

Michael

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

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
 Ceremony of Investiture ) May 20, 1988  
 )  
 of ) Superior Courtroom No. 301  
 ) Public Building  
 HON. SUSAN C. DEL PESCO ) Wilmington, Delaware  
 )  
 As an Associate Judge of ) 11:00 o'clock A.M.  
 )  
 the Superior Court )

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

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

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

HON. ROXANA ARSHT, JUDGE  
FAMILY COURT OF DELAWARE

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

WILLIAM PRICKETT, ESQUIRE

DEAN ANTHONY SANTORO

And others.

Friday, May 20, 1988  
11:00 o'clock a.m.  
Courtroom No. 301

(The Bailiff opened the Court.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Welcome to this  
Special Session of the Superior Court.

Please remain standing for the Salute to the  
Flag by Master Joseph Del Pesco and Judge Vincent Poppiti,  
and then both will sing "God bless America".

\* \* \*

(The Pledge of Allegiance was led by The  
Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti and Master Joseph Del Pesco.)

\* \* \*

("God Bless America" was sung by the Honorable  
Vincent J. Poppiti and Master Joseph Del Pesco.)

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PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: It was on Sunday,  
August 24th, at 1:30 P.M. at the MacMorland Center of  
Widener College, that the first Commencement of the  
Delaware Law School of Widener College took place.

After remarks by F. Eugene Dixon, Chairman of  
the Board of Trustees of Widener College, Collins J.  
Seitz, then Chief Judge of the Third Circuit Court of  
Appeals, gave the first Commencement Address.

Then came the Salute to the class by Alfred A. Weeks, the second and fourth Dean. He ended his address by saying to the graduating class:

"You have the support and best wishes of all of us connected with the School as you take your place in an honorable Profession. Much will be expected of you in Service and Leadership because you have much to offer in your talent and in your professional training.

"Your integrity must be equal to the stresses of these times if this service and this leadership are to meet our high expectations and if you are going to find the fulfillment that can be yours."

In that 1975 class, and graduating Cum Laude, was Susan Del Pesco. She more than fulfilled all those expectations. The meteoric climb to the top of her profession is well known and will probably be recited by the speakers who follow me.

But even before all this legal experience, she exercised great wisdom. First, in August, 1965, she married Dr. Thomas W. Del Pesco, while she was at the University of California, from which she got her B.A. Degree in 1967, at Santa Barbara.

From this marriage, we have sitting here today,

with their father, Nicholas Paul Del Pesco, 9 years old -- raise your hand -- and Joseph Thomas Del Pesco, age 12, whom we heard and saw earlier.

At some time, the Family crossed the Country and settled in that wonderful community known as "Northern Delaware". For one year, Susan was an 8th Grade English teacher at the Alfred I. duPont Middle School; and for three years following her teaching experience, she became a social worker for the Delaware Division of Social Services, specializing in foster care and protective services.

It is interesting to note that last year, she was on the Board of Directors of the Delaware Theatre Company; and for two years -- 85-87 -- she was active in the Delaware Health Council. For three years immediately before that, she was active in the State Service Center Advisory Council.

I am not going to mention all her "Firsts" and her many activities at the Bar. There are many other speakers; and I'm sure they will be mentioned.

I now call on Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie to administer the Oath of Office to the new Judge.

When the Oath of Office is being administered by

by Chief Justice Christie, I respectfully request that all the audience stand.

Dr. Thomas Del Pesco and Master Nicholas Del Pesco will hold the Bible; and Dr. Del Pesco will place the judicial robe on Judge Del Pesco.

Thank you, very well.

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CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Susan Del Pesco, are you ready to take the Oath of Office?

JUDGE DEL PESCO: I am.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE:

Please place your right hand on the Bible, and repeat after me, the following words: I, Susan C. Del Pesco ...

JUDGE DEL PESCO: ... I, Susan C. Del Pesco ...

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



best of my ability ...

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

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: ... freely acknowledging that the powers of this office flow from the people I am privileged to represent.



