognize you and bring you to the  
19 Court because of the honor that you brought to  
20 yourself and the job that you did before you were  
21 nominated, and so we expect no less of you as you  
22 move forward.

23 Well, think of it. I had the privilege to

1 recommend Rob Young to the Delaware State Senate and  
2 the Delaware State Senate confirmed, and now,  
3 regardless of what you think of our system -- and I  
4 happen to think it is the very best -- we have  
5 someone with good common sense, a practical person  
6 who will provide a service to the State of Delaware  
7 with a sense for right and wrong.

8           Judge Young, welcome. Thank you very much  
9 for being willing to take on these new and added  
10 responsibilities, and I look forward to watching  
11 your career as you continue the outstanding service  
12 you provided in the State of Delaware in the past.  
13 Thank you.

14           (Applause.)

15           PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
16 Governor Minner. I now invite Justice Ridgely to  
17 give his remarks.

18           JUSTICE RIDGELY: Governor Minner,  
19 President Judge Vaughn, distinguished members of the  
20 General Assembly and the Judiciary, members of the  
21 Kent County government, the family and many friends  
22 of Judge Rob Young, and Judge Young, good afternoon.

23           This is a happy occasion and I am honored

1 to be here and to be a part of this special session  
2 of the Superior Court convened for the investiture  
3 of Judge Young. I bring best wishes from the  
4 Supreme Court and the Chief Justice, who you have  
5 already heard from by letter, and he regrets that he  
6 could not be here.

7 This concludes a string of judicial  
8 appointments in Kent County, including my own as a  
9 Justice of the Supreme Court by Governor Minner. A  
10 quote of Yogi Berra comes to mind which I will say  
11 to Governor Minner and the Delaware State Senate:  
12 "Thank you for making this day necessary."

13 Today Judge Young joins the very best  
14 general jurisdiction trial court in the United  
15 States. This is not just a local qualitative  
16 opinion for which I admit bias, but the opinion of  
17 more than 1,400 senior attorneys surveyed from  
18 across the country by a Harris Poll commissioned by  
19 the United States Chamber of Commerce.

20 The Superior Court is a Court that deals  
21 with life and death matters. Matters of freedom, of  
22 catastrophic personal injuries, and of commercial  
23 claims involving Delaware corporations, involving

1 hundreds of millions of dollars.

2           The Superior Court is also a Court of  
3 innovation that has led the country in problem  
4 solving methods such as electronic filing, high-tech  
5 courtrooms and drug courts. No trial court in the  
6 country does more important work than the Superior  
7 Court, and so it is critical to the litigants and to  
8 Delaware that the judges who preside here are the  
9 very best at what they do. I am very confident that  
10 Judge Young will meet that high expectation.

11           I congratulate Governor Minner for her  
12 appointment and the Delaware State Senate for its  
13 confirmation, and I am delighted that the cases I  
14 left behind here in Kent County will be in Judge  
15 Young's very capable hands.

16           Rob and I are from the same generation of  
17 lawyers who began practicing here in Kent County in  
18 the early to mid 1970s. Not long after he came to  
19 Dover, Rob opened his office at 300 South State  
20 Street, which was directly across the street from  
21 the firm of Ridgely & Ridgely. We litigated cases  
22 on opposite sides, often starting with me asking for  
23 too much, and he offering too little. But we worked

1 it out. After I went on the bench in 1984, Rob  
2 appeared before me in this Court on countless  
3 occasions. Rob always showed the professionalism,  
4 civility and high legal skills for which the  
5 Delaware Bar is so well-known nationally.

6 Rob had a law practice that we know  
7 focused on insurance defense work. You may not know  
8 that for years he has accepted pro bono Court  
9 appointments to represent individuals suffering  
10 mental disabilities who may be subject to  
11 involuntary commitment. Commissioner Freud conducts  
12 these hearings in Kent County and has high praise  
13 for Rob, who has represented these clients well and  
14 mentored other attorneys on how to do so. To be a  
15 good attorney for these hearings one must be  
16 compassionate, patient, and a good listener. These  
17 are also qualities of a good judge. And as the  
18 Commissioner has told me, Rob was all of these and  
19 more.

