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

IN THE MATTER OF: ) Tuesday, May 31, 1988  
Ceremony of Investiture ) Superior Courtroom No. 1  
of ) Kent Courty Courthouse  
HON. MYRON T. STEELE ) Dover, Delaware  
As an Associate Judge of )  
the Superior Court ) 3:00 o'clock p.m.

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

SITTING: HON. ANDREW D. CHRISTIE  
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

HON. WILLIAM G. BUSH, III  
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

HON. HENRY duPONT RIDGELY  
SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE

PRESENT: REVEREND GREGORY M. HOWE,  
W. LAIRD STABLER, III. Esq.,  
ARTHUR G. CONNOLLY, JR., Esq.,  
WILLIAM PRICKETT, Esq. and  
N. MAXSON TERRY, JR., Esq.

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Official Court Reporter

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Courtroom No. 1  
3:00 p.m.

1  
2  
3 JUDGE STIFTEL: Welcome to the special  
4 session of the Superior Court. The invocation by Reverend  
5 Gregory M. Howe of Christ Episcopal Church, Dover, Delaware  
6 will take place now.

7 Please stand.

8 REVEREND HOWE: Let us bow our heads in  
9 prayer.

10 Oh, God, the just and merciful judge of all  
11 creation, look down from heaven we beseech thee on thy  
12 servant Myron Steele who has been chosen by the civil  
13 authority with thy permission to minister justice among thy  
14 people, to protect the innocent and to pass sentence on and  
15 punish the guilty. Grant to him the gift of thy holy wisdom,  
16 the spirt of uprightness, the spirt of discernment and the  
17 spirt of thy grace that he may boldly, discreetly and  
18 mercifully fulfill the duties now committed to his charge,  
19 the well being of thy people and the glory of thy name.  
20 Amen.

21 JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you, Reverend Howe.

22 It is always a pleasure to be in Kent County  
23 and especially in this beautiful city of Dover, our capital

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1 where we so recently celebrated our bicentennial. It is  
2 especially satisfying to be here for the purpose that we meet  
3 today.

4 The person we will soon welcome into our  
5 constitutional judiciary was born on July the 28th, nineteen  
6 hundred and forty-five in another historical state,  
7 Massachusetts, in the city of Taunton. He got his B.A. at  
8 the University of Virginia, and his J.D. at the famous law  
9 school of the same university where he and Judge Poppiti were  
10 classmates.

11 He became a member of the Virginia State Bar  
12 and then came to Wilmington in 1970 to work for the law firm  
13 headed by William Prickett, Esquire. Mr. Prickett is here to  
14 tell you about this.

15 But before he became a Delawarean he had a  
16 history. Taunton was his birth place only because Myron's  
17 father was a regular Army officer and stationed there as  
18 provost marshal in charge of the prisoner of war camp. His  
19 roots however, are in the south. His family origin is from  
20 the early seventeen hundreds, South Carolina. His dad being  
21 military the family lived many places including Morocco and  
22 Japan.

23 Now, back to Delaware and the early

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1       seventies. Judge Bush told me that Laird Stabler talked  
2       Myron into becoming a Kent County Deputy Attorney General in  
3       1971. After a very brief sojourn in Wilmington he moved to  
4       Dover and in 1973 he became a State Senate attorney.

5                 In 1974 he was selected as chairman of  
6       Delaware's Consumer Affairs Board. In 1975 he became a  
7       member of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the  
8       Supreme Court.

9                 In 1980 he became president of the Kent  
10       County Bar Association and vice president of the Delaware Bar  
11       Association. Just about that time he became a member of the  
12       Governor's Commission on Sentencing Reform.

13                We all know how active Myron has been  
14       politically and in local civic affairs. They will probably  
15       be mentioned by Max Terry later in this program.

16                Myron has been a notable trial advocate, a  
17       hard worker. His becoming a judge, his work, he genuinely  
18       wants to do since he has always been interested in service to  
19       the people. It is his aim, as it is with all of us, on the  
20       bench, to achieve justice in human relations.

21                We now have a lot of military brass on the  
22       Court. Myron is a Staff Judge Advocate Lieutenant Colonel  
23       in the 261st Signal Command of the National Guard.