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

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



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

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



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

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

JUDGE DEL PESCO: ... In  
 doing so I will always  
 uphold and defend the

Constitutions of my Country  
and my State, so help me  
God.

\* \* \*

CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Congratulations, Judge  
Del Pesco.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Congratulations.

JUDGE DEL PESCO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Dr. Del Pesco will  
place the judicial robe on Judge Del Pesco.

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(Whereupon, Judge Del Pesco was robed by Dr. Del  
Pesco.)

\* \* \*

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Chief  
Justice Christie.

Governor Castle, in his constant pursuit of  
excellence within the judiciary, selected Susan C. Del  
Pesco as a Superior Court Judge.

As soon as the Governor makes his remarks, he  
must reluctantly leave because of a speaking engagement in  
Georgetown at 1:00 o'clock. The helicopter has been  
grounded because of the weather, and he has to take off by

automobile instead.

Governor Castle.

\* \* \*

GOVERNOR CASTLE: May it please the Court, Chief Justice Christie and President Judge Stiftel, and other Members of the Judiciary throughout this room: The other speakers will come here and say more noble things than I.

This is a moving experience. The investiture of a judge is very serious, perhaps too serious. As a matter of fact, I thought we should have applauded a few times throughout the investiture. The investiture is scary, as a matter of fact. I think elected officials are sworn in, but this is an investiture.

This is a historic moment. It is one whose time has come, but it is happening here in 1988. It is not the first time a woman has been sworn since Judge Arsht, but indeed, we have not had a woman who has been a Judge in the Superior Court before, and as a matter of fact, it has been the history of Susan.

She has done a lot of things that many have not done before. She has not crusaded to the Bench saying she was a pioneer. She just did them like everyone else did them. She did other things in her life, as we all

know, including teaching, social work, secretary work and a number of things people tend to do, and then she decided to go to law school. She didn't go to law school. She went to a law school, that you recall, was under all kinds of siege at the time -- Will it succeed?

The Dean can tell the story better, and she was a leader in all that, as well, and when she graduated, there was a lot of talk about where the law school was going. We know what happened there. It has been a great success, and she went to work, but she had her good friend, Tom; and while I've known Susan, along came the welcomed Joseph, and Nicholas, and she raised a family, but she has worked during all that time and would go back and forth; and eventually, all the lawyers in the State of Delaware, who exceeded a thousand, thought she would make a good President of the Bar Association.

She happened to be the first woman who was the President of the Bar Association, but that's a mere sideback from the fact she was the most qualified to run the Bar Association; and then this year she had a chance to apply to become the first woman to be a Judge on the Superior Court of Delaware.

Let me tell you, as one who practiced law up to

three and a half years ago, I know almost every single judge in this state. I consider all of them to be friends. All the judges are certainly people I respect and are friends. It is a very difficult thing to do, to choose one person you're going to select to become a judge, rather than someone else, and you have to review all the cases, and I'm very pleased to report that the level of the people who are applying is very high. We are not dealing with people who should not be judges. In every case, I see names that are qualified to be judges in any Court in this State.

Indeed, Susan's name came on that list, and I talked to the people involved, and it was evident that Susan was a superior choice to be on the Superior Court, and for that reason, I was more than pleased to choose her.

I have had an opportunity to work with Susan. Carl Schnee, who is here, and I, had a law firm, and Susan worked with us for a while. I'm not sure that qualifies anyone to be a judge, but she overcame that burden, and we are very proud of that, as well.

All these things are wonderful, but before we are through with the other speakers, they are interesting,

and they have so many good things to say, but I am sure before they are through, you're going to hear more about Susan and her "Firsts" and what she has been able to do and accomplish, but I think what is really most important is the kind of person you, of the Judiciary, permit in the Court, and I hope the judges and the lawyers would agree that the level of the Judiciary constantly rises. It consists of people of very high regard, and we have very good people on the Bench, and that has been very helpful, and that is exactly what Susan is going to do, raise the level of the Judiciary again, contribute greatly, work hard.

She is a reasonable person. She is a diligent person. She will make sure justice is served.

