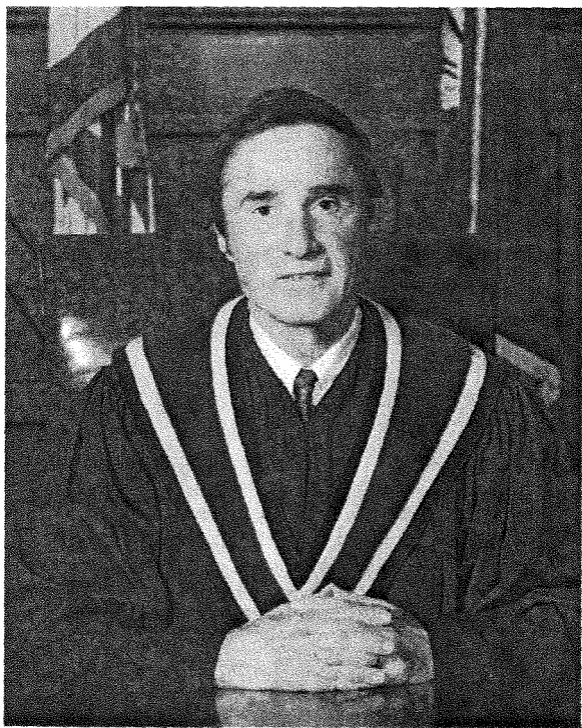


Supreme Court
of Pennsylvania

Installation Ceremony

HONORABLE
CORREALE F. STEVENS

July 30, 2013
4:00 p.m.
Luzerne County Courthouse
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



HONORABLE CORREALE STEVENS

Installation Ceremony

(Procession of guest attendees is announced as follows:)

COURT CRIER: The U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania; and the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Centre, Monroe, Pike and Philadelphia Counties.

The Honorable Judges of the Magisterial District Justice Courts.

The Honorable Judge Correale F. Stevens, friends and family.

All rise.

The Honorable, the Chief Justice and the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez. All persons who stand bound by recognizance or who otherwise have business before this Court may now appear, and it shall be heard.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

(Musical selection of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was performed.)

COURT CRIER: Please welcome Judge Jack A. Panella from the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE PANELLA: Good afternoon. Isn't this a wonderful sight, all of you here to celebrate?

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: I think we can all agree that this is a great day for Correale Stevens and the Stevens family. It is also a great day, and I think you will also agree with me, that this is a great day for Luzerne County and the Bench and Bars of Luzerne County.

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(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: You know, this is the truth, because I was there when the decision was made, but soon-to-be Justice Stevens insisted that this ceremony be here in this courthouse, in this county. That shows you the character of our new Supreme Court Justice.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: About a month ago, my wife and I were in the limousine with Corry and with Louise and his children, and we were heading to the site where we were going to do their wedding ceremony. And very calmly, his cell phone went off. And he answered it, and he looked at all of us and said, I was just confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

And the newspaper the next day, I forget which one, but that reporter said it best: Some people have good days; some people have great days. Not many of us have the day Correale Stevens had.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: It is also very appropriate that I am the master of ceremonies for today because more than anyone in this room, I am probably responsible for him getting onto the Supreme Court.

Well, it is my extreme honor and pleasure to introduce to you the Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Of course, you know Chief Justice Ronald Castille, Justice Thomas Saylor, Justice Michael Eakin, Justice Max Baer and Justice Seamus McCaffery.

And to give us our greeting to this wonderful ceremony is the Chief Justice Ronald Castille.

(Audience applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you, Judge Panella. Good afternoon everyone.

Corry Stevens told me and the Court that this was going to be a simple ceremony. I would like to see the complicated ceremony. This has to be everyone in Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding counties that are here today.

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So, we are glad to be here as the Supreme Court. Justice Debra Todd could not be here, but we are here to welcome our newest justice to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Corry Stevens.

