

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL SESSION

INVESTITURE OF

THE HONORABLE

**JAMES T. VAUGHN, JR.**

AS THE RESIDENT JUDGE OF KENT COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

\* \* \* \* \*

Wednesday, October 28, 1998

2:00 p.m.

Courtroom Number 1

Kent County Courthouse

Dover, Delaware

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER OF THE CEREMONY**

\* \* \* \* \*

CALL TO ORDER:

The Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely  
President Judge, Superior Court of Delaware

INVOCATION:

Reverend James F. Hawkins  
The Asbury United Methodist Church  
Smyrna, Delaware

Jennie L. Washington  
Official Court Reporter

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ADMINISTRATION OF OATH:

The Honorable Maurice A. Hartnett, III  
Justice, Supreme Court of Delaware

ROBING:

Mrs. James T. Vaughn, Jr.

REMARKS:

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Governor of the State of Delaware

The Honorable E. Norman Veasey  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Delaware

J.R. Julian, Esquire, President,  
Delaware State Bar Association

Carolyn H. deBernard, Esquire, President,  
Kent County Bar Association

GREETINGS:

The Honorable James T. Vaughn, Jr.  
Resident Judge, Kent County  
Superior Court of Delaware

BENEDICTION:

Reverend James F. Hawkins  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Smyrna, Delaware

Jennie L. Washington  
Official Court Reporter

1 Courtroom No. 1  
2 October 28, 1998  
3 2:00 o'clock p.m.

4 SPECIAL SESSION

5 \* \* \* \* \*

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Welcome to  
7 this Special Session of the Superior Court of State  
8 of Delaware for the Investiture of James T. Vaughn,  
9 Jr., as the Resident Judge of the Superior Court,  
10 in and for Kent County.

11 Please remain standing, as you are, for  
12 the invocation of the Reverend James F. Hawkins of  
13 the Asbury United Methodist Church in Smyrna,  
14 Delaware.

15 Reverend Hawkins ...

16 REVEREND HAWKINS: Let us pray.  
17 Almighty God, you have shown us was good and what  
18 the Lord requires of us to do justice, to love  
19 kindness and to walk humbly with you. We pray this  
20 day for your servant James as he under takes a new  
21 form of service to you and to your people. Give  
22 him wisdom to hear with your ears. Give him  
23 compassion to feel with your heart, and give him  
courage to do what is just and merciful in your

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1 eyes. In your Holy name we pray, amen.

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,  
3 Reverend Hawkins.

4 Please be seated.

5 Let me first introduce those who are  
6 seated with me on the bench today. To my immediate  
7 right is Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey of the  
8 Supreme Court of Delaware, and to his right is Vice  
9 Chancellor Myron T. Steele of the Court of  
10 Chancery. To my immediate left is Justice  
11 Maurice A. Hartnett, III of the Delaware Supreme  
12 Court. And to his left, where you see the empty  
13 chair, that's where Superior Court Resident Judge  
14 James T. Vaughn, Jr. will soon be seated.

15 The Court wishes to recognize the many  
16 family members and friends of our next Superior  
17 Court Judge who are present today and, in  
18 particular, Jim's wife Missy, and his children,  
19 Mary and Jay; his parents, Senator Jim Vaughn and  
20 Sylvia Vaughn; his grandmother, Sylvia Harris; and  
21 his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Buzz and  
22 Virginia Speakman; his uncles and aunts, Fred and  
23 Dixie Harris, and Bill and Sherie Vaughn; his

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1 sister Judy Wright, and her daughter Candace; his  
2 brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Walt and Karen  
3 Speakman, and their children, Calli and Will.

4 The Court also recognizes Governor  
5 Carper and the members of the Delaware General  
6 Assembly who are here, the members of the Delaware  
7 Judiciary and the Bar, and Kent County public  
8 officers, and Jim Vaughn's many friends.