There's a finality in being a judge that is greater than being a governor, a legislator or being in another public position, because you are dealing with people's lives, in two senses.

One is an economic sense, in terms of what the economic future is going to be, if you have a plaintiff's case or a defense case or business case, or whatever it may be, and more serious than that is in criminal matters, where you're dealing with a person's freedom, with a life

perhaps.

This is a great responsibility to place upon anyone. You need somebody who could resolve the difficulties at hand, the characteristics to be able to resolve the difficulties without faltering, and that is the kind of thing that our good friend, Susan Del Pesco, can do, and I am very proud of her, and I am very proud to be here.

In closing, let me say that the one thing that Judge Stiftel did not do is tell you why I am leaving, because to leave a courtroom is a serious mistake in Delaware, and I wouldn't want any of the judges to be offended. I'm leaving to go to the Sussex County Bar Association. So I hope that is okay, and the transportation is such that I must leave now.

This is an opportunity that I did not want to miss. I wanted to be here when Susan Del Pesco became a Judge of the State of Delaware. She is very deserving, and the State will be rewarded for it.

We congratulate you and thank you for your interest.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Governor Castle.

Our next speaker is the present Dean of the Delaware Law School, Anthony Santoro, who constantly helps the courts, immeasurably, in many ways. The School is very fortunate to have him; and we are pleased to have him here today as the next speaker.

Dean Santoro.

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DEAN SANTORO: Your Honors, Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you, Judge Stiftel, for the very kind words.

When I first heard of Susan's appointment, I felt great pride for her and for Delaware. My thoughts -- quite naturally, I suppose -- turned to the implication of her appointment. Once again, Susan was to be the focus of barriers broken.

Once again, Susan was to have thrust upon her the awesome responsibility that those who are first have to bear.

As the first of her gender to be appointed to the Superior Court, she becomes a highly visible role model and inspiration for all women, not only those who aspire to a career in law.

As the first Delaware Law School graduate to be

appointed to the Bench in Delaware, she marks the law school's coming of age, so to speak. The young school has now reached adulthood and, as Chief Justice Herrmann predicted, a full partnership with the Bench and Bar and the administration of justice.

How appropriate it is then that Susan Del Pesco should be sworn in on the anniversary of another important First.

On May 20th, 1927, a young American aviator named Charles A. Lindbergh took off Roosevelt Field, New York, and headed for Paris, on a flight that had never before been made. So, too, Susan is embarked upon a flight that has never been made before by a woman.

But, as important as these Firsts are, they do not represent the real significance of Susan's appointment. Indeed, the pride that we all feel because of Susan's Firsts ought not to mask the true significance of Susan's appointment. It is, rather, that Susan will bring to the Bench learning, compassion, temperament, honesty and professionalism.

Though he had no way of knowing it, Francis Bacon described Susan when he wrote his Essay of Judicature in 1625.

"Judges", he said, "Ought to be more learned than witty, more reverent than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things, integrity is their portion and proper virtue."

It is these qualities that Susan will bring to the Bench. It is these qualities which mark the true significance of her appointment for the People of Delaware. It is these qualities which will insure the fair administration of justice.

I am very pleased to be part of this auspicious occasion and to extend best wishes to a good friend and truly noble person.

I would like to read a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Widener University.

"The Board of Trustees of Widener University, meeting on May 12, 1988, pauses to note the outstanding accomplishments of Susan C. Del Pesco, a graduate of the Delaware Law School of Widener University, who as a private practitioner in legal education and as President of the Delaware State Association, established herself as one of the most eminent members of the Delaware Bar, and in particular, the Board compliments Her Honor on her appointment by Governor Castle to the Superior Court of

the State of Delaware."

Signed by the President of Widener, May 12th,  
1988.

Congratulations.

JUDGE DEL PESCO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much,  
Dean.

Next we hear from the distinguished Delaware Senior Partner of Prickett-Jones, and with whom Judge Del Pesco was associated as a partner while she was President of the Delaware Bar and immediately before she assumed this new position.