20 So given Rob's professionalism, character  
21 skills and balanced stability to represent well both  
22 the big insurance company and the little guy, it has  
23 been no surprise to me to see him receive special

1 recognition from the Inns of Court for  
2 Professionalism or to see him rise to be the  
3 president of the Delaware Chapter of the American  
4 Board of Trial Advocates, or to see him become  
5 president of the Delaware State Bar Association.

6 Rob, his son Jeff, and I, along with very  
7 few others in the Delaware Bar have shared the  
8 special experience of a father and son law practice.  
9 Another was Max Terry, whose portrait is to our left  
10 here on the wall in this courtroom. Before joining  
11 his dad in the practice of law, Jeff was one of my  
12 most talented judicial law clerks. The Youngs were  
13 also ringers on the Kent County Superior Court  
14 softball team. I recall Kent County was undefeated,  
15 don't you, Resident Judge Graves?

16 RESIDENT JUDGE GRAVES: I can't remember.

17 JUSTICE RIDGELY: I think it is fitting  
18 that this investiture is taking place in this  
19 magnificent Courtroom No. 1 where so much legal  
20 history has been made and so many important oaths  
21 have been taken. But this room is not just a  
22 historic place. It continues to be, as it always  
23 has been, a working Superior Court courtroom.

1           Rob should be very at home here. He has  
2 shown his special skills in this courtroom, and I  
3 include more than his skills as a lawyer. This was  
4 the setting for his operetta which he wrote and  
5 played in entitled, The King versus Ellinor  
6 Ruttee -- did I pronounce that right? That was  
7 performed here as part of the 1999 celebration of  
8 300 Years of Courts on the Green. Perhaps there  
9 will be another performance.

10           With his broad experience, integrity and  
11 temperament in mind, I am convinced that Judge Young  
12 will be an outstanding Superior Court judge, but I  
13 do have some advice: Investitures are always times  
14 when advice may be given, whether needed or not.  
15 Socrates advised the judiciary to hear courteously,  
16 answer wisely, consider soberly, and decide  
17 impartially.

18           Another set of Ten Commandments for a new  
19 Judge was given to me more than 20 years ago and I  
20 think they are worth passing on. They were written  
21 by Chief Judge Edward J. Devitt.

22           First and foremost: Be kind.

23           Second: Be patient.

1 Third: Be industrious.

2 Four: Be prompt.

3 Five: There is no unimportant case.

4 Six: Give the office the prestige and  
5 dignity expected of it.

6 Seven: But don't take yourself too  
7 seriously.

8 Eight -- and I have to admit this is my  
9 new favorite: Be tolerant of appellate courts if  
10 and when you are reversed.

11 Nine: Don't leave home or the courthouse  
12 without your most precious tool, common sense; and

13 Ten: Pray for divine guidance.

14 Rob, I wish you and your family the very  
15 best. Welcome to the Delaware Judiciary.

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
18 Justice Ridgely.

19 Our next speaker is Helen L. Winslow,  
20 Esquire, President-Elect of the Delaware State Bar  
21 Association. Ms. Winslow.

22 MS. WINSLOW: Governor Minner, Justice  
23 Ridgely, President Judge Vaughn, our Honoree, the

1 Young family, other elected officials, members of  
2 the Bench and Bar, and distinguished guests. I am  
3 honored and delighted to get to make a few remarks  
4 on behalf of the Delaware State Bar Association on  
5 this happy occasion.

6 Vice Chancellor Parsons appointed both Rob  
7 and me to the Executive Committee of the Delaware  
8 State Bar Association at the same time back in 1999,  
9 so we grew up together on the Executive Committee.  
10 I feel very fortunate that by virtue of following  
11 Rob in the Bar Association leadership I have the  
12 opportunity today to publicly express the respect  
13 and affection that I and other members of the Bar  
14 feel for Rob. But first I bring you greetings from  
15 the President of the Bar Association, Rob Young, who  
16 regrets that he could not be here today on behalf of  
17 the Bar Association due to another commitment. In  
18 fact, I understand that at this very hour he is  
19 reporting to duty in his new job, so I am here in  
20 his stead.