9 All of us, all of you know Jim Vaughn,  
10 Jr. is succeeding Resident Judge N. Maxson Terry,  
11 Jr. whose unexpected death last August 15th shocked  
12 the community. A special memorial session of the  
13 Superior Court in honor of Judge Terry will take  
14 place Tuesday, on January 5, 1999, and his judicial  
15 portrait will be unveiled by the Kent County Bar  
16 and the Kent County Levy Court. Max's wife Susie  
17 and his brother Harry are also here today.

18 To all, a warm and special welcome to  
19 the Superior Court.

20 We are here today to mark the beginning  
21 of Jim Vaughn's career as a member of the Delaware  
22 Judiciary. I've known Jim for a long time, and I  
23 know we will work very well together.

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1 I will also tell you that Jim has  
2 already demonstrated his enthusiasm for the  
3 important work ahead of him, not just by words, but  
4 by his actions. For example, I know of no other  
5 judge who has attended a judicial education course  
6 on his own time before being sworn in. Jim is just  
7 back from an intensive full-week course on Drug  
8 Courts. Delaware leads the nation in this  
9 innovative way to reduce crime. Of course, that is  
10 only part of the broad jurisdiction of the Superior  
11 Court.

12 I predict Jim Vaughn, Jr. will be an  
13 excellent Superior Court Judge and a distinguished  
14 member of the Delaware Judiciary. Others will tell  
15 you today of his outstanding credentials, so I will  
16 not preempt them.

17 It is now my pleasure to ask Justice  
18 Maurice A. Harnett, III to administer the oath of  
19 office.

20 Mrs. James T. Vaughn, Jr. will hold the  
21 Bible, and then assist with the robing.

22 Justice Hartnett.

23 Please stand everyone.

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1 JUSTICE HARTNETT: James T. Vaughn, Jr.,  
2 are you prepared to take the oath of office?

3 MR. VAUGHN: I am.

4 JUSTICE HARTNETT: Please place your one  
5 hand on the Bible and raise the other hand, and  
6 repeat after me.

7 I, James T. Vaughn, Jr. ...

8 MR. VAUGHN: I, James T. Vaughn, Jr. ...

9 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... do solemnly  
10 swear ...

11 MR. VAUGHN: ... do solemnly swear ...

12 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... to carry out the  
13 responsibilities ...

14 MR. VAUGHN: ... to carry out the  
15 responsibilities ...

16 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... of the office of  
17 the Kent County Resident Judge ...

18 MR. VAUGHN: ... of the office of the  
19 Kent County Resident Judge ...

20 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... of the Superior  
21 Court ...

22 MR. VAUGHN: ... of the Superior  
23 Court ...

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1 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... to the best of my  
2 ability ...

3 MR. VAUGHN: ... to the best of my  
4 ability ...

5 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... freely  
6 acknowledging ...

7 MR. VAUGHN: ... freely  
8 acknowledging ...

9 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... that the powers  
10 of this office ...

11 MR. VAUGHN: ... that the powers of this  
12 office ...

13 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... flow from the  
14 people ...

15 MR. VAUGHN: ... flow from the  
16 people ...

17 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... I am privileged  
18 to serve.

19 MR. VAUGHN: ... I am privileged to  
20 serve.

21 JUSTICE HARTNETT: I further swear ...

22 MR. VAUGHN: I further swear ...

23 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... to always place

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1 the public interest ...

2 MR. VAUGHN: ... to always place the  
3 public interest ...

4 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... before any  
5 special and personal interest ...

6 MR. VAUGHN: ... before any special and  
7 personal interest ...

8 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... to respect the  
9 rights ...

10 MR. VAUGHN: ... to respect the  
11 rights ...

12 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... of future  
13 generations ...

14 MR. VAUGHN: ... of future  
15 generations ...

16 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... to share the rich  
17 historic ...

18 MR. VAUGHN: ... to share the rich  
19 historic ...

20 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... and natural  
21 heritage of Delaware.

22 MR. VAUGHN: ... and natural heritage of  
23 Delaware.

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1 JUSTICE HARTNETT: In so doing ...