Mr. Prickett, please.

MR. PRICKETT: May it please the Court, Members of the Bench, the Bar and Judge Del Pesco: A moment ago, I would have referred to the new judge as one of my partners, but all of that has changed by the oath that she has taken. She is no longer a partner or my colleague of the Bar, she is now a Judge, and in speaking to you, let me pause for a moment and analyze the difference.

As you all know, Judge Del Pesco joined our firm when Carl Schnee, a former partner, joined our firm, bringing with him a number of associates, including Judge

Del Pesco.

Since that time -- she was first an associate -- more recently, she was a partner in our firm. Judge Del Pesco's skill as a lawyer has been recognized not only by her partners in our firm, but the Bar generally, and the Bench, as well.

I need say nothing about this. Her reputation says it all; nor need I mention she was elected by her colleagues as President of the Bar Association. Having held that office, I can assure you this office is more of a chore than an honor.

Suffice it to say that Judge Del Pesco has discharged her obligations in the Presidency of that office with dignity and success. Here again, her accomplishments speak louder than any words I can tell you here and now.

You will note that I referred to her as a colleague, a partner, a lawyer and more recently, as a Judge. I do not refer to her as a woman. I do so because in a very real sense, it disparages her in her profession.

By this I mean Judge Del Pesco has achieved her success as an attorney, and as the President of the Bar Association, and will discharge her duties as a Judge, not

by mere accident of her sex; and I suggest to you, on this solemn occasion, that other members of the Bar in minorities should recognize that others, like Judge Del Pesco, will take their place on the Bench, not placed on their minority status, but now based on their professional abilities, whatever they are, and Judge Del Pesco has been placed that way.

I turn now to Judge Del Pesco. In pleasant ceremonies such as this, it is customary to laude and flatter the new Judge. I will not do so. It is not my style. I will not resist the temptation to suggest to Judge Del Pesco that now she has left the troubled world of practice and has reached the happy hunting ground by going on the Bench. I do not suggest that.

On the contrary, I remind Judge Del Pesco what the other judges will tell her; that is, she is embarking on a far more difficult situation than she has just left.

How so? First of all, a judge, unlike a lawyer, must be right and must be fair. The luxury of unblinded advocacy is replaced by the awesome responsibility of not only being right, but being fair.

Secondly, the monetary incentive for hard work, and long hours is forever gone. Our zeal makes a judge

work long hours and produce difficult decisions.

Third, he who likes popularity must abstain from judiciary office. Judiciary decisions necessarily disappoint one of two legal advisaries, and often, both. It is not a popular task.

Fourth, the role of the judge is a lonely one. Attorneys, particularly those with the luxury of partners, have the possibility of consulting and commiserating with colleagues. For all that, it is frequently to the contrary. A judge must keep himself from his colleagues at the Bar. So it is a lonely task that Susan Del Pesco has now embarked upon.

Fifth, the job of a judge is to decide difficult questions, here and now, often in the heat of trial, and often, quite regrettably without the benefit of proper help by the attorneys, but still the Judge must make the decision and do it now.

Six, hanging over the trial judge is the Judicial Sword of Damacles, that is the Supreme Court, which quite properly has the benefit of a full record, ample time and a seeming taste for the task of second-guessing a trial judge, who must make decisions, knowing all along that there is their review.

Finally, the task of the trial judge is difficult, because the enforcement of Civil or Criminal Law is often unpopular or not understood, and we have a recent example of that in the State. Particularly this is true in eras such as the one we're going through of social change.

I do not need to remind a trial advocate, such as Susan Del Pesco, that the Bench on which she is going, has an immense backlog of Civil and Criminal Cases, and that that backlog is increasing, rather than diminishing, and thus, Judge Del Pesco has accended the Bench to help her beleaguered colleagues in solving this big backlog, to bring our justice system into focus.