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1 Judge Poppiti is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force  
2 National Guard and Judge Gebelein is a Major in the Guard.

3 I must pay special attention to Myron's  
4 lovely wife Beth who is present here today and to his  
5 beautiful daughter Clayton Carter Steele who will start her  
6 third year of Columbia College at Columbia University in  
7 September. This should make her a favorite of Judge Balick  
8 who graduated from Columbia College a couple of decades ago.

9 And I wish good luck to the 15 year old  
10 Jenne Steele who is taking her first year final examination  
11 at Lawrenceville College. Is that today? Amazing.

12 The Governor has picked the right person for  
13 the right job and we thank him and we thank the Senate. We  
14 are lucky and the people of this county and this State are  
15 lucky to have Myron Steele join us.

16 I now call on the Chief Justice of the State  
17 of Delaware Andrew D. Christie to administer the oath of  
18 office to the new Judge. When the oath of office is being  
19 administered by Chief Justice Christie I respectfully request  
20 that all of the audience stand. Mrs. Myron T. Steele will  
21 hold the bible for the administration of the oath.

22 Kent County Resident Judge Henry duPont  
23 Ridgely Superior Court and retired Kent County Resident Judge

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1 William G. Bush, III will place the judicial robe on Judge  
2 Steele and later Judge Ridgely will have a few remarks to  
3 say.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: We will come down  
5 forward here to administer the oath.

6 It is a special pleasure to administer the  
7 oath today to Judge Steele. It was just thirty-one years ago  
8 this month that I was sworn in as a Superior Court judge in  
9 this very courtroom. And it is also in this very courtroom  
10 that Myron tried a lot of his first cases. I believe that  
11 his first case in the Superior Court was tried before me; is  
12 that correct?

13 JUDGE STEELE: That's correct.

14 CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: In this courtroom.  
15 So we all have a special feeling. This is an appropriate  
16 place for this important ceremony to take place.

17 We also have a very new oath which many of  
18 you will not have heard before, which public officials take  
19 according to a constitutional amendment, that became the law  
20 just last July 1st. It was written with members of the  
21 Legislature in mind in particular and it is a somewhat novel  
22 oath.

23 Myron T. Steele, are you ready to take the

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1 solemn oath, the new oath of office as a Judge of the  
2 Superior Court.

3 JUDGE STEELE: Yes, Your Honor, I am.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Who will hold the  
5 bible?

6 JUDGE STEELE: My wife Beth.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Will you repeat  
8 after me these phrases and I will keep each phrase relatively  
9 short.

10 I, Myron T. Steele, do proudly swear, to  
11 carry out the responsibilities, of the office of the  
12 Associate Judge, of the Superior Court, of the State of  
13 Delaware, to the best of my ability, freely and knowingly,  
14 that the powers of this office, flow from the people, I am  
15 privileged to represent. I further swear, always to place  
16 the public interest above any special or personal interest,  
17 and to respect the right of future generations, to share the  
18 rich, historic and natural heritage of Delaware. In so  
19 doing, I will always uphold and defend the constitutions of  
20 my country and my State, so help me God.

21 (Whereupon, Judge Steele repeated the oath.)

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTIE: Congratulations,  
23 sir.

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1 JUDGE STEELE: Thank you very much,  
2 Chief Justice.

3 JUDGE STIFTEL: Judge Bush.  
4 (Whereupon, the robe was placed on  
5 Judge Steele.)

6 JUDGE STIFTEL: How about joining us,  
7 Judge Steele, please.

8 Thank you, Chief Justice.

9 (Whereupon, the audience applauded.)

10 JUDGE STIFTEL: Governor Castle regrets very  
11 much not being able to be present here today because of  
12 previous commitments; however W. Laird Stabler, III, counsel  
13 for the Governor is present and has a message from the  
14 governor.

