

1 General Assembly and Governor Carper for making this
2 occasion possible.

3 Since this is the very first time there
4 will be a Commissioner of the Superior Court in Kent
5 County, it is appropriate that I give a brief
6 explanation as to how this judicial office came into
7 being and the important role that the Commissioner
8 will have.

9 Since 1988, the criminal and civil case
10 loads of this Court have grown significantly. In
11 Kent County, the number of criminal case filings has
12 doubled during this period.

13 Earlier this year, the judges of the
14 Superior Court and the Commission on Delaware Courts
15 2000 concurred that more cases could be tried sooner
16 by the judges if the Superior Court had the
17 assistance of judicial officers comparable to the
18 United States Magistrates who work with the Federal
19 Judiciary. A statute patterned after the federal
20 law was approved by the General Assembly and signed
21 by Governor Carper this past summer.

22 The authority of the Commissioners
23 appointed under this statute includes all powers and

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1 duties conferred or imposed by law or the procedural
2 rules of this Court; the power to set bail; the
3 power to accept pleas of not guilty to any offense
4 and to appoint counsel; the power to accept guilty
5 pleas to misdemeanors and to sentence on the
6 misdemeanors with the consent of the parties.
7 Additionally, any pretrial matter may be referred to
8 a Commissioner for decision that is not case
9 dispositive.

10 A judge may only reconsider the decision
11 where it is shown that the order is based upon
12 clearly erroneous findings, that the order is
13 contrary to law, or that the order constitutes an
14 abuse of discretion.

15 Case dispositive motions may be referred
16 to the Commissioner for recommendations to the
17 judges. If there is an objection to any part of the
18 report, a judge makes a de novo review of that part,
19 which means that the judge will make his or her own
20 determination of that matter.

21 Finally, a Commissioner may be assigned
22 additional lawful duties by the President Judge,
23 including assignment to the Court of Common Pleas,

1 where the Commissioner may exercise the same
2 authority.

3 Andrea comes to the Superior Court well
4 qualified to serve as its first Commissioner in Kent
5 County. After graduating from St. Andrews School,
6 she attended the George Washington University where
7 she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in History. She
8 received her Juris Doctorate Degree from Catholic
9 University of Americas Columbus School of Law in
10 1987. It struck me that I also received degrees
11 from each of these educational institutions, so I
12 can vouch for the rigor of the courses she took and
13 the quality of the education which was given.

14 During law school, Andrea served
15 internships in Washington, D.C., including work with
16 the National Public Radio's Office of General
17 Counsel, the law firm of Brown and Finn, and with
18 the Commissioner of the Federal Commemorations
19 Commission. Upon returning to Dover, Andrea also
20 served as a law clerk to the Honorable Merrill C.
21 Trader, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. I know
22 Judge Trader is also looking forward to working with
23 her again.

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1 Upon being admitted to the Delaware Bar
2 in 1988, Andrea served as an associate with the law
3 firm of Terry, Jackson, Terry and Wright until
4 September of 1992. Of course, Judge Terry is very
5 familiar with that law firm, and perhaps he can tell
6 you some more about that.

7 For the last two years, Andrea has been a
8 Deputy Attorney General working in the Criminal
9 Appeals Division of the Department of Justice in
10 Wilmington. She has represented the State of
11 Delaware in briefing and oral arguments before the
12 Supreme Court of Delaware. During this time, she
13 has also taught legal brief writing at Wesley
14 College here in Dover.

15 Both Judge Terry and I are very confident
16 in Andrea's abilities and her exemplary character.
17 We are looking forward to working with her very
18 much.

19 At this time, I would like to give
20 Resident Judge Terry the opportunity to speak to
21 you. Judge Terry?

22 JUDGE TERRY: Thank you. When Andrea was
23 nominated by Governor Carper to this office, I

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1 thought of her father, John Maybee.

2 I began practicing law in December of
3 1965. John Maybee had been a member of the bar for
4 a number of years, and we soon developed a
5 friendship. It was around then that John came into
6 his prime as a trial lawyer, and he developed a
7 style of flare unique to him, one that will keep his
8 memory vivid and alive to all of us who knew him.
9 He was on his way to fame and fortune, as the saying
10 goes, when his life ended too soon.