I don't even have to go into his background. Everyone knows it, and we all know it because Corry has been a friend of ours when he was a state rep; when he was the district attorney of this county, and I was the district attorney in Philly; when he was on the state legislature, the Superior Court — a great career. And we on the court expect and know that he will do a great job on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

(Audience applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Let me just take a few moments to tell you who we are, who the Supreme Court is. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court happens to be the oldest sitting Supreme Court in the United States. The Judiciary Act of 1722 created the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania 291 years ago.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has now been sitting continually even before the establishment of the U. S. Supreme Court, 59 years before that. This Court hails directly and is descended from William Penn's Provincial Court, which was created June 4th, 1684, under William Penn's reign of government. We have sat continuously as an institution now for 329 years — the oldest sitting Supreme Court in the nation.

(Audience applause.)

That's who we are. Let me take a moment or two to tell you what we do. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is, of course, a court of last resort. We sit only en banc, and we preside over a mixture of direct and discretionary appeals.

Each Supreme Court Justice votes on every matter, including direct appeals, capital appeals, allocaturs, discretionary appeals, children's fast track matters, gaming appeals, grand jury appeals, legislative redistricting appeals, King's Bench petitions, certified questions from our brethren in the federal courts, election appeals, emergency petitions, petitions for review, judicial disciplinary matters, attorney disciplinary matters, recommendations from the eight rules

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committees and the six court-related boards, miscellaneous petitions, ancillary matters and pro se matters.

The Court's complement of seven Justices is not supplemented with senior Justices as other courts. When the Court is shorthanded, as it was for over a year, the remaining Justices must take up the added workload and complete it timely.

Our task involves balancing the finite resources to decide a large caseload of appeals over which we have no discretionary control, including ethical appeals, as well as discretionary appeals that we accept precisely because of their statewide importance. We cannot turn away discretionary appeals of statewide importance and say, sorry, we are too busy.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is unlike the intermediate courts in the federal system and in Pennsylvania. Those direct review courts from which Corry is coming typically sit in panels of three on appellate cases.

The Commonwealth Court also has cases arising of original jurisdiction, but those decisions most often result in non-precedential decisions involving error review. And the courts all benefit from the services of senior judges.

The Superior Court is allotted 15 elected judges supplemented by senior judges, five at present. The Commonwealth Court has nine judges supplemented by senior judges, four at present. The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is allotted 14 judges and currently has 24 commissioned and senior judges available, a number that is supplemented by judges from other circuits sitting by designation.

None of these tribunals that I mentioned are courts of last resort. The state intermediate appellate courts have no capital appeal caseload, and the Third Circuit has a very limited one.

Our Court's work ethic and efficiency is objectively measurable. In the past, the U. S. Supreme Court issues merit rulings on about 70 to 80 cases per term.

In the calendar year 2012, our Court alone, which was short-handed half the year, filed 93 full opinions and five precedential Per Curiam opinions or orders, disposing of a

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total of 126 separate appeals arising from seven different dockets. And we resolved another 120 direct appeals, capital and noncapital, by Per Curiam order. The Court resolved 18 capital appeals by opinion and decided ten more by Per Curiam orders.

One of these 93 opinions, for instance, involved a decennial legislative reapportionment, a matter that had to be tried quickly because it affected the 2012 primary election. The appeals were briefed, argued and decided within two weeks by this Court, two weeks of the filing of the petitions for review.

The 87-page opinion was issued the next week, and it addressed and resolved twelve separate appeals.

So that, Judge Stevens, is a short list of what you are getting into. After that, if you still wish to take the office, I will have Judge Panella proceed.

Do you still wish to take the oath of office?

JUDGE STEVENS: Can I think about it?

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: For one second.

Judge Panella, thank you very much.

JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you, Chief Justice.

What soon-to-be Justice Stevens — and, actually, you're Correale Stevens right now, aren't you? Because didn't you resign from the Superior Court last night? And we still have a few more minutes until he is sworn in.