2 MR. VAUGHN: In so doing ...

3 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... I will always  
4 uphold and support ...

5 MR. VAUGHN: ... I will always uphold  
6 and support ...

7 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... the Constitution  
8 of my country ...

9 MR. VAUGHN: ... the Constitution of my  
10 country ...

11 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... and my state ...

12 MR. VAUGHN: ... and my state ...

13 JUSTICE HARTNETT: ... so help me God.

14 MR. VAUGHN: ... so help me God.

15 JUSTICE HARTNETT: Congratulations.

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Come on up  
18 here, Jim. That looks good on you.

19 (Laughter.)

20 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Please be  
21 seated.

22 Jim, we welcome you to the Superior  
23 Court of the State of Delaware.

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1                   RESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you.

2                   PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: I would now  
3 like to invite His Excellency, The Honorable  
4 Thomas R. Carper, the Governor of the State of  
5 Delaware, to make his remarks.

6                   Governor Carper.

7                   GOVERNOR CARPER: Thank you, Chief Judge  
8 Ridgely, and to the Chief Justice and, Justice  
9 Hartnett, Vice Chancellor Steele, Judge Vaughn. To  
10 other members of the judiciary, to members of the  
11 Bar and our State, to friends of Jim Vaughn, to  
12 family members of Jim Vaughn. I was in this room,  
13 gosh, just a month or two ago for the administering  
14 of a different kind of oath. And it was an oath of  
15 marriage as a member of our Delaware General  
16 Assembly was joined in holy matrimony to a resident  
17 of Kent County. That was a serious oath. That  
18 involved a life-long promise or a pledge between a  
19 man and woman, husband and a wife.

20                   Today, we have just witnessed the taking  
21 of a different kind of oath. Not a life-long oath  
22 necessarily; although, it could be more than twelve  
23 years, you never know. But an oath and a pledge

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1 between a member of your State, a respected member  
2 of our Bar, and the people of Delaware, to uphold  
3 our Constitution, to work hard, to ensure that  
4 justice is done.

5 I want to thank a number of people  
6 before I show you some of -- I just want to say  
7 some thanks. I want to thank the judicial  
8 nomination committee. You know, we have a  
9 commission which are commissioned from the bar,  
10 people, lay people from our community, who  
11 interview our candidates who apply for vacant  
12 judgeships, who make a recommendation. The  
13 Delaware Bar Association has the opportunity to  
14 participate in that process to say whether or not a  
15 candidate is deemed qualified or unqualified.

16 The Governor has the opportunity to  
17 interview those who are deemed qualified and to  
18 submit a name to our General Assembly; and the  
19 State Senate then has the final say as to whether  
20 or not a person is to take this oath of office that  
21 Jim has taken today. That process has been in  
22 place since Pete du Pont became Governor of our  
23 State.

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1 I'm not sure, Sherman, if it was in  
2 place when you were Governor or not.

3 But we have had a tradition that goes  
4 well before the du Pont Administration, the Sherman  
5 Administration, to establish the judiciary in our  
6 country. If it is not the finest in the country,  
7 it is among the finest. And I believe the process  
8 we have today is one that is designed to help to  
9 make sure we maintain that stature, and that  
10 stature is an enviable status.

11 When I interview men and women for  
12 positions on the bench in our State, I look for a  
13 variety of qualities. And Chief Justice Veasey has  
14 heard me describe these before, and I suspect so  
15 have some of the others sitting to my left. I look  
16 for people with a good mind. And Jim Vaughn, we  
17 have someone with a good mind; someone who  
18 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Duke and went on to  
19 Georgetown.

20 I want to say thanks -- you know, I  
21 don't know if we have anyone from Duke. I know we  
22 have some ACC fans, but I want to say thanks to the  
23 people from Duke, who went to Duke to shape this

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1 fellow. Or anybody from Smyrna. Is there anybody,  
2 a teacher from Smyrna? Thanks for helping this  
3 young man, Jim, to get on the right path. I don't  
4 know if we have anybody from Georgetown Law School  
5 to thank for preparing his training and career in  
6 law, because he knows the law and he does have a  
7 good mind.