15 Mr. Stabler, please.

16 MR. STABLER: May it please the Court. I  
17 have a letter from the Governor who regrets, as Judge Stiftel  
18 has said, that he could not be here personally. However, he  
19 did want me to send this letter which is addressed to the  
20 Honorable Myron T. Steele and begins,

21 "Dear Judge Steele, I am sorry that I am  
22 unable to attend your investiture ceremony this afternoon.  
23 Unfortunately several months ago I scheduled a meeting with

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1       Governors Casey and Kean to initiate a joint effort to clean  
2       up the Delaware River and Bay. That meeting was scheduled  
3       for this afternoon and due to the problems with attempting to  
4       coordinate the schedule of three governors it could not be  
5       rescheduled.

6                        "I did however, want to send you my sincere  
7       best wishes on this special occasion. With your background  
8       in both the criminal and civil practice of law before the  
9       Superior Court for the past 18 years I know that you will be  
10      an exceptional addition to the Superior Court.

11                      "While I was thinking about what to write to  
12      you today my thoughts focused on your commitment to serving  
13      the community. I will not list all the areas in which you  
14      have served your community and the State of Delaware for I  
15      know that the speakers who will be present today will list  
16      those accomplishments. Your own comments during the Senate  
17      hearing for your confirmation summarized your dedication to  
18      serving others.

19                      "When asked why you wanted to be a judge my  
20      recollection is that you replied that it was of the highest  
21      honor for a lawyer to be able to serve his community and that  
22      one of the ways of doing so was by becoming a member of the  
23      Bench.

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1 "Not only does this epitomize your  
2 dedication to community service but it also demonstrates your  
3 sensitivity to the fact that the members of the judiciary  
4 have a very real impact on a vast number of citizens of  
5 Delaware.

6 "I know that you have undertaken important  
7 and difficult tasks in the past and have performed them well.  
8 I know that you will do the same in what may be the most  
9 difficult task that you have chosen to undertake.

10 "Again, I regret that my schedule did not  
11 permit me to be here in person today but I wanted you to know  
12 that I wish you every best wish and success in your new  
13 position. Signed Governor Michael N. Castle."

14 JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much. I now  
15 call on the Resident Judge of Kent County Henry duPont  
16 Ridgely.

17 JUDGE RIDGELY: Today it is a special  
18 pleasure for me to participate in the investiture of Myron T.  
19 Steele as a judge of the Superior Court.

20 Judge Steele and I have been good neighbors  
21 and friends for many years in Camden. As many of you have, I  
22 have joined him at his home to celebrate the several  
23 birthdays of the Queen of England which Myron enjoys doing.

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1 Today's ceremony just happens to coincide  
2 with my own birthday and I have to say it is a special day  
3 and cause for more celebration for me.

4 Since Judge Bush's retirement the need for  
5 reinforcements in Kent County has been acute. Although  
6 Justice Holland and other judges of the Superior Court have  
7 provided temporary assistance, Kent County needs two  
8 full-time Superior Court judges. With Judge Steele's  
9 investiture today the Calvary has arrived. Given Myron's  
10 infinity for England perhaps I should say the Royal Guard has  
11 arrived.

12 I extend my warm congratulations to Myron  
13 and his entire family and I also commend Governor Castle and  
14 the General Assembly for their prompt and wise action in  
15 selecting the Honorable Myron T. Steele as a Judge of the  
16 Superior Court.

17 Myron, I know that we will work well  
18 together on the Superior Court in Kent County and I look  
19 forward to it very much. Welcome to the judiciary.

20 JUDGE STIFTEL: I now call on Arthur G.  
21 Connolly, Jr. president of the Delaware State Bar.

22 Mr. Connolly, please.

23 MR. CONLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. On

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1       behalf of the Delaware State Bar Association I am pleased to  
2       congratulate Myron Steele and to extend to him our best  
3       wishes for a fulfilling, productive and happy tenure as a  
4       Superior Court Judge.

5                 We know he will be a valid addition to this  
6       respected and important court. We share the confidence in  
7       his ability and in his integrity that Governor Castle has  
8       shown by nominating him and the Senate has shown by  
9       confirming him unanimously. Myron is an extremely able trial  
10      attorney who has appeared in every court in Delaware. I know  
11      from experience how competent and aggressive he is; while at  
12      the same time remaining completely fair and reasonable.