So he has done a wonderful job of putting a program together for us, and he has asked a speaker from every phase of his professional life. What I am going to do is, we have a lot of different courts represented here today, and we are blessed with a number of elected officials.

So I will be introducing judges and others in groups, and I would ask that you hold your applause until I complete a group or court. And then when I complete that court, the judges of that court please stand, and we will do a round of applause.

What is really very touching about today is that soon-to-be Justice Stevens, of course, up until yesterday, sat on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. And he also sat on

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the Superior Court — please correct me if I am wrong, but I believe with Justice Saylor, Justice Eakin, Justice McCaffery, and, unfortunately, she couldn't make it, but Madame Justice Todd. And we have a number of other Superior Court judges who traveled all around the state to join us today.

We have President Judge Emeritus Kate Ford Elliott, John Bender, Susan Gantman, Christine Donohue, Jackie Shogan, Cheryl Allen, Anne Lazarus, Sallie Mundy, David Wecht, Senior Judge William Platt, Justice James Fitzgerald, who is now assigned to the Superior Court. And we also have two retired Superior Court judges here today, Peter Paul Olszewski and Richard Klein.

Would you all please stand?

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, our first speaker goes way back with Justice Stevens. And he is a person who I have great admiration and respect for. Patrick Solano was the senior counsel to former Governor Tom Ridge. And if you are from Northeast Pennsylvania, you have a great amount of respect for Pat Solano.

Mr. Solano.

(Audience applause.)

MR. SOLANO: I want to tell you that I am pleased that the judge chose you to be the master of ceremonies. That is a task that was given to me through all the past ceremonies that we had to do with him over the last 20 or so years.

I want to also agree with you that I am proud of the fact that he decided to do it in Luzerne County. I am more proud of the fact that he moved it from the senior citizens' center in Hazleton. I would just like to say that I have been associated with Judge Stevens from the beginning of his time in public service, and it was one of very much diversity to where he always touched on all of the aspects that dealt with the legislature and all of the things that we are all confronted with in life, all of the little things.

Let's think about this: He was the city solicitor. He was elected to the House of Representatives and served four consecutive terms. He was elected by the citizens of this

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county to District Attorney. He was then subsequently elected to the Court of Common Pleas and, might I say, with the nomination of both political parties. And then the people of this Commonwealth chose to elect him to the Superior Court.

He was elected the second time on retention to the Superior Court with a plurality of better than two to one. And now this appointment to the Supreme Court, which, in my mind, is the ultimate, absolutely the ultimate in a definite beautiful career in public service and by which he makes all of us extremely proud.

(Audience applause.)

I am also proud of the fact that it took an appointment to the High Court to get him to finally get a haircut.

I would just like, on behalf of all of the people in the Northeastern part of the state and others, to thank Governor Tom Corbett for the nomination and to thank the Senate for their unanimous consent.

We have four senators who took a special interest in this, and I believe it is worthy of mentioning the work and the efforts that they put into this — Senator Baker, Senator Yudichak, Senator Blake and Senator Gordner. We thank you.

(Audience applause.)

I would like to also convey our best wishes to you from all of your friends in the Northeast Leadership Group, from all of the citizens of this Northeast and the Commonwealth, and one in which we wish you well and one in which we know you will excel.

The best to you.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: On behalf of the Supreme Court and Superior Court, we thank members of the Commonwealth Court, our other intermediate appellate court, for joining us today.

You know, unlike the Superior Court, which, I guess, with the exception of wiretaps, we have strictly appellate jurisdiction, the Commonwealth Court has original

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jurisdiction in some matters, and they sit in a courtroom for much lengthier periods of time than we do.

Here from the Commonwealth Court is the Honorable Renee Cohn Jubelirer and Senior Judge James Colins, who, correct me if I'm wrong, was twice president judge of the Commonwealth Court.