8 In interviewing people and selecting  
9 people to nominate to the Senate, I look for folks  
10 who are able to make a decision; hopefully the  
11 right decision. Someone who has a commitment to  
12 doing what is right to make sure justice is done.  
13 And in Jim Vaughn, we have a person with those  
14 qualities.

15 We look for someone who has an abiding  
16 sense of justice, who is determined to make sure  
17 that right prevails. We look for someone who will  
18 treat others before them in their courtroom just as  
19 they would want to be treated, with the same  
20 respect and dignity. If they're plaintiff's  
21 attorneys, defense counsel, people who are there  
22 for witnesses, whoever might be there, the jury,  
23 just to treat the people like we would want to be

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1 treated ourselves. And Jim Vaughn treats people  
2 like that.

3 His practice in the law he has practiced  
4 over the last -- how many years?

5 RESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: 22 years.

6 GOVERNOR CARPER: 22 years, a breadth of  
7 practice and one that prepares him well for this  
8 responsible leap today.

9 And finally, I look for people who work  
10 hard. I work hard. A lot of people in this room  
11 work hard. A lot of folks we have on our bench in  
12 Delaware work hard. And I fully expect people who  
13 serve us from the judiciary to work just as hard as  
14 the rest of us. This is a demanding court. This  
15 is a busy court. And we are going to have a couple  
16 of new judgeships to consider, I think next year,  
17 to help ease the load a little bit. But we need  
18 people who will come early and stay late, if that's  
19 what is necessary.

20 I just want to say -- and I feel  
21 compelled to say this today -- there's some people  
22 who look at a young man -- still a young man -- who  
23 is elevated to a position like this and say: Well,

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1 he got to where he is because of who he is, who he  
2 knows or who he's related to. And then I just want  
3 to say: Folks, there is a young man who is rising  
4 through the ranks of the Dupont Company and he's  
5 going to be a star there, and it's not because his  
6 name is the same as the name of that company. I  
7 would know.

8 I know someone who serves in the Federal  
9 bench in our State who is a credit to all of us.  
10 It's not because of whom she happened to be related  
11 to.

12 We have people who serve in appointed  
13 positions in our offices in our State who do great  
14 service to us, and it's not because of whom they  
15 are related to. And for those of who would suggest  
16 that this Governor selected Jim Vaughn because he  
17 happens to be the son of Sylvia ... (laughter) ...  
18 well, maybe that had something to do with it. I  
19 selected him because he is her son, and despite of  
20 the fact that he's Jim's son.

21 Jim, would you come up here and stand  
22 with me for just a second?

23 I know this is a little bit out of the

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1 ordinary, ladies and gentlemen.

2 Come up here.

3 I want you to look at this face. I want  
4 you to look at this face and I want you to look at  
5 that face right over there.

6 And, Jay, would you stand up just for a  
7 second ... thank goodness, he looks like his  
8 mother, wouldn't you say that?

9 (Laughter and applause.)

10 GOVERNOR CARPER: Jim, and, Sylvia, you  
11 did good with this kid; and he and Missy have done  
12 great with their two children. And I want to say  
13 thank you for picking up where the two of them left  
14 off and make sure he has turned out well. He's  
15 been a credit to the three of you, and a credit to  
16 his folks and parents and to all the other members  
17 of the Vaughn family here today.

18 I think he will be a credit to our  
19 Court, Chief Justice.

20 And I thank each and every one of the  
21 members of the General Assembly here who voted for  
22 him, who made possible this very day. Thank you so  
23 much.

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1 (Applause.)

2 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Welcome as  
3 well, Governor Tribett. I did not see you over  
4 there when I was starting in session.