13                I also learned of Myron's great devotion to  
14      the University of Virginia basketball team. U.V.a was in the  
15      NCAA Basketball Tournament around the time of the trial I had  
16      against Myron. And I got the distinct impression that if his  
17      basketball team had not lost when they did Myron would have  
18      filed a motion to hold the trial in Seattle, Washington.

19                His other experiences will be of great help as  
20      he performs his duties as a judge. He was a Deputy Attorney  
21      General and attorney for the Legislature. He served on the  
22      Consumer Affairs Board, the Board on Professional  
23      Responsibility and the Governor's Committee on Sentencing

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1 Reform.

2 He has been very active in Bar Association  
3 affairs; serving as a vice president of the Delaware State  
4 Bar Association and president of the Kent County Bar  
5 Association.

6 He also serves as a director of the  
7 Children's Bureau of Delaware and as has been mentioned he  
8 has been active for many years in the Delaware National  
9 Guard.

10 A number of years ago I was on a panel with  
11 Myron and four others dealing with preliminary injunctions in  
12 Chancery Court cases. Some of the big corporate takeover  
13 fights in which other panelists had been involved were part  
14 of the discussion. But the only thing I remember of  
15 substance from the day was Myron's opening remarks. He said  
16 that if his secretary told him a Mr. Pickens was calling he  
17 knew it wasn't Boone, it was Slim. And it didn't deal with  
18 the takeover of a big corporation but rather with the  
19 incorporation of a hen house.

20 The fact is however, that Myron was the type  
21 of lawyer who would provide both Boone and Slim the same kind  
22 of high quality representations. We are extremely fortunate  
23 to have Myron added to this distinguished Court.

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1           A few years ago a speaker of a swearing in  
2 of a judge quoted Yogi Berra to the affect that predictions  
3 are extreme risky especially when they involve the future. I  
4 can predict with complete confidence, however that Judge  
5 Steele will be every bit as fine a judge as he was a trial  
6 lawyer and that is saying a lot.

7           Myron, Judge Steele, we wish you and your  
8 family well and we congratulate you on this very happy day.

9           JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you very much. I now  
10 call on William Prickett, Esquire of the firm of Prickett  
11 Jones, Elliott, Kristol and Schnee with whom our new Judge  
12 was formerly associated as a partner and whose former days  
13 when Rod Ward was a member thereof recruited Myron to  
14 Delaware.

15           Mr. Prickett, please.

16           MR. PRICKETT: Thank you, Judge Stiftel.

17           Judge Steele, judges of the State of  
18 Delaware, I must say this is a fearsome looking jury that is  
19 in here. Colleagues of the bar, family and friends of Judge  
20 Steele, I am honored as a recent partner of Judge Steele to  
21 have been asked to speak at this, his investiture as a judge  
22 of the Superior Court. You will note that I use the word  
23 investiture as indeed others have. Investiture is an ancient

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1 term and almost uniquely is used at the time when an attorney  
2 leaves the ranks of the Bar and is elevated to the high  
3 office of judgeship by taking the oath of office that we have  
4 just heard.

5 This then is a solemn and important  
6 occasion. It is, of course, happy for the new Judge and it  
7 is a happy occasion for all of those present and indeed as I  
8 will mention later for the State of Delaware as a whole. But  
9 I would like to share with others present what I believe is  
10 the true significance of these proceedings. All too often at  
11 such ceremonies there is a series of unabashed platitudes and  
12 flattering addressed to a new Judge. Let me not demean these  
13 proceedings or our new Judge with such triviality. If  
14 nothing else you and I know that Judge Steele would see right  
15 through such smoke or puffery.

16 What then is the significance of this day  
17 for all of us? When American judges and lawyers talk about  
18 the law we are apt to preen our feathers and wax eloquent on  
19 the common law system, the freedoms, stability and evolution  
20 that is provided by case law and the state and federal  
21 constitution. We logged our system of justice running back  
22 to Magna Carta and the adoption of the Declaration of  
23 Independence and as I say our state and federal

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1 constitutions, as if these high historical antecedents  
2 somehow reflected some luster on us in this generation of  
3 lawyers and judges.

4           However, in spite of such high flown  
5 rhetoric the plain fact of the matter is that in 1988 here in  
6 Delaware and in America in general our system of justice is  
7 in deep, deep trouble. To put it plainly the system is not  
8 working as it should.