Judges.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: But to speak about our Justice Stevens' years in the state House, we are very fortunate to have with us the Honorable Tara Toohil, who is, of course, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

(Audience applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE TOOHIL: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome. Welcome to this beloved building here. It is a glorious and beautiful building; it is one of the most beautiful buildings in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am so glad, Judge, that you picked to have this event here.

Thank you, to the Supreme Court Justices; thank you so much for coming to the Luzerne County. This is a beautiful, beautiful day for us here in Luzerne County and Judge Stevens. I am so glad that you did not swear him in before we had this event because I would have had to change my whole speech in how I was going to refer to you. But, Judge, Your Honor, it is a pleasure and a privilege that you asked me to speak here today on your behalf on this momentous occasion.

I am doubly honored to be here by the fact that I also am a Hazletonian; you are my constituent, but that you are my predecessor. Albeit, he is my predecessor three times removed. We won't talk about the other two. But, honestly, it really is such a pleasure to speak here on your behalf.

And, Judge Stevens, he is so beloved by the people of Southern Luzerne County, of all of Luzerne County. And he has been a true public servant to all the people in this Commonwealth in all different aspects of his esteemed career.

Some of you may ask what does a state representative do. And in my opinion, a state representative is in a position

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where you have the closest connection to the people that you represent. On a day-to-day basis, you are in touch with those people; and yet you are able to go then to the Capitol, in the State House, and legislate in a way that affects those people and can improve their lives.

The primary function that we have is to pass a state budget which funds different departments of government, different branches of government, for example, the judicial branch. I don't know if we have anybody here from the judicial branch; they usually wear black robes — that is my only joke. The judicial branch, the attorney general, we deal with the funding.

And then-State Representative Stevens, he went so far beyond that in his career. He was known as one of the number one advocates for senior citizens. And, you know, senior citizens can be ignored, displaced; sometimes they are lacking in help. And he really went above and beyond, and he is remembered for that by his constituents still, that he took care of the senior citizens.

In 1982, when he was state representative, he actually had a very novel idea at that time. The then-legislature at the time was trying to pass and legalize gaming and casino gaming in the state and apply that to property taxes. So they were not ready in the 1982 to go forward with that, but it was something that he championed and worked very hard on.

And I would say this is one of the greatest accomplishments, and it affects every criminal case that comes through these courthouse doors and the doors in all Pennsylvania courthouses for criminal cases: State Representative Stevens is known for his work to pass a Victims' Bill of Rights. And this allows the victims to have notice of when there would be a hearing and allow them to go and speak on their own behalf, go and speak to the judge and let them know how the crime committed against them affected their lives. All in all, you did win four terms as state representative before you came here and ran for district attorney.

Judge, you have taught us; you have fought for us. The opinions that you have authored will change the lives of our children in this Commonwealth down the road in a positive way. And you have served us with honor and distinction.

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And I think we can all relish in this day here in Luzerne County, that he is such an honorable man, and we are proud to know you. You were a public servant then in your career as a state representative, and you continue to serve the public now.

In closing, Judge, I am proud to have walked a small while in your shoes, and they are very big shoes to fill, but I am very proud.

Congratulations, and to your new wife. Godspeed in your career and your life together in public service. Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Ms. Toohil, thank you for mentioning the black robes. Now, Corry said to me, You know, Jack, you are going to be up at the podium, so I would like for you to wear a suit. It has not escaped me that I am the only judge here not in a black robe. And I know it is my retention year; do you think he was trying to give me a message then?

We are very fortunate. Talk about people that admire you, the representatives from the trial bench today are six Courts of Common Pleas. So this is going to take a little while to get through this list. Again, please wait until I finish all the names. I apologize ahead of time if I mispronounce anybody's name.

