

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Retirement Ceremony

LORRAINE JANICKI

City Hall, Room 456
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 15, 2009
12:40 p.m.

Proceeding

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Good afternoon, everyone. We would like to welcome everyone here for this ceremonial session for the retirement of one of our good friends, Lorraine Janicki.

Lorraine is in the audience today, as are many of your friends and co-workers that you worked with over the years. Zygmunt Pines; Nikki DiPasquale; who else, Kathy Radwanski, I saw her earlier; Cathy Kelly, Valerie Kohler. We have Mr. Minner and Mr. Johns.

Who else is there? William Smith.

JUSTICE TODD: David Szewczak.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I see our executive administrator Gary Shovlin. We have in the audience our Chief Clerks, John Witherow, Peter Gardner, Irene Lambrou, Betsy Ceraso, Chuck Vohs, Donna Baker is filling in Kimberly Collins.

I would note the presence of John Person, and your sister, if I have a piece of paper — we'll get to that part later.

Now, if Lorraine, could you please step to the bar —

JUSTICE TODD: This is so much more pleasurable than a public censure.

MS. JANICKI: It doesn't feel like that to me.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: This is both a happy occasion and a sad occasion.

It is a happy occasion because you are retiring and you are retiring at a very young age.

And after 32 years of service to the Citizens of Pennsylvania, in both the Superior Court and the Supreme Court, your retirement is certainly well deserved.

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

But for us it is a sad occasion because we are here losing a good and loyal employee. You were always a great worker and a person who has been totally dedicated to her work in the Superior Court and the Supreme Court.

You began in 1974 as a clerk stenographer with Chief Justice Benjamin Jones. Until 1978, when you resigned to attend Temple University full-time.

You earned your Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in 1981, graduating cum laude.

Not leaving well enough alone, you returned to the Superior Court as an Appellate Court Clerk and from 1986 to 1989 you served as the Chief Clerk of the Superior Court.

Our Court took you away from the drudgery of the Superior Court in 1989. And you have now served this Court for over 20 years as an Assistant to the Executive Administrator of our Court and Acting Executive Administrator of our Court.

Your service in the Supreme Court stands in administrations of six Chief Justices. You truly have been a friend of all of those Justices and all of this Court. Chief Justice Benjamin Jones, Chief Justice Robert Nix, Chief Justice John Flaherty, Chief Justice Stephen Zappala, Chief Justice Ralph Cappy and myself.

You might be able to pen quite a story given all your years of serving under those Chiefs with all those different styles and individual personalities and all the things that you've seen through those years.

But please wait until I am retired in Florida.

In the last year and a half since I've been the Chief Justice, since I've been honored as being the Chief Justice, my staff and I have worked closely with you. We have personally observed your dedication to your job, your outstanding work, and most importantly, your constant concern for the Supreme Court as an institution.

You might have thought some of us might be institutionalized, or should be institutionalized, but you have always had respect for the Supreme Court as an institution. And I have always admired your insistence in protecting the daily

LORRAINE JANICKI

operations, and be respected for what it does in the Judicial Branch, the Third Branch of our government.

Your friends and family are here today. Like many of us whose parents have passed, we are sorry that your parents could not be present on this occasion to share your accomplishments. They would be proud.

We wish you good health and a wonderful future in whatever you choose to do and the satisfaction of knowing that what you have done for our Courts you have done it well.

MS. JANICKI: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I would like to read a letter from President Judge Kate Ford Elliott, who is not here today, and she sends her regards and her greetings. And Kate Ford Elliott writes:

Dear Lorraine, On behalf of the Judges on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, we wish you good luck and much happiness as you retire from your employment with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

It is so hard to believe that 20 years have past since you left the Superior Court to take on a new role with our Supreme Court.

I can remember working with you in the Prothonotary's Office. Conscientious and dedicated employees like you tend to stand out and are not easily forgotten.

I'm sure that the Justices of the Supreme Court feel the same way about you and I can assure you that we do. The Judiciary thanks you for your service.

Wishing you a future filled with good health and happiness.

I am sincerely, Kate Ford Elliott.

I would like to introduce your relatives and friends who are here today. Diana Bove, would you please stand, Lorraine's sister. Best friends Michael and Gail Bonaventura. Jackie Blaswick. And Joyce Novella.

We have your co-workers Elaine Mark and Julie DeVito. We welcome you.

On this occasion I always like to read an old Irish lesson. It is not the one about the road rising up and meeting you. It is an old Irish blessing.

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

May love and laughter lighten your days and warm your heart at home.

May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all of life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

We congratulate you, Lorraine Janicki, 32 years of service to the Citizens of Pennsylvania and to the Court System of the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court.

And we have a going away present. And we have a plaque.

MS. JANICKI: Oh, wow.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: This is a citation which you can hang anywhere you want, in the basement, that's okay.

It says: The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Certificate of Appreciation of Lorraine Janicki for 32 years of dedication, honesty, integrity and service in the Appellate Courts, and in particular, to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and thereby the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rendered as Acting Executive Administrator in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Signed under my hand this date, Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

MS. JANICKI: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Do you wish to speak?

MS. JANICKI: I just want to thank you all so very much. It has been an honor, a privilege, sometimes a challenge, working for the Supreme Court.

I want to thank my friends and co-workers for all these wonderful years and I am humbled. There is not much more I can say. It has been an interesting 32 years. I've never been bored, as you probably all know. But it has been wonderful.

Thank you all so much for this recognition. Thank you.

LORRAINE JANICKI

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

(Whereupon the ceremony was concluded at 1:00 p.m.)

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