9           Justice in America plainly is too costly and  
10 is a subject of too long delays both in criminal cases and in  
11 civil cases. Indeed, it is sad to say that the American  
12 public has lost some measure of respect and confidence in  
13 both our criminal and civil systems of justice as an  
14 efficient means of solving promptly and fairly the problems  
15 of our society.

16           We wish it were otherwise but unfortunately  
17 this loss of confidence is justified. Indeed, the Bench and  
18 the Bar itself in some measures shares this loss of  
19 confidence in a system in which we are all participants.

20           One need only remember that the Chief  
21 Justice Burger at the very end of his judicial career  
22 vigorously espouses the study consideration and adoption of  
23 alternate forms of dispute resolution to supplement what he

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1 felt had become all too often an archaic, inefficient and  
2 lumbering response to current problems.

3 This is in a day and age in which our whole  
4 system of law is in worldwide competition with merging other  
5 systems of justice. This brings us back to the real reason  
6 why today is so important.

7 Today other able, vigorous and knowledgeable  
8 lawyer joins the Bench of the Superior Court of Delaware.  
9 The Superior Court is the court of general jurisdiction in  
10 Delaware both criminally and civilly. Thus the Superior  
11 Court is indeed the cutting edge of our system of justice in  
12 Delaware.

13 Judge Steele joins a Bench which now  
14 consists of a team of judges who have both experience and  
15 energy. So that in a very real sense today we can say that  
16 the tide is turning if indeed it has not already done so.

17 Judge Steele will provide help to those  
18 already on the Bench with the addition hopefully of two more  
19 judges in this very month. The team of the Superior Court I  
20 believe can and will house clean the accumulation of criminal  
21 and civil cases now pending before the Superior Court.

22 Such a cleansing of the system will  
23 rightfully make a good impression on the citizens of

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1 Delaware. This team, in the years to come, will restore the  
2 tarnished reputation of the system of justice in Delaware.  
3 They will do more than restore the reputation, they will make  
4 the system what it should be; a prompt, fair and efficient  
5 way of handling the criminal and civil business of the people  
6 of this State.

7 That then is why this is an important day  
8 all the way around. It is important for Judge Steele and his  
9 family. The Judge leaves the security of a successful law  
10 practice. And he now takes on the lonely, difficult job of  
11 being a trial judge with high responsibility of being fair,  
12 of being right and being prompt. In doing so he and his  
13 family are making amiss monetary sacrifice as Judge Steele  
14 leaves a rewarding practice and becomes a servant of the  
15 State.

16 In this context I hardly need remind you  
17 that Judge Steele came to us from Virginia and he has  
18 antecedents in the south. Thus he comes from an environment  
19 in which eventual public service is a tradition that goes  
20 back to the very orgins of this country.

21 After long consideration Judge Steele has  
22 concluded that he owes his adopted State of Delaware the  
23 obligation of concluding his legal career by assuming the

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1       difficult task of being a Judge.

2                       Thus not content with standing on the  
3       sidelines Judge Steele has taken the job of doing something  
4       constructive about the state of justice in Delaware. We in  
5       the Bar as well as the members of the Bench and the very  
6       State itself are fortunate that Judge Steele has decided to  
7       put the needs of the State before his own professional  
8       career.

9                       Rightly so, Judge Steele's decision has been  
10       hailed by attorneys throughout the State and the Governor is  
11       to be applauded for this appointment and the fact that Judge  
12       Steele was confirmed unanimously by the Senate is another  
13       tribute to Judge Steele's decision.

14                      Lawyers having the sole right of audience  
15       with the Courts are in a very real sense quasi public  
16       servants; however Judge Steele is no longer a halfway  
17       servant, he has taken the giant step forward and upward in  
18       becoming a Judge. He is now a judicial servant of the people  
19       and of the State.

20                      The State of Delaware and the people are  
21       benefited by Judge Steele's decision to assume service as a  
22       Judge of the Superior Court. With the advent and entry of an  
23       attorney such as Judge Steele to join their colleagues in the

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1 willingness to enter public service, there is indeed light at  
2 the end of the tunnel for Delaware and the United States in  
3 our system of justice.