From the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, we have President Judge, of course, Thomas Burke; Judge William Amesbury; Judge Joseph Augello; Judge Lesa Gelb; Judge Richard Hughes; Judge David Lupas; Judge Hugh Mundy; Judge Fred Pierantoni; Judge Jennifer Rogers; Judge Joseph Sklarosky; Judge Michael Vough; and retired Judge Gifford Cappellini.

From the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, the President Judge Thomas Munley was supposed to be here, but he is not feeling well, and he extends his apologies, Judge, that he couldn't make it. But we do have Patricia Corbett, Judge Chester Harhut, Judge Robert Mazzoni, Judge Carmen Minora and Judge Terrence Nealon.

From Pike County, President Judge is here, Joseph Kameen.

All the way down from Philadelphia, where is Paul? Is Paul here, Paul Panepinto? Did he make it? I don't see him.

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He is probably stuck in that construction that is everywhere in the Commonwealth.

From Centre County, we have Senior Judge Charles Brown.

And from Monroe County, President Judge Margherita Worthington, who is also the president of the Conference of State Trial Judges.

Judges, would you all please stand.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, to speak about Justice Stevens' work as a district attorney, yet another phase of his professional life, we have the Honorable Stefanie Salavantis, who is currently the District Attorney of Luzerne County.

(Audience applause.)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SALAVANTIS: Good afternoon, members of the judiciary, elected and appointed officials, residents of our county and the Commonwealth.

Today I have the tremendous honor to say a few words about now Justice or soon-to-be Justice Correale Stevens who, not too long ago sat in my position here as district attorney in Luzerne County. I would like to personally thank you for giving me this honor and this opportunity. And congratulations on a storied career, culminating in this appointment to the Supreme Court of our great Commonwealth.

As I thought about what I would say to you today, I could not help but think that most people do not actually know what the job of district attorney really is. I mean, most citizens who have not served the public in this office understand that the district attorney is the chief law enforcement officer; that he or she is elected to a 4-year term and investigates and prosecutes crimes. They know that the DA makes decisions on such things as what to investigate and what charges should be filed.

Nonetheless, there are facets to this position of district attorney that are nearly impossible to understand unless you have served in this role. In my conversations with Judge Stevens, those aspects of this job have not really changed since he served in our county 24 years ago.

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As district attorney, in addition to the prosecution aspect, you need to be an accountant, creating, negotiating and delivering a multi-million dollar budget; a statesman, dealing with politicians from every municipality in the county government; a socialite, constantly meeting people, shaking hands and trying to recall names; a shoulder to crime victims whom the prosecution of the defendants is a woefully inadequate form of justice; an ear, listening to the concerns of citizens and leaders alike; a navigator to the staff looking to you to steer the office in the right direction; a media personality for the newspapers, radio and TV looking to inform the public about what's occurring in their neighborhoods; a referee, resolving interoffice and interagency disputes; and a secret-keeper, being unable to reveal the facts and even the existence of an investigation.

There are so many more facets of this job that cannot be described here today in the allotted time I have. Both in speaking with Judge Stevens and in hearing stories about his career as DA, I know that he has gone through each and every one of these roles.

As DA, Judge Stevens recognized that the rights of defendants were important in what is the greatest legal system in the world. However, he has also recognized the rights of the victims of crime. Innocent bystanders taken advantage of by ill-willing persons with criminal intent had rights, too. Judge Stevens became a dedicated advocate for what he views as the equally important rights of victims of crime.

As DA, he visited area high schools, discussing the legal system and explaining what prosecutors and defense attorneys do. He tried to be proactive, reaching students before they found trouble or it found them. He looked at his role as DA to be one of not only protecting the public safety and prosecuting crime, but also simultaneously educating people on the job of the prosecutor and the consequences of crime.

As DA, Justice Stevens was also working closely, very closely with police; too closely sometimes, from what I understand through many stories I have heard. There were many different stories that I could have told tonight, but I thought of a semi-tame story that I would tell you about that I have learned from fellow law enforcement officers about

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when Judge Stevens was DA and what he did with the police officers and how he got involved in investigations.