11 He evokes many memories, but one of the
12 strongest I have is of him as a Kent Countian. His
13 love for Kent County and especially the judicial
14 heritage of Kent County ran deep.

15 His brother, Joseph, Judge Maybee,
16 carries on that dedication today. From many past
17 conversations with them both, I have gotten the
18 message: This is Kent County, we are Kent
19 Countians, we have a heritage and a duty, and our
20 duty is to further the betterment of our County and,
21 in particular, the laws and institutions under which
22 we live here. I know that Andrea is aware of this
23 and shares these sentiments.

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1 John would be proud of Andrea today, and
2 I predict prouder still as time goes by and she
3 discharges her duties well.

4 Andrea began her career working in my
5 former law firm, so I know her abilities. She is
6 smart. She is analytic, and she and her husband,
7 Tim, brew their own beer in the bathtub at home and
8 bottle it under their own label. I have tasted it,
9 and it is good.

10 I arrived at a seminar one day and Andrea
11 explained the difference between stout, lager and
12 pilsner to me in detail, how they are brewed and
13 distilled. With such a love for life's finer
14 things, how could she not succeed?

15 Next she went to the Attorney General's
16 Office, where she spent the last few years
17 researching and briefing a variety of issues, all
18 involving criminal law.

19 As you have heard from Judge Ridgely, a
20 great deal of her work will be in the criminal area
21 and her expertise will serve her and us well. We
22 need a Commissioner. The effectiveness of our
23 Courts depends on the ability to adjudicate cases

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1 not only fairly but also without delay. The
2 creation of this office would go a long way toward
3 expediting the delivery of justice here in Kent
4 County, so I welcome and congratulate the newest
5 Judge Maybee, together with her mother, Sandra; her,
6 husband, Tim; and her children, Andrew and
7 Elizabeth. I know she will discharge the duties of
8 her office honorably in the best of traditions.

9 JUDGE RIDGELY: I will also confess to
10 sampling that beer, and it is good.

11 Before our new Commissioner can assume
12 her duties, she must first be sworn in. If
13 circumstances permit, the Bible will be held by her
14 son, Andrew. Thereafter, Tim will assist in the
15 robing and our Commissioner will then join us on the
16 bench. Are you prepared to take the oath of office?

17 MS. MAYBEE: Yes, I am.

18 JUDGE RIDGELY: Please place your right
19 hand on the Bible and repeat after me.

20 (The oath was then administered.)

21 JUDGE RIDGELY: Congratulations.

22 COMMISSIONER MAYBEE: Thank you.

23 JUDGE RIDGELY: Congratulations, Andrea

1 and welcome. I now have the privilege of calling
2 upon our new Superior Court Commissioner for her
3 remarks. Andrea?

4 COMMISSIONER MAYBEE: Well, first of all,
5 I'd like to say that I am very proud and that I am
6 very thankful for this opportunity to have this job.
7 I don't really have a whole bunch of things I wanted
8 to say.

9 I guess I will kind of really start by
10 saying how happy I am to be back in Dover and to be
11 assisting the Court system in my own home town. I
12 have loved working the last two years in Wilmington,
13 but I really am pleased to be able to be back in
14 Kent County and Dover.

15 As Judge Terry mentioned, my father
16 practiced in Dover for many years, and I feel I just
17 -- many of you probably don't know this, but I just
18 purchased the house that I grew up from my mother
19 this summer, and having this job sort of brings me
20 back to Kent County and to Dover and I feel that I
21 really am happy to be back here. I am happy to be
22 able to assist the Court in being Commissioner. I
23 am looking forward to the challenge the position is

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1 going to bring and many different ways in helping
2 out expedite the Court system for the people of the
3 State of Delaware.

4 I have a number of people I'd like to
5 thank. First off, I'd like to thank the Governor
6 and the legislature for creating a position and
7 having faith in me. I would like to thank Judges
8 Ridgely and Terry for having faith and confidence in
9 me, and I'd like to thank the people that I have
10 worked with the past few years.