4 In a very real sense our system of justice  
5 depends on the willingness of a person such as Judge Steele  
6 and others to put the needs of the State and the system of  
7 justice before their own private and personal needs. When  
8 such leading members of the Bar become members of the  
9 judiciary not only is there strong efficient leadership in  
10 the courts and their ability to address the tidal wave of  
11 litigation thwarted but in this connection the judiciary is  
12 helped in its needs to resolve the ever increasing assertions  
13 of rights that constantly evolve under our system. Not only  
14 will the current system be refreshed by the vigor of Judge  
15 Steele and the other new Judges but innovative solutions to  
16 the problems of justice will become realities.

17 As Judge Steele goes forward in this new  
18 task we, his former colleagues at the Bar and particularly  
19 his partners, join with you in wishing the Judge well. We  
20 look forward with pride and interest on the new field of his  
21 endeavor hoping by his fairness, his energy and his knowledge  
22 of the law that he will, with his colleagues, roll the stone  
23 that has come so far downhill to when his career comes to the

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1 end the system of justice in the State of Delaware, so  
2 important to all of us, will be more efficient, more prompt  
3 and more fair than when on this historic day he assumed his  
4 oath of office.

5 Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Thank you very much. I now call  
7 on N. Maxson Terry, Jr. whose mother was the late Chief  
8 Justice Wolcott's sister. His father was a very prominent  
9 lawyer in Delaware and whose uncle Charles L. Terry, Jr. was  
10 the second Resident Judge of the Superior Court, Chief  
11 Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court and Governor of the  
12 State of Delaware. And who was a good friend of our new  
13 Judge.

14 Mr. Terry, please.

15 MR. TERRY: Thank you, Your Honor. As a  
16 friend who has practiced with Myron and who has been admitted  
17 to the bar, I think it would be appropriate to share some of  
18 my observations about the person who is going to be our next  
19 Judge in Kent County with you.

20 You have already heard about the nature and  
21 responsibilities of the judicial office. Today I can say  
22 that a man has been elevated to that position who will  
23 without a doubt meet and discharge the challenge with

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1 distinction. As one deemed interested in history Myron  
2 Steele knows the past is the prelude to the future. A glance  
3 at his past sheds light on the way he will conduct himself in  
4 the future as a Judge. Most of us here are aware of his  
5 experience as a trial lawyer. We know that he engaged in the  
6 general practice of law which means that he has developed a  
7 wide range of legal experience unlike some who specialize in  
8 a narrow field. His intellectual ability are well known but  
9 the making of a good or great Judge requires more than  
10 technical expertise, and it is in his background that we find  
11 other qualities.

12           Shortly after he began his career as a  
13 lawyer in Dover he was appointed as Deputy Attorney General,  
14 as you have heard someone else say. The holder of that  
15 office is charged with the responsibility for determining who  
16 should be prosecuted on what charges and what pleas, if any,  
17 should be offered in the case.

18           Myron's attitude when he held that position  
19 was not to take a case and seek a conviction at any price.  
20 Rather he carefully weighed the evidence before determining  
21 what charges should be brought. It was his policy not to  
22 charge a person with a crime unless he was himself first  
23 completely convinced of that person's guilt. He would not

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1 put a person through the terrifying and expensive ordeal of a  
2 trial if the case was subject, in his mind, to substantial  
3 doubt about the guilt of the person to be charged.

4 In those infrequent instances after a person  
5 had been charged when it appeared to him that after all the  
6 evidence had been developed the case was weak and would  
7 probably result in an acquittal he was not the type person  
8 who would take the case to the jury anyway to hope that he  
9 would get a conviction but rather he had the -- he was not  
10 afraid to terminate the prosecution at that point. In short,  
11 his standard when he occupied the office of the Deputy  
12 Attorney General was not to convict every person who was  
13 arrested but rather to examine the evidence carefully and to  
14 see that justice was done in each case.

15 In his private law practice he acted in  
16 accord with those same standards. He would spare, he kept  
17 his word, he did not seek to take unfair advantage of an  
18 opposing lawyer but he prepared his cases well and he fought  
19 hard and with zeal for his clients. It was a pleasure to  
20 work on the same side with him or even on the other side  
21 against him because in either instance one always dealt with  
22 a gentleman.