21 Rob is an excellent trial lawyer, but it  
22 is not primarily as a trial lawyer that most of the  
23 members of the Bar know him. Rather, we know him or

1 have come to know him through certain of his  
2 personal qualities, which I have no doubt that  
3 attorneys who litigate against him and judges before  
4 whom he has appeared will well recognize. These  
5 personal qualities have been a large part of the  
6 contribution that Rob has made to the Bar, and it is  
7 these qualities that I would like to address.

8           One quality that Rob has shared generously  
9 with members of the Bar Association has been his  
10 ability to have fun. Rob runs our Executive  
11 Committee meetings efficiently and wisely, but  
12 perhaps most telling is the fact that each of the  
13 meetings led by Rob is filled with laughter,  
14 primarily because he is always making a joke,  
15 usually at his own expense, but also because other  
16 people are poking fun at him. We trust that this  
17 will not change in the coming months.

18           Who other than Rob, the troubadour, would  
19 begin his Bar presidency by bringing his guitar to  
20 the Bench-Bar Conference and serenading then  
21 outgoing president Charlie McDowell with his own  
22 rendition of, "Pass the Madeira, Madeira." And who  
23 other than Rob would figure out that a terrific way

1 to raise more than \$10,000 for Make-a-Wish  
2 Foundation would be to write "Macbeth, the Comedy,"  
3 complete with song and dance routines, and then  
4 enlist members of the Delaware legal community to  
5 perform Macbeth both in Wilmington and in Dover.  
6 The show was a huge success. It was laugh-out-loud  
7 fun, and it contributed to a very worthy cause.

8 Will Rogers said, "We are all here for a  
9 spell. Get all the good laughs you can." Rob  
10 obviously agrees with this approach to life which  
11 puts everyone who has the opportunity to work with  
12 him in a very enviable position.

13 Rob has also succeeded mightily in living  
14 a balanced life. He has balanced well the demands  
15 of being a litigator with the other loves of his  
16 life, namely, baseball, and his delightful wife  
17 Karen, and baseball, and his two sons, Randy and  
18 Jeff, and baseball, as well as his contributions to  
19 the Bar Association and other organizations. I  
20 apologize. I forgot to mention Rob always finds  
21 time in his life for baseball. I suspect Jeff will  
22 have more to say on the subject of balance in his  
23 father's life, so suffice it for me to say that Rob

1 has been a tremendous role model for Delaware  
2 attorneys in this respect.

3           Perhaps the most important quality,  
4 however, that Rob has brought to his various roles  
5 in the Bar Association is humility. John Ruskin  
6 said, "The first test of a truly great man is  
7 humility." Rob passes this test with flying colors.  
8 Had it been left to him, no one would even be aware  
9 that it was he who authored, "Macbeth, the Comedy."  
10 He centered the whole enterprise around the players  
11 and kept conveniently forgetting to mention anything  
12 about the authorship of the show. Likewise, on  
13 several occasions I have attempted to compliment him  
14 on having raised two sons such as Jeff and Randy,  
15 and on his unusually close relationship with his  
16 wife Karen and with his sons, and he has brushed  
17 those compliments aside and simply credits Karen and  
18 his children.

19           If Rob had been able to attend today on  
20 behalf of the Bar Association, and if he were  
21 obliged to speak about his own humility, he  
22 certainly would not have quoted Ruskin as I have  
23 done. Instead, I think he would probably prefer

1 what the Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
2 had to say about humility, which is that "humility  
3 is to make a right estimate of one's self." That  
4 sense of not taking one's self too seriously  
5 accurately reflects Rob's attitude about himself,  
6 and the Bar Association and its members have been  
7 the beneficiaries of that attitude. Once again with  
8 regard to humility, Rob has been a wonderful role  
9 model for Delaware attorneys and I can think of no  
10 more important quality for a new judge to bring to  
11 the bench.