5 I would now like to ask Chief Justice  
6 Veasey to give his remarks.

7 Chief Justice Veasey.

8 CHIEF JUSTICE VEASEY: Governor Carper  
9 is a tough act to follow, always.

10 Governor Carper, members of the General  
11 Assembly who are here, Governor Tribett, members of  
12 the Vaughn family, and friends and members of the  
13 judiciary. Members of the Bar, members of the  
14 community, citizens of Delaware, and friends of Jim  
15 Vaughn, and friends of the Court. It's a great  
16 honor for me to be here to give you greetings from  
17 the Supreme Court of Delaware, where our chambers  
18 are right over, right across the hall over there,  
19 right across The Green.

20 And it's a great honor for all of us to  
21 be members of the Delaware Judiciary. I think this  
22 is a very special day, not only for the Delaware  
23 Judiciary, that Jim Vaughn has joined us, but of

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Official Court Reporter

1 course a special day for Jim Vaughn's family, and I  
2 commend them.

3 I've known Senator Vaughn -- I was  
4 trying to calculate how many years, Senator. I  
5 think it's 37 or more years. And then I was  
6 thinking that Jim was pretty young when you and I  
7 worked together. I was at the Attorney General's  
8 Office and you were in the State Police, and we  
9 worked very closely together. And I've known and  
10 respected former State Police Commissioner Vaughn,  
11 and the Commissioner of Corrections Vaughn, and  
12 Senator Vaughn all these years.

13 And I have a great and warm respect for  
14 you, Senator, and Mrs. Vaughn, and congratulations  
15 to you. And I'm just delighted that we have a  
16 Vaughn sitting on the Superior Court, the new  
17 Resident Judge of Kent County.

18 I know that Judge Vaughn has a  
19 distinguished reputation among the bench and the  
20 bar in the State of Delaware, and has wonderful  
21 credentials that you have heard before. In  
22 addition to all of his credentials of academic  
23 background and the reputation he brings as a fine

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1 lawyer, he has done great work for the Court system  
2 in enforcing the ethical rules of lawyers. Very  
3 important mission that we all have. And Judge  
4 Vaughn, through his work on the order begin and  
5 professional responsibility and the judiciary  
6 (check) counsel has done well man work in that  
7 direction. And I know that as he sits in this  
8 courtroom and presides over what goes on here in  
9 the business of the court, that he will carry that  
10 in integrity and high spirit of the ethics with  
11 him, as well as the scholarship that I know he  
12 brings to his work.

13 This is, as Governor Carper said, a very  
14 busy court. One of the busiest in the country.  
15 We're going to get some more judges. It will still  
16 be one of the busiest per judge. And I think that  
17 goes for the entire State court system.

18 So we need people with the work ethic  
19 and the background of Jim Vaughn; and it's going to  
20 be a great day for Jim to go forward and bring his  
21 skills to bear in the judiciary branch of the  
22 government. We have an extraordinary judiciary in  
23 Delaware, as the Governor has kindly noted.

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1           We have a national reputation in our  
2 courts through the entire Court system; and Jim  
3 Vaughn will bring luster to that already noble  
4 reputation that we have.

5           I have to close, Judge Vaughn, by giving  
6 you a little piece of advice that you didn't ask  
7 for. This is an awesome job that you have, and it  
8 has great power and has great responsibility. And  
9 it's a position that we all must take very  
10 seriously in everything we do as a judge. But we  
11 always have to remember in taking our position very  
12 seriously, that we should never take ourselves too  
13 seriously. And I know you won't.

14           Congratulations.

15           (Applause.)

16           PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,  
17 Chief Justice.

18           Our next speaker, J.R. Julian, Esquire,  
19 the President of the Delaware State Bar  
20 Association.

21           Mr. Julian.

22           MR. JULIAN: Thank you, President Judge  
23 Ridgely.

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1           May it please the Court, it is a great  
2 honor to be invited to address the Court and to  
3 express on behalf of the State of Delaware State  
4 Bar Association, my warmest greetings and  
5 congratulations in welcoming Jim Vaughn to the  
6 Superior Court, which, as we know, has general  
7 jurisdiction handling civil and criminal matters of  
8 all types, including very complex business  
9 litigation, toxic tort litigation, insurance  
10 coverage litigation, and serious criminal  
11 litigation, including capital cases.