23 As a person -- and I speak for all of his

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1 friends here who are not lawyers as well as those who are --  
2 the trait of his that stands out most is his strong sense of  
3 loyalty. His friendships are as deep as his friends are  
4 varied. Few people share his ability to develop close ties  
5 to people of such widely different interests and walks of  
6 life as is evidenced in his wide ranging civic activities and  
7 his political activities which are well known at least to us  
8 in Kent County. His interest in people of all types will  
9 serve him well while he is on the Bench.

10 As Myron Steele acquired experience as a  
11 lawyer he took other younger lawyers under his wing and  
12 helped them in many ways. This trait, too, I believe is  
13 extremely important for a trial Judge to have. With so many  
14 new attorneys gaining admittance to the Bar each year it is  
15 important that a Judge have the patience and the interest to  
16 not only deal with their cases but to also assist them in  
17 their own development as lawyers.

18 We look forward in Kent County to Judge  
19 Steele's tenure as a Judge of the Superior Court and we are  
20 confident that in each matter that comes before him he will  
21 exercise his many qualities to the end that justice will be  
22 done.

23 Thank you.

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1 JUDGE STIFTEL: Thank you.

2 Now, I have the privilege of calling on our  
3 new judge, Judge Myron T. Steele. Myron.

4 JUDGE STEELE: Thank you, President Judge  
5 Stiftel. Chief Justice Christie, other distinguished members  
6 of the judiciary and members of the General Assembly and the  
7 Levy Court, presenters, other members of the bar, Father Howe  
8 and friends.

9 Before I begin my brief and more formal  
10 remarks let me just say it struck me as I thought about the  
11 remarks that I would give today that after 18 years before  
12 this Court I neither have to stand to speak nor ask anyone's  
13 permission to speak nor will I be contradicted. And, it's  
14 about time.

15 My sincerest thanks to Governor Castle for  
16 the appointment and very much to Governor Castle and to Laird  
17 for the message that he delivered on behalf of the governor  
18 today and the Senate who has confirmed me. I thank each  
19 senator personally for their vote of confidence. A special  
20 thanks goes to Senator Thurman Adams for his role in  
21 conducting this confirmation, for his grace and good humor  
22 and President Pro Tem Richard Cordrey and his thoughtfulness  
23 in including my family in the accolade after the confirmation

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1 vote.

2 My family. My heartfelt appreciation to  
3 Beth, CC and Jenny for their patience and their understanding  
4 and their endurance over the years as we all struggled in our  
5 own way to reach today's goal.

6 For those of you who do not know my family  
7 well you may ask where are Myron's daughters. For those of  
8 you who do know my family well you know that they have been  
9 raised by Beth and I to be independent, to seek their own  
10 path and achievements and not to be dependent upon on other's  
11 alleged successes.

12 If this were a time of adversity rather than  
13 one of joy they would be here. As it is a joyous occasion  
14 CC, 20 begins her summer employment today in New York City  
15 with the Latin American Division of Phillip Morris and Jenny,  
16 15 is sitting for an exam in school. I am confident that  
17 CC's thoughts today are with her parents. And that Jenny's  
18 had better be on the exam. Either way my thoughts and  
19 blessings go out to them both.

20 To the present and former members of  
21 Prickett Jones I express my gratitude; from Rod Ward who  
22 interviewed me in law school and Bill Prickett who hired me  
23 and all of you who set such an example of excellence which I

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1 strove to equal throughout my career. You gave me the  
2 opportunity to come to Delaware and to acquire the ability to  
3 become one of you, an opportunity that has served my family  
4 well.

5 My thanks to Laird Stabler, Jr. who as  
6 Attorney General appointed me on blind faith as Deputy  
7 Attorney General for Kent County and who by that single  
8 decision enabled me to find a home, to gain the skills to be  
9 a litigator and to learn by example the force that flows from  
10 leadership of quiet confidence.