12           Just for the record, I do feel compelled  
13 to divulge the one flaw that I have been able to  
14 detect in Rob's character. Now that he is a civil  
15 servant, I feel it should be a matter of public  
16 record. Not only is Rob a voracious meat eater, but  
17 his general approach is to completely eliminate any  
18 kind of vegetable from his plate. Perhaps his  
19 experience on the bench will cause him to grow to  
20 the point where he might venture to try a vegetable  
21 or two.

22           In case it hasn't already been abundantly  
23 clear from my remarks, I would like to conclude by

1 saying that not only has Rob earned the respect of  
2 the members of the Delaware Bar, but he has earned  
3 our love. What a treat the members of the Kent  
4 County bench have in store for them, and what a  
5 treat for members of the public to appear before a  
6 man such as Rob who, in addition to being  
7 knowledgeable and efficient in the handling of legal  
8 affairs, brings a delightful sense of humor and  
9 humility with him to the proceedings.

10 I have a small coda to my remarks. It  
11 seemed only appropriate that when making remarks  
12 about troubadour Rob I should end with a limerick,  
13 so here goes. There once was a young man from Kent,  
14 whose talents he generously lent. He gave to the  
15 Bar gifts without par, and then he ascended the  
16 bench.

17 Congratulations, Rob.

18 (Applause.)

19 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
20 Ms. Winslow.

21 Our next speaker is Jeffrey A. Young,  
22 Esquire, President-Elect of the Kent County Bar  
23 Association.

1           MR. JEFFREY YOUNG: Thank you, President  
2 Judge Vaughn. Justice Ridgely, Governor Minner,  
3 elected officials, members of the distinguished  
4 Delaware Bench and Bar, friends, Judge Young. On  
5 behalf of Kent County Bar Association and with my  
6 thanks to Noel Primos, our president, who has kindly  
7 allowed me to say some words today on behalf of our  
8 Association, we offer our sincerest congratulations  
9 to the Superior Court's newest jurist. It is my  
10 distinct pleasure to honor Rob Young and to join the  
11 esteemed speakers who have preceded me today at this  
12 podium in wishing Judge Young all the best.

13           For me this is a day, this day is a silver  
14 cloud with only a faint gray lining. I have been a  
15 Delaware lawyer for nearly ten years. In that time  
16 two people have found the charity in their hearts to  
17 offer me employment. The first was Judge N. Maxson  
18 Terry, Junior, a man whose judicial tenure ended  
19 tragically short but whose impression on me and  
20 influence on anyone who knew him will last long  
21 beyond our lifetimes and whose spirit remains in  
22 these chambers every day we practice law.

23           My second employer was the man we honor

1 today, to whom I am grateful for my job of course,  
2 and I am certainly glad he found a spare desk and a  
3 few extra cases eight and a half years ago when  
4 Judge Terry was done with me, and Justice Ridgely as  
5 well. As I reflect on my great good fortune in  
6 employers, I was particularly struck by what they  
7 shared, aside from my enduring and profound  
8 admiration and respect. The make-up and demeanor of  
9 these two men is eerily consistent and yet so rarely  
10 found. To possess an inner strength and peace which  
11 enables one to put the interest of others before the  
12 interest of self, to have the keenness of intellect  
13 and the fortitude of security to let humility  
14 overshadow ego, to recognize that true advocacy  
15 includes conciliation, not just zeal, that the end  
16 is corrupted if the means are ignored, and to  
17 appreciate that a light heart is often far more  
18 persuasive than a heavy hand, these traits and  
19 qualities which flowed through Judge Terry and which  
20 likewise embody my dad are what assure us of the  
21 success which awaits him on the bench, just as they  
22 served him so well during 35 years of lawyering.  
23 From my admittedly biased perspective, Rob Young

1 possesses the temperament, background and brain  
2 power to be one of the finest judges this laudable  
3 Court has ever known, just as was Judge Terry.