On one particular occasion, Judge Stevens met with police at 5:00 a.m. to get ready for a drug raid which was to take place no earlier than 6:00 a.m., it not being a nighttime warrant, of course.

He was handing out the packets with suspects' names and addresses to the police, where to pick them up. He went along, following one of the officers on his assignment. And, apparently, when they got to the suspect's house, the detective forgot he was the DA and not a police officer and said, "Well, you cover the back."

So being the team player that Judge Stevens is and that we all know of him, at 6:00 a.m., we have Judge Stevens standing in the backyard of a drug house covering the door in case a drug dealer ran out.

As he related the story, I am thinking to myself, okay, he most likely did not have a gun; he was not trained for a situation like this. And being built like he is today — no offense — he was not basically equipped for a linebacker takedown.

Being in that situation, he bravely considered his own escape route in the event this drug dealer decided to come out the back door. So, thankfully, no one was injured. They apprehended this drug dealer. And Judge Stevens did not have to run away.

There are so many stories that could be told and so many I would love to tell, but that is one of the best.

On behalf of all of Luzerne County and all of the Commonwealth, I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the governor and to thank the Senate for appointing us with this amazing man as the next Supreme Court Justice.

Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, Andrew Jackson said that, "All the rights secured to the citizens under the Constitution are worthless unless guaranteed by an independent and virtuous judiciary."

The people whom the Constitutions of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are designed to protect can rest assured that soon-to-be Justice

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Stevens will protect the rights of the Commonwealth, the defendants and the victims alike by ruling not on politics, not on emotions, but by the letter of the law.

Finally, Judge Stevens, I congratulate you on an amazing career dedicated to public service and on an unparalleled accomplishment. We wish you the best of luck here and in your new role and consider the people of this Commonwealth lucky to have you presiding.

I am thankful to call you a friend. Thank you very much.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: On behalf of all the members of the state judiciary, we are quite honored to have with us a number of judges from the federal judiciary. We have with us from the United States District Court for the Middle District, the Honorable Malachy Mannion, the Honorable Robert Mariani, the Honorable John Jones, the Honorable Richard Caputo, the Honorable Karoline Melachick, and the Honorable Robert Opel.

Judges.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, to talk about his work here in Luzerne County as a judge is someone that I have already introduced and someone whom we all have deep respect for, for the work he has done here, the President Judge Thomas Burke.

Judge Burke.

(Audience applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE BURKE: Good afternoon. Welcome on behalf of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and also on behalf of the elected officials of Luzerne County government. Thank you to all who have chosen to be with us on this very special occasion.

This appreciation extends to our Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth appellate judges, several of whom have traveled a considerable distance to be with us today; and all other members of the unified judiciary of this great Commonwealth, including many sitting Common Pleas judges, retired judges, and members of the minor judiciary who are with us today.

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Demonstrating the comity or mutual respect that courts have for one another, we are likewise privileged to have with us several jurists who have been introduced who sit on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

We extend special thanks to today's honoree, Judge Correale F. Stevens, for having chosen this installation ceremony to take place at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

Why would anyone be surprised? Anyone who has followed his storied career in public service, why would they be surprised with his choice of this venue? Permit me to draw upon a historical moment that serves to illustrate the point as to why Judge Stevens made that selection.

150 years ago this November 19th, President Abraham Lincoln concluded his famous Gettysburg Address as follows, and I quote: "That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth."

Historians tell us that the emphasis at the time of Lincoln's remarks was on "the people." Clearly, this has been the hallmark characteristic of Judge Stevens' public service in all three branches of government, while striving to uphold the Constitution and steadfastly discharge the duties of his particular office as a state representative, as district attorney, as a judge on the various levels of the courts — the Court of Common Pleas, Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

There has always been a focus on building consensus and advancing the initiatives that would best serve the people. He has and will never forget his constituents and his roots.