11 To members of the Delaware Bar, especially  
12 those in Kent County, I salute you as I leave you for your  
13 faithfulness to your profession, for your dedication to your  
14 clients and for your graciousness almost without exception in  
15 an environment that is often heated and charged with emotion.  
16 There will be no day in my life that will stand out more in  
17 my mind than the day I became numbered among you. No  
18 subsequent event can erase from my mind the knowledge I  
19 acquired from and among you these last 18 years.

20 To the Dover office of Prickett Jones, all  
21 of you, including those of you who have distinguished  
22 yourselves more by your deeds than by your corsages today  
23 your care, concern and compassion for your clients

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1 distinguishes our profession.

2 I don't have the ability to express artfully  
3 how I feel this day toward each of you. I turn instead to  
4 the words drafted by James Taylor in 1970, The year of my law  
5 school graduation, my admission to the bar, my employment  
6 with the firm. And I take the liberty of paraphrasing: We  
7 have seen fire and we have seen rain, we have seen sunny days  
8 we thought would never end but thanks to you I have never  
9 seen a lonely day that I could not find a friend.

10 Finally to all of you who have represented  
11 the community today, to those who over the years gave the  
12 greatest gift of all to an attorney; a gift of trust by  
13 calling upon me at a time of need this day is really a  
14 tribute to you.

15 I came to Kent County of South Carolina  
16 blood, Massachusetts birth by way of Japan, Louisiana,  
17 Morocco and finally educated in Virginia. We, my family  
18 found here a community that greeted us with open hearts, open  
19 homes and open hands. When anyone asked me why I would leave  
20 private practice to join the nation's most distinguished  
21 State Bench I need only point to you and the question answers  
22 itself.

23 Mr. Jefferson said the person who accepts a

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1 public position accepts the public trust and becomes a public  
2 person. The public trusts granted me today I have sworn and  
3 will continue to swear to uphold to you to the best of my  
4 ability.

5 As I look at all of you around me today I am  
6 reminded of our Lieutenant Governor's recent campaign theme,  
7 "Only in America." I think with all due respect to  
8 Lieutenant Governor S.B. Woo, when I look at where I sit  
9 today I say with unconcealed pride: Only in Delaware.

10 Thank you for your support.

11 JUDGE STIFTEL: Very well said.

12 Reverend Howe will now give the benediction.

13 Please stand.

14 REVEREND HOWELL: Judge Stiftel, if I may  
15 have one moment for an informal benediction before the formal  
16 one, words about Judge Steele to the Delaware Bar. As his  
17 pastor I have very good cause to know that he yields to no  
18 one in his respect for and in his devotion to the traditions  
19 of the law. If any of you who come before him without the  
20 full command and control of those traditions God help you  
21 because no one else will.

22 In a more serious vein there are two friends  
23 of Judge Steele's who he had very much hoped could share this

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1 occasion and who can't. And therefore at his request I ask  
2 of you a moment of silence in memory of Harrison Turner and  
3 Dana Reed, two of his friends.

4 (Pause.)

5 Go forth into the world in peace, be of good  
6 courage, hold fast and raise up that which is good, render to  
7 no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint heartened, support  
8 the weak, comfort the afflicted, honor all who appear at the  
9 earthly bar of justice as the creatures of our Heavenly  
10 Father. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of  
11 his spirt. Amen.

12 JUDGE STIFTEL: Well, thank you very much  
13 for coming. The proceedings are now at an end. However, you  
14 are welcome to remain to greet the new judge but remember  
15 there is a reception at the Levy Court, Room 202, Kent County  
16 Administration Building, 443 Federal Street, Dover following  
17 the ceremony. I thank you very much.

18 Proceedings is ended.

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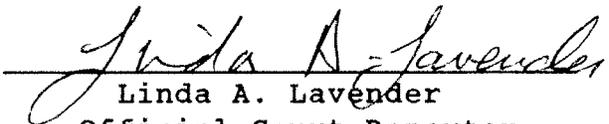
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Linda A. Lavender, Official Court Reporter of the Superior Court, State of Delaware, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate transcript of the proceedings had, as reported by me, in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, in and for Kent County, in the case therein stated, as the same remains of record in the Office of the Prothonotary of Kent County, at Dover, Delaware.

WITNESS my hand this 1<sup>ST</sup> day of November, A. D. 1988.

  
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