12           Accordingly, a court judge carries a  
13 significant burden in terms of both the workload  
14 and the responsible nature of the court's work.  
15 Jim Vaughn is well-suited to the task. Jim comes  
16 from a very prominent Kent County family, from a  
17 prominent Kent County law firm, Schmittinger and  
18 Rodriguez.

19           In addition to being bright with an  
20 excellent academic background, in the 22 years that  
21 Jim Vaughn has been admitted to practice, he has  
22 been experienced to a wide range of legal  
23 activities which make him particularly suited for

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Official Court Reporter

1 this position.

2 Beyond his confines of practice, Jim was  
3 an associate member of the Board of Responsibility  
4 of the Supreme Court of Delaware, and also served  
5 as Assistant Disciplinary Counsel to the Board.

6 Jim has been active in bar association activities,  
7 including President of the Kent County Bar  
8 Association, Vice President of the State Bar  
9 Association, and Master of the Terry Carey Inns of  
10 Court.

11 But there is more to life than just law.  
12 Jim has been married to Missy for 27 years, and  
13 they are the parents of Mary and Jay, whom you  
14 know. The Vaughns enjoy a good family life which  
15 is a foundation of a strong society.

16 In addition to his family and  
17 professional life, Jim has been very involved in  
18 civic activity. Clayton Town Council. Was a  
19 member of the Board of Directors of the Delaware  
20 Municipal Electric Corporation; and President of  
21 the Smyrna School Board during the period of 1991  
22 to 1994.

23 In addition, he was a member of the

Jennie L. Washington  
Official Court Reporter

1 Board of Directors at the Kent General Hospital, a  
2 member of the Rotary; and last but certainly not  
3 least, a coach in the Smyrna Clayton Little League,  
4 a duty that he continues to this day.

5 I mention all these activities because  
6 Jim's biography points to the fact that he is a  
7 well-rounded individual, which in my view is a  
8 necessary predicate to assuming a judicial  
9 position. Broad background and experience assists  
10 a judge in fulfilling the Court's duties, since  
11 invariably the adjudication of cases is nearest  
12 one's own experience and life.

13 Judge Vaughn was appointed to the Court  
14 to continue the excellent work that was performed  
15 by Judge N. Maxson Terry. We all know the high  
16 standards required by the Court.

17 Judge Vaughn, I congratulate you on this  
18 well deserved appointment and wish you the very  
19 highest level of success.

20 (Applause.)

21 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Julian.

23 Our next speaker is Carolyn H.

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1 deBernard, Esquire, the President of the Kent  
2 County Bar Association.

3 Ms. deBernard.

4 MS. DEBERNARD: Thank you, Judge  
5 Ridgely.

6 May it please the Court, the Kent County  
7 Bar Association is honored today by having one of  
8 its members sworn in as the newest Superior Court  
9 Judge. On behalf of the Kent County Bar, we extend  
10 our congratulations to you, Jim, and to your  
11 family.

12 The problem with going last is a lot of  
13 things, nice things have already been said about  
14 Jim, some of which I will repeat and I apologize  
15 for, but it's worth repeating for Jim.

16 We are here today not only to honor and  
17 support Jim in his new phase of his legal career,  
18 but also to support the continuation of the  
19 traditions and the values of the Delaware Bar  
20 through Jim's appointment to the bench.

21 The legal community in Delaware has a  
22 distinguished history of members dedicated to their  
23 communities through public service and to

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1 maintaining the integrity of the bar through those  
2 associations with each other and the legal system.

3 Jim Vaughn comes from a family rich in  
4 the traditions of public service. As you have  
5 heard, his father is a retired police officer and a  
6 current State Senator. His uncle Bill Vaughn, with  
7 whom Jim began his practice of law, is a retired  
8 member of the Delaware Bar; and his wife Missy is a  
9 teacher at the Clayton Elementary School.