Since we are convened at the location where Judge Stevens took root with both his lawyering and his judicial careers respectively, we must take into account the enormous responsibility that will now rest on his shoulders. And in order to give you a sense of comfort that Judge Stevens will be up to the task, I wanted to take you back to his seven-year tenure as a trial judge in Luzerne County.

It was during this time that Judge Stevens handled a caseload that included both ordinary and complex civil, criminal and domestic proceedings. No doubt, the varied nature of these topics presented in cases before him equipped him to transition seamlessly onto the Superior Court.

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There was very little he had not seen before, including the particular challenges that confront a trial judge presiding over complex, protracted matters. He fully understood then and continues to understand the role, responsibilities and challenges of the trial judge, he or she who presides over the court process wherein the facts of a controversy are determined, and the law is applied to the facts in order to establish the outcome.

He has always recognized that the right to a jury trial is the cornerstone of our system of both criminal and civil justice; and that ordinary citizens who serve as jurors are the backbone of making that system work.

The trial judge is expected to preside over the trial in a fair and impartial manner; make evidentiary rulings — some would say call the balls and strikes — to identify what evidence would be allowed to come before the jury; and, ultimately, to properly instruct on the law throughout the course of the trial. The trial jury, in turn, applies the law to the facts and thereupon renders a just verdict. The trial judge has discretion in regard to various of his or her rulings, but that discretion is not unfettered, and the appellate courts, rest assured, stand ready and able to rectify matters as to instances in which there are properly-filed appeals that address judicial error with respect to either the law or evidentiary rulings that will impact on a litigant's case.

Judge Stevens has, throughout his career, throughout his appellate career as well, been a proponent of continuing legal education, both for lawyers and judges. And this has been right across the board; he has extended this emphasis to public education for the citizens, to explain the workings of our justice system in order to educate our citizens.

He has been an active participant in the Conference for State Trial Judges, participating directly in the conference, as well as the numerous seminars that educate both our judges and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Pennsylvania Bar Association programs with regard to continuing education for lawyers.

The long and short, Judge Stevens is a man who cares passionately about how things are done and that they are done right, within our legal system in this Commonwealth. He has and will continue to vigorously commit himself to this objective, to advancing that cause.

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We, in Luzerne County, and the citizens across this great Commonwealth proudly look forward to calling you “Justice” and wish you every success in your new endeavor.

Congratulations. And thank you for this opportunity.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Again, on behalf of the judiciary, we are very pleased that the executive branch and the legislative branch are represented here today.

From the executive branch, we have two very high officials. We are really honored that Lieutenant Governor James Cawley is able to join us today.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: And a source of great pride to everyone in Northeast Pennsylvania, our attorney general, Kathleen Kane.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: We have many members of the Pennsylvania Legislature. Again, I will announce all their names. Please hold your applause until I am finished.

Senator Lisa Baker, Senator John Yudichak, Representative Tara Toohil, Representative Karen Boback, Representative Eddie Day Pashinski and Representative Mike Carroll.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, to speak about soon-to-be Justice Stevens’ term on one of the intermediate appellate courts is our former president judge, Judge Kate Ford Elliott.

(Audience applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE EMERITUS FORD ELLIOTT: Chief Justice, Mr. Justices, all of my colleagues in robes that are here today; Madam Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor, and all of the honored guests and friends who are here, it is with mixed feelings that I appear today saying farewell to a friend and a colleague from the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. And congratulations to the new Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Superior Court is one of the busiest appellate courts in the nation; in fact, it may be the busiest. For instance, in

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2012, we had over 7500 new appeals filed just that year. We handle appeals from all over Pennsylvania in matters of great importance in the areas of criminal law, personal injury, contract disputes, estate matters, and divorce, support and custody.