4 Now, all that being said, so as to keep  
5 this an investiture and not a deification, I would  
6 like to note an irony or two which leaps out at me  
7 at this occasion.

8 First, indirectly at least, Judge Young  
9 takes the judicial seat vacated by Justice Ridgely,  
10 which means that the man who as President Judge  
11 heaved this bench and bar, kicking and screaming at  
12 times, into the technological 21<sup>st</sup> Century has  
13 been succeeded by a man who has resisted every  
14 advancement since the printing press, and who often  
15 led those kickers and screamers. From computers to  
16 fax machines, from voicemail to cell phones, my  
17 dad's overriding theme seems to have been if Thomas  
18 Jefferson didn't need it, then why do I? What a  
19 shock it will be when the Supreme Court sends its  
20 first reversal of him via e-mail. But when that  
21 reversal comes and whenever in the subsequent four  
22 or five months that Judge Young remembers to check  
23 his new messages I can anticipate his reaction.

1 First, the shock given his conviction that he was  
2 right initially stemming from 30 years of advocacy.  
3 Second, acceptance that he was wrong given his great  
4 respect of the Supreme Court, and the fact that he  
5 can't do anything about it anyway. And last, some  
6 self-deprecating musing about his faulty judicial  
7 acumen, which couldn't be further from the truth  
8 anyway. This three-step survival guide, which is I  
9 think how he sleeps so well at night, is actually  
10 therapeutically recommended to all but has been Rob  
11 Young's mantra as long as I have known him.

12 Another of Judge Young's -- let's call  
13 them intricacies -- is the fact that he made a very  
14 successful legal career doubting, if not deriding,  
15 the plaintive wails of those litigating alleged  
16 misfortune, and yet I assure you no one gives more  
17 freely of his time or his own money to those in need  
18 or does so with such little fanfare or thought of  
19 retribution. Still, I would imagine that at least  
20 one or two personal injury lawyers raised an eyebrow  
21 at the cascade of In Re articles from *The*  
22 *President's Corner* asking us to give generously to  
23 those in dire straits. Many of those same lawyers

1 had been asking just that of Judge Young's clients  
2 for a long time, to little avail. But that is the  
3 fabric of this man, a man whose fierce  
4 competitiveness lingers behind an utter  
5 unwillingness to revel in victory, who takes the  
6 rare defeat personally but who figures the legion of  
7 victories were mere fortuities. It is these very  
8 complexities that endear him to so many and that  
9 will ensure him prosperity in his new job.

10           So we salute the superficiality of his  
11 depth and the compassion of his conservatism. I am  
12 unspeakably proud of him and immeasurably thankful  
13 for the past eight and a half years as his law  
14 partner. Though I have at times felt more like  
15 Fredo than Michael, his steady guidance has meant  
16 the world to me. I am amazed at how much I have  
17 learned and yet how little I know. But I will heed  
18 the judicial caveat against advisory rulings and  
19 hereafter seek your opinions only on Westlaw,  
20 assuming you can figure out how to file them there.

21           On behalf of the Kent County Bar  
22 Association, congratulations. Good luck, Judge  
23 Young.

1 (Applause.)

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you, Jeff.

3 It is now my privilege to call upon our  
4 new Superior Court Judge for his greetings. Judge  
5 Young.

6 JUDGE YOUNG: Welcome, Governor Minner,  
7 members of the General Assembly, members of our  
8 great Delaware Courts, fellow lawyers, friends and  
9 family members. It is very nice of all of you to  
10 come to this occasion. I hope the hors d'oeuvres  
11 justify it.

12 While we are on that topic, I originally  
13 decided that I would make all the arrangements for  
14 today, but pretty much in the typical male mode I  
15 found that to be way over my head. Fortunately, my  
16 wife Karen and paralegal Stephanie Lambros, and  
17 especially Frannie Hainey, all just stepped in, took  
18 over, and made it possible, and I am very grateful.