10 Jim himself has been involved in public  
11 service and civic activities since joining the bar  
12 in 1976. He has been a member of the Clayton Town  
13 Council since 1979, and served as council president  
14 for three of those years. He's been involved in  
15 the Smyrna School Board, Kent General Hospital, the  
16 Rotary Club, and the Smyrna Clayton Little League  
17 to name a few. And when I say involved, I don't  
18 just mean lending his name to the membership roles,  
19 but actively involved in these organizations.

20 Public service has played a big role in  
21 Jim's life; and today that role got bigger, and  
22 we are confident that Jim is up to that task.

23 As far as maintaining the integrity of

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1 the bar, Jim has done that every day since joining  
2 the bar in 1976.

3           If I were to pick one word to describe  
4 his legal practice, Jim is a gentleman. He is  
5 intelligent, thoughtful and fair in his decisions,  
6 honest and straightforward. With Jim, what you see  
7 is really what you get. As a I said, a true  
8 gentleman. All qualities that make us proud to  
9 have him as a member of the Delaware Bar, as a  
10 friend, and now as your newest Superior Court  
11 Judge.

12           In addition to maintaining his own  
13 standards, he has helped maintain the standards of  
14 our profession. Jim has served on the Board On  
15 Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of  
16 Delaware, and has acted as their assistant  
17 disciplinary counsel for several years. He served  
18 as President of the Kent County Bar Association and  
19 Vice President of the State Bar Association.

20           Jim has also been a long time member of  
21 the Terry Carey Inns of Court which fosters the  
22 educational and professional growth of lawyers and  
23 judges in all stages of their careers.

Jennie L. Washington  
Official Court Reporter

1 Jim Vaughn's dedication for his public  
2 service in the legal community is evident, and  
3 becoming a Superior Court Judge would be the most  
4 logical next step in Jim's distinguished career,  
5 and is certainly a plus for the legal community in  
6 Delaware and for Kent County.

7 Judge Vaughn, we are very happy for you.  
8 We are proud of you, and the Kent County Bar  
9 Association certainly supports you in your new role  
10 as judge.

11 RESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
12 Carolyn.

13 (Applause.)

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,  
15 Carolyn deBernard.

16 It is now my privilege to invite our new  
17 Resident Judge to give his first public remarks as  
18 a judge of the Superior Court.

19 So I turn the microphone over to you,  
20 Resident Judge Vaughn.

21 RESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you,  
22 President Judge Ridgely.

23 Governor Carper, Chief Justice Veasey,

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1 Justice Harnett, Vice Chancellor Steele, members of  
2 the judiciary who are here, members of the General  
3 Assembly, members of the bar, and friends, and I am  
4 delighted to see how many people have come down  
5 here to help go through this today. I thank all of  
6 you for being here. I very much appreciate it.

7 I'd like to begin by saying that this is  
8 certainly a rewarding and happy day for me and my  
9 family. But as we begin to conclude, I think it's  
10 important that we all remain mindful of the tragic  
11 circumstances under which this vacancy on the Court  
12 was created, and the profound loss that  
13 Judge Terry's family has suffered. I very much  
14 appreciate that members of his family are in  
15 attendance today.

16 Governor Carper, I'd like to thank you  
17 for taking time from your busy schedule to be here  
18 today. I appreciate it very much. And, Governor,  
19 I'd like to assure you that I will be mindful of  
20 the qualities of a judge that you have mentioned  
21 here.

22 I'd also like to thank the twenty  
23 senators who were able to vote to support my

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1 confirmation. I will confess that as I walked from  
2 my law office over here to the Senate Chamber, over  
3 there for my confirmation hearing, I was a little  
4 apprehensive. I didn't really know for sure what  
5 was going to happen that night. There were a  
6 number of things going on over there, but,  
7 fortunately, I was treated with great kindness and  
8 courtesy by all the Senators, and I very much  
9 appreciate it.