Thus, on this happy occasion, I, as a former partner of hers, bring to your attention the fact that inspite of the pleasant and happy things that we say here, and the good wishes that we bring to Judge Del Pesco, I remind you that she has taken on a great and difficult challenge. It is greatly to her credit that she has done it. It is greatly to the benefit of the law and the judiciary system, and we, in our firm, lose a partner, but the legal system acquires an experienced lawyer as a trial judge.

It is critically important to the delivery of justice that there are attorneys such as Judge Del Pesco that are willing to accept the challenge, the hazard, the loneliness and the difficulty of the judiciary office. Without such people, our system will not work.

Thus, as we in our firm readjust to Judge Del Pesco and her new judiciary situation, we join the others here present in saluting her and wishing her well in the new and difficult position that she has now accepted.

Thank you.

The Dean and the Governor both kissed the new Judge. As I said, she has assumed a new position, so I will simply shake her hand.

PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much, Mr. Prickett.

Our next speaker is Judge Roxana Arsht, who finished a notable career as Judge of the Family Court and with whom Judge Del Pesco has a close relationship.

Judge Arsht.

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JUDGE ARSHT: May it please the Court, it was with a great deal of pleasure that I accepted Judge Del Pesco's invitation to participate in her swearing in.

She mentioned to me the names of others who would speak, but made no suggestions as to the part I should play in what I consider a historic event. I took my queue as to my subject matter from her statement to me that she considered that I was the pioneer woman in the judiciary area, despite what Mr. Prickett said.

She was referring to the fact that when I was appointed Judge of the Family Court, in 1971, I was the first woman so honored in Delaware. At the risk of stating the obvious, I will nevertheless say that we indeed have come a long way since I was admitted to the Bar in 1941.

Before that time, on the record, as far as I know, only four other women had been admitted in Delaware, and the only one that was practicing was Sybil Ward, as far as I know, and I think she was doing Title searching. A female lawyer was then a curiosity, and professional opportunities for a woman were exceedingly limited.

If you remember, the idea of a woman as a judge was almost inconceivable. It has been my good fortune to have lived long enough to see an expansion of those limits. Already now there are over 200 female members of the Delaware Bar.

As of today, there is a female on every Delaware State and Federal Court, except the Court of Common Pleas and the Supreme Court. It would surprise no one if when there was a vacancy, a woman were appointed to either or both of those Courts.

I first met Judge Del Pesco when she appeared before me in Family Court as a witness. She was then, as mentioned before, a social worker with the Department of Social Service, dealing with foster care and protective services. Soon thereafter, she emerged in a new role, that being an attorney from a small, but well-regarded law firm, which was Schnee & Castle.

I was impressed by the fact that she was well prepared, knew her case and the applicable law, was sensitive to the needs of the client and the concerns of the Court. She was the kind of lawyer that judges appreciate and wish that there were more like her.

Susan Del Pesco exemplifies the progress that women have made as lawyers in Delaware. Because of her competence as a lawyer, she advanced from lowly association to full partner in a major law firm. Her interest in improving the legal profession and the administration of justice, and the time and effort she

extended in pursuing those objectives, led to her election as President of the Delaware Bar Association.

She thus joined the ranks of the distinguished leaders of the Bar, who have been so honored by their peers.

Finally, because she possesses, in full measure, those qualities of scholarship, character, temperament, diligence, good sense and practicality, that make for a good and wise and just judge, Governor Castle nominated her, and the Delaware Senate unanimously confirmed her, to be a Judge of the Superior Court.

I congratulate them for their wisdom in that action, and I wish Judge Del Pesco a long and challenging career on the Bench, but more important, Happy Birthday.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Our last speaker succeeded Judge Del Pesco as the President of the Delaware Bar Association, after she recently resigned upon receiving her appointment as Judge of the Superior Court.

Arthur G. Connolly, Jr., please.

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MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you, Your Honor. On behalf of the Delaware State Bar Association, I am pleased to

congratulate Susan Del Pesco, and to extend to her our best wishes for a productive and happy tenure as a Superior Court Judge.

She will be a valued addition to the respected Court, which affects the lawyers of Delaware, and we applaud the integrity that Governor Castle has shown by nominating her, and the Senate has shown by confirming her.