19 Well, thank you, Governor Minner, very  
20 much for appointing me to this position and for your  
21 very kind words. They create a real goal to live up  
22 to.

23 I would like to thank Judge Graves for

1 administering the oath of office. That is a great  
2 way to make things official. It was like getting  
3 the third out in the ninth, a terrific feeling.  
4 Since our office has had so many trial-related  
5 activities over the years in Sussex, it is really  
6 nice of him to do this.

7 I certainly appreciate the awfully  
8 gracious remarks of Justice Ridgely. I hope it is  
9 not the last time the Supreme Court finds favor with  
10 something I have done.

11 Many thanks to Helen Winslow. This  
12 Delaware State Bar Association welcome to a new  
13 judge in Kent County was supposed to be my chore, so  
14 I wrote a speech for her to help out a bit. It  
15 consisted of 12 words. Helen's was much nicer and I  
16 appreciate that very much.

17 And thanks very much to Jeff. As was the  
18 case in his article in In Re last summer, his  
19 thoughts have greatly exaggerated things, but they  
20 are appreciated greatly. What a wonderful son and  
21 partner.

22 Thanks very much to Judge Vaughn for his  
23 words and for the guidance he has provided and the

1 willingness to answer lots of questions throughout  
2 this entire process. I really look forward to  
3 working with him and with Judge Witham for a long  
4 time.

5           Because of my superannuation,  
6 unfortunately my folks aren't here to enjoy this,  
7 but they would have. I am so happy to see wonderful  
8 friends and family members, my aunt and cousins from  
9 Philadelphia and Rehoboth, and nephew from Boston,  
10 my daughter-in-law and her mother, folks from our  
11 almost 20-year-old book club, a man who, along with  
12 his father and mother, became our friends the day we  
13 arrived, good friends from high school who, by the  
14 way, are hereby ordered not to talk about anything  
15 from before 1961, members of the Delaware State Bar  
16 Association, staff and other friends both Karen and  
17 I have been privileged to have over the years, and  
18 of course the terrific trial lawyers and judges I  
19 have worked with for these 30 years.

20           I really appreciate the letter from Chief  
21 Justice Steele. He was the very first lawyer that I  
22 knew in Delaware. He also kindly called with best  
23 wishes the very night that Governor Minner told me

1 about the appointment.

2           And that brings up another item. The very  
3 first call I got, within ten minutes of Governor  
4 Minner's call, was from another lawyer who had  
5 applied for this position. I really think that  
6 shows the terrific quality of that particular lawyer  
7 and to a good degree the lawyers of this Bar. Many  
8 of you friends and lawyers were kind enough to be  
9 references in this process, and I am very grateful  
10 to you.

11           This is -- that is Riley, by the way.  
12 This is the culmination of a very fortunate life. I  
13 remember in 1963 being smitten by a campus queen at  
14 Denison. Somehow or another she must have viewed a  
15 mid-fielder with a two-point as an interesting  
16 enough challenge to take on as a project, so I am  
17 thankful to say that for more than 40 years Karen  
18 has been the love and lucky charm of my life. Along  
19 with Karen came a father-in-law, Bob Alexander, who  
20 was a trial lawyer in Dayton, Ohio. I was  
21 tremendously fortunate to have been exposed to him  
22 for his integrity and character as an individual,  
23 his skill as a trial lawyer, and his willingness to

1 be a great friend and teacher.

2 Our two boys, whom many of you have known  
3 for a long, long time, have been terrific. Although  
4 Karen, whose recollection is usually impeccable,  
5 accuses me of having a selective memory on this, and  
6 I can say that happily neither one was a moment's  
7 problem. I know that, as it should be, everyone  
8 considers his own children the best, so I will just  
9 say that these years of great times and total  
10 support from Jeff and Randy have been absolutely  
11 fabulous.