11 I'd like to give special thanks to the
12 people in the Attorney General's Office that I have
13 had close contact with in the last few years --
14 Richard Fairbanks, Loren Meyers and Tim Donovan --
15 who have taught me more about criminal law in the
16 last two years and I better hope to learn under
17 those circumstances. Those three attorneys have
18 been a wonder to me and have really helped me out a
19 great deal.

20 I'd like to thank Judge Terry and his
21 brother, Harry Terry, and Tom Jackson for all of
22 those things that I learned when I was working with
23 them. I had a wonderful time working with them and

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1 just all the other attorneys in Kent County and the
2 members of the judiciary that I have had the
3 pleasure of working with. I am looking forward to
4 working now with all of them again.

5 I'd like to thank my mother, Sandra, for
6 all the confidence and the patience she has had with
7 me over the years. I'd like to thank my
8 grandmother, Helen, who has been with me all those
9 years and has always been there to help me out. I'd
10 like to give special thanks to my Uncle Joseph, who
11 I have not always agreed with but has always been a
12 good way of learning for me to help others. He has
13 been a wonder to me, and he has been an inspiration
14 to me, and he has always been a joy to talk to, like
15 I say, even if we don't always agree.

16 I'd like to thank my husband's parents,
17 Don and Justine, for coming down today. It is a
18 great honor for me.

19 I'd like to now thank two people who,
20 unfortunately, can't be here. I'd like to thank my
21 father and my grandmother, Mary Maybee, who, without
22 them, I know I never would have been in law. My
23 father has always been my mentor and my hero, and I

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1 wish he could have been here today because I know he
2 would have been proud. I feel he was one of the
3 best attorneys. I wish I could have known him
4 better, and I am going to be happy to be practicing
5 in Dover with other attorneys who maybe can tell me
6 a little bit more about him.

7 Finally, my final thanks is for the most
8 important people in my life, my two children, Andrew
9 and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is not going to remember
10 anything, but at least she has been good so far, and
11 who now will be able to see their mommy a little
12 more since I will be working in Dover. And I would
13 like to thank and throw a kiss to my husband, Tim,
14 who, without his support, I wouldn't have been able
15 to do what I have done the last two years, commute
16 to Wilmington. He is really the world's best
17 husband. I don't have any problem saying that. He
18 has been wonderful and very patient with me over the
19 years, and now he will be glad to give me some of
20 the responsibility with the kids since I will be in
21 Dover.

22 So, I am looking forward to it, and I
23 hope that all of the attorneys, if there is things

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1 that you find with the Commissioner's position and
2 anything that you think, any improvements that you
3 would like to hear or any suggestion, I am really
4 open. I think this position is going to be a new
5 position, and I think we all need to work together
6 to make it the best and to help expedite and get the
7 Court system working to build a division of the
8 Courts 2000.

9 I am having a reception at my house after
10 this and everyone here is welcome. Even if you
11 don't know me that well, I'd love for you to come
12 because I would really like to get to know you and
13 since I will be working with you. I have spent all
14 day cleaning my house, so you better come. It is
15 very close to here; it is only a few blocks away.
16 It is at 29 South Bradford Street. Just take State
17 Street North, make a left on Reed Street, first
18 right on Bradford, and it is about three quarters of
19 the way down on the right-hand side of the street,
20 number twenty-nine. Please come. I'd love to have
21 you. Thanks again, and I don't have anything
22 further to add.

23 JUDGE RIDGELY: One last administrative

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1 detail; if you could sign this oath of office to be
2 sure it is properly recorded. This concludes the
3 special session of the Superior Court. You are
4 welcome to stay and greet our new Commissioner here
5 or at her home at 29 South Bradford Street, as she
6 mentioned. Perhaps there will be some of that beer
7 Judge Terry mentioned.

8 COMMISSIONER MAYBEE: And for the record,
9 I stopped brewing that when the kids were born. It
10 was too much of a problem, but I do have some very
11 good beer.

12 JUDGE RIDGELY: Court is now adjourned.

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