When Susan was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1975, she was only the 27th woman in Delaware history to become a member of the Bar, the first woman having been admitted in 1923. By 1941, there were just five women members of the Bar, and in 1968, when Helen Ballick was admitted, there were 12.

Today there are 281 women members of the Delaware Bar, out of slightly over 1,500 members. Susan quickly became known for the quality of her work in private practice, and for her dedication to public causes, which include many years of Bar Association Service in many capacities.

She also served conscientiously on the Delaware Supreme Court on Professional Responsibility. In June of 1987, Susan became the first woman President of the

Delaware State Bar Association. Her term was to run until June of 1988, but she's been given time off for good behavior.

The year of Susan's Presidency included the Bicentennial, and she led the Bar Association in a number of important programs and improvements.

She now, as you have heard, becomes the first woman Superior Court Judge and also the first graduate of the Delaware Law School, who is a woman, to become a member of this Court, and while Mr. Prickett said she certainly would have earned and become a judge despite her sex, I think it is still a significant event, and we are happy to be a part of this historic event.

Judge Del Pesco, we congratulate you and your family as you begin a new chapter in your life and in the history of this Court.

Our best wishes to you.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Now I have the privilege of calling on our new Judge, Susan Del Pesco.

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JUDGE DEL PESCO: Delaware Chief Justice Christie, President Judge Stiftel and Judges of the

Supreme Court and the Superior Court, and every Court in the State of Delaware: It's my privilege to speak to you just for a moment or two.

20 years ago today, my husband and I left California in our Volkswagen Beetle, heading for a new life in Delaware. It was my 22nd birthday. Tom had just completed his Ph.D., and I, my Bachelor's. We had reached that point in our lives where school was finally over, and we had to go to work.

We were leaving our home, our families, and the only environment we had ever known. I cried from Los Angeles to Albuquerque.

Things were more interesting in Albuquerque -- the car ignition failed. So for the next 2,500 miles or so, Tom had to push the car, and I had to pop the clutch to get the car going.

We arrived in Delaware full of uncertainty. We started our jobs, Tom as a research chemist, and I, as a school teacher; and so began our 20-year stay.

When I came to Delaware, I had no thought of becoming a lawyer and certainly none of becoming a judge. Yet, here I am today being sworn in as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court.

I'm here for two reasons: First, because of the support of my family, particularly Tom, and secondly, because the people in this community and in this profession have been willing to give me a chance.

First along that line is Carl Schnee, who hired me in 1976. As a graduate of an untested law school, a mother of a small baby, my credentials were not compelling, but Carl and Mike gave me the chance to get my foot in the door. Later when Schnee & Castle was dissolved, Prickett-Jones gave me the opportunity to join that firm and to later become a partner.

I love this profession. I love the fact that I have been, and will continue to be, a part of this country's great system of justice.

I have heard it said that "Without justice, there can be no peace." It pleases me to think that my life's work contributes to the maintenance of stability and order in our ever-more complex society.

I will miss the Prickett-Jones Family; yet, I look forward to working with my new family in the Superior Court, because of the fine reputation of the Judiciary in this State and the high level of integrity and competence, not only in the Judiciary, but in the Bar. I am proud and

grateful to have the opportunity to serve as a Judge of the Superior Court.

My special thanks to the Governor, Chief Justice Christie, to President Judge Stiftel, to Judge Poppiti, to Judge Arsht, to Dean Santoro, to Bill Prickett and to Art Connolly for being a part of this very special day, and my thanks to all of you for sharing this with my family and with me.

Thank you very much.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Judge Del Pesco. Again, Congratulations on your appointment, and as Judge Arsht has revealed, Best Wishes, also, on this being your Birthday.

Could we get more applause for that.

These proceedings have come to an end. My sincere thanks for your attention.

There will be a reception on the First Floor Lobby. You are will welcome to stay and greet the new Judge.

Thank you very much.

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(Thereupon, the investiture proceedings were

concluded at 12:10 o'clock p.m.)

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