12 In 1974 we fortuitously decided to move to  
13 Dover. What a place this has been for our family.  
14 Starting out in '75, hanging up a shingle,  
15 specializing in whatever walked in the door, the  
16 practice in Delaware has been terrific, as has been  
17 the life. Before too long we got into many Little  
18 League years which have yielded some of the greatest  
19 memories. Bob Bresnahan, who led the Pledge of  
20 Allegiance today, originally dragged me into that  
21 organization, and luckily for me we coached together  
22 for many years.

23 By the way, some of you may not be aware

1 that Karen keeps the best baseball game book in the  
2 U.S.A. She kept it for all the boys' games. We  
3 still have every one of them. So if, for instance,  
4 you are ever interested in the pitch count when  
5 Randy doubled in a run in the fourth inning against  
6 C & P Motors in 1986, we can tell you.

7 Good luck ran pretty well through the  
8 years trying cases, though the losses are what seem  
9 to stick in my memory. I remember, for instance, a  
10 case in which I believe was the first jury trial for  
11 the then new judge and now Chancellor Chandler where  
12 now Chief Justice Steele and I were against each  
13 other, and the Chief Justice completely whupped me  
14 so badly that fortunately Judge Chandler was  
15 overwhelmed with compassion and gave me a new trial.  
16 The losses aside, what a great place to practice.  
17 My first jury trial in Kent County in 1976 had the  
18 pretrial with Judge Bush. When it was completed,  
19 Judge Bush asked me to wait, recognizing that I had  
20 no clue as to how things actually worked. Instead  
21 of letting me botch everything up, he gave me some  
22 tips and a sample set of jury instructions, and I  
23 will never forget that kindness. Happily I think

1 that is, at least generally, the kind of atmosphere  
2 that we have in Delaware, and few others do.

3           Years later when Judge Steele, just before  
4 going to the Chancery Court, suggested that Jeff  
5 apply to Superior Court to become a clerk, that led  
6 directly to Jeff's coming into practice with me, and  
7 I don't know how anyone could ever be luckier than  
8 to have a child join him like that. Some time after  
9 that Randy finished grad school in California and  
10 began teaching at Bridgewater College in Virginia,  
11 so once again we were tremendously fortunate to have  
12 our little band back together.

13           Somewhere along in those years my  
14 involvement with the Bar Association and Rina Marks  
15 and the terrific people in that organization began  
16 with an appointment, as Helen said, by then DSBA  
17 president, now Vice Chancellor Parsons. A few years  
18 later, just as he was heading for the  
19 President-Elect, Calvin Scott became Judge Scott,  
20 and once again the Bar Association was deprived of  
21 having Judge Scott as a president, which was a real  
22 loss. Fortune smiled creating an unexpected slot  
23 for me to fill, which led to the presidency. That

1 has been a great experience, all by itself, and  
2 undoubtedly was very beneficial when Judge Ridgely  
3 became Justice Ridgely and this terrific position  
4 came open.

5           As I think of this Superior Court seat, I  
6 think of people I follow. First was Judge Bush, of  
7 course, and then three lawyers I knew so well and  
8 practiced with essentially from the beginning who  
9 became really wonderful judges. Now Chief Justice  
10 Steele, now Justice Ridgely and, as Jeff mentioned,  
11 our sorely missed Judge Max Terry. More outstanding  
12 judges, more terrific individuals, more daunting  
13 examples to follow do not exist.

14           Now, this is quite a day, and I really  
15 appreciate this opportunity, and I fervently hope  
16 that I can live up to expectations. Thank you all  
17 very much for coming today, and I hope you can all  
18 come over to the Century Club.

19           (Applause.)

20           PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Well, Rob, thank  
21 you for those excellent remarks. Congratulations  
22 and best wishes on your appointment. Each of us on  
23 the Superior Court look forward to working with you.

1                   Now, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes  
2 the Special Session of the Superior Court of  
3 Delaware. As Judge Young mentioned, you are all  
4 welcome to greet our new judge at the Century Club  
5 over here on The Green.

6                   Court is now adjourned.

7                                 \* \* \* \* \*

8                   (Whereupon the proceedings were  
9 adjourned.)

10                                \* \* \* \* \*

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23