10 And whenever I have the occasion to go  
11 over to the Senate, which really isn't that often,  
12 I always get a lot of good natured ribbing about my  
13 father's and my facial resemblance. Usually as  
14 we are both sitting there, you can count on some  
15 Senator to say something like: Will the real Jim  
16 Vaughn stand up, or something like to that nature.  
17 But it's a great place, and I very much appreciate  
18 the way I was treated there.

19 It's a pleasure to have so many members  
20 of my family here. Especially pleasing to have my  
21 grandmother present today, to have my parents here,  
22 my wife, whom we have celebrated our 27th  
23 anniversary this year, and my two children. And I

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Official Court Reporter

1 would also like to say that I'm especially pleased  
2 that my Uncle Bill Vaughn is here.

3 Bill gave me my start in the practice of  
4 law. When you start practicing law, you really  
5 don't have any idea of what practicing law is all  
6 about, and Bill taught me how to practice law. And  
7 in those early years he taught me the skills and, I  
8 think equally important, the professional values  
9 that a lawyer should have; and I have always  
10 appreciated that very much.

11 These last four weeks or so have been a  
12 very emotional time. I've experienced a lot of  
13 different kinds of emotions, some of which I really  
14 hadn't experienced before.

15 When I think to it, you know, it leaves  
16 me with a very deep sense of what a privilege it  
17 has been for me to be able to practice law for the  
18 last 22 years. I've been blessed to have a law  
19 practice where many of my clients were my friends  
20 as well, and blessed to have a practice where  
21 people of my parents' generation, my grandparents'  
22 generation, who first knew me as a little boy  
23 growing up in Clayton, would trust me with their

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Official Court Reporter

1 legal matters; and then have their children and  
2 their grandchildren, and in some cases their great  
3 grandchildren, to continue to come back for me to  
4 do their legal work. It has created a lot of  
5 memories which I'm going to take with me.

6           However, I am now looking forward to  
7 beginning my judicial duties with the Court and to  
8 working together with the other judges to carry out  
9 the Court's important work. I know that the work  
10 will be difficult. I know it will be demanding.

11           I was kidding one of the court staff  
12 about a week ago that when I show up for work on  
13 the first day, I'll walk into my office, at that  
14 point somebody is going to have to basically tell  
15 me what to do next; and I was immediately assured  
16 that that was not going to be a problem at all.  
17 But with God's help and support of my family and  
18 friends, I will do my best to faithfully discharge  
19 the responsibility which I am now assuming.

20           And I thank all of you for coming very  
21 much.

22           (Applause.)

23           PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: Thank you,

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Official Court Reporter

1 Jim, and congratulations and our very best wishes  
2 on behalf of the Court. All of the judges and all  
3 of the staff, I know, are looking very forward to  
4 working with you.

5 RESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: If you will  
7 all now rise, the Reverend Hawkins will give the  
8 Benediction.

9 (Audience complied.)

10 REVEREND HAWKINS: Go into the world in  
11 peace, to serve the Lord and to love all of God's  
12 people. Amen.

13 THE AUDIENCE: Amen.

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE RIDGELY: This concludes  
15 the Special Session of the Superior Court of the  
16 State of Delaware.

17 You are welcome to greet our new Judge  
18 at a reception which will be at the Century Club  
19 which is out the front door and to the left on The  
20 Green.

21 The Court is now adjourned.

22 \* \* \* \* \*

23 (Whereupon, the ceremony was concluded.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JENNIE L. WASHINGTON, an Official Court Reporter of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, do hereby certify the above and foregoing pages, 1 through 34, to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings therein indicated on October 28, 1998, as was stenographically reported by me and reduced to computer-aided transcript under my direct supervision, as the same remains of record in the prothonotary's office in the Kent County Courthouse, Dover, Delaware.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennie L. Washington  
Cert. #140-PS, Permanent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Jennie L. Washington  
Official Court Reporter