Our jurisdiction reaches to all the cities and counties across this Commonwealth, and our jurisdiction requires us, quite frankly, to make very important decisions about other people's lives, and we have to do it one life at a time.

In speaking on behalf of all of my colleagues who are here today, the judges of the Superior Court take that responsibility very seriously. Judge, soon-to-be Mr. Justice, Stevens has been handling this very special work for 15 years now, and his greatest assets have been his intellect, his strong sense of fairness, and also his unquestioned integrity. He will bring all of those qualities to the highest court in this Commonwealth.

For the past two and a half years, Judge Stevens has led the Superior Court as President Judge. In that role, the Court has come to rely upon his leadership and his sound judgment. Through his efforts, the Court has become more transparent with the delivery of all of our decisions, and we file sometimes as many as 5,000 a year. But, all of our decisions are now online for members of the public to be able to look at and to understand.

Also during his tenure, he has been required to make us all a little more fiscally vigilant because he has had to cope with very difficult budget shortfalls, as Pennsylvania struggles to get its economy back on track.

I would like to say that he is leaving the Court better than when he assumed leadership, but since I was the immediate successor as president judge, let's just say he did a good job; I won't say great job.

He leaves the Superior Court today to take on another immense challenge of his life, one that involves now being a final arbiter in Pennsylvania on matters of tremendous importance. Anyone who knows Corry Stevens, however, knows that his reputation for sound and thoughtful decision-making will hold him in very good stead.

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While the Superior Court loses one of its finest judges, the highest court in the Commonwealth is gaining a great justice. And for the people of Pennsylvania, that is a win-win.

Corry, congratulations and best wishes from all of your friends and colleagues on the Superior Court. And, please, when you are reviewing our decisions on allocatur, remember from whence you came.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, I cannot introduce every lawyer that is in the room, but we do have representatives of the Bar associations from around the state. And, really, without the cooperation of the members of the Bar, we, in the judiciary, would get nothing done.

We are very pleased, again, I will say all their names first; please hold your applause. Frank O'Connor, who is the president-elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association is with us; Kathleen Wilkinson, the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Jane Roach Maughan, President of the Monroe County Bar Association; Elizabeth Erickson Kameen, the president of the Pike County Bar Association; and two Bar associations without whose cooperation we would not have had this great program today, Joseph Saporito, the president of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association; and William Hall, president of the Lackawanna Bar Association.

Counsel.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Justice Stevens has picked two beautiful and very, I believe, patriotic selections for you to hear. Before they begin the selections, though, I think we should give them a round of applause. Didn't Shelby Jackloski do an incredible job?

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: She was accompanied by Christine Leandri. Christine, please.

(Audience applause.)

(Musical selections of "God Bless America" followed by "America the Beautiful" were performed.)

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JUDGE PANELLA: I was just advised that the Secretary of Revenue also took time from his busy schedule to be here, am I correct? Dan Meuser, please.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you very much. Now, I have not neglected to name the members of the Stevens' family because I know Justice Stevens is going to do that later. But, Justice, you have every right to be beaming with pride, because to give us greetings on behalf of the Stevens family and for the presentation of his commission is his wonderful and beautiful daughter, Brittany Jane Stevens.

BRITTANY STEVENS: Hello, everyone. I think it goes without saying that there have been many nice words said about my dad today, and I am very proud to be his daughter.

On behalf of our family, thank you all for sharing this wonderful day with us. I want to say that I am very proud of my dad on this special day as he becomes a Justice on the Supreme Court of the Pennsylvania. For someone who is as committed, passionate, motivated, honest and trustworthy with his work, my dad certainly earned this very honorable position on the Supreme Court.

And through the many, many years of hard work, I think I could speak for both of my brothers when I say that we are very lucky to have such a kind and loving father who has always been so involved in our lives. Growing up, he supported us academically and never once missed one of our school functions or sporting events, even all the while working as hard as he has been.

Now that we are all grown, I hope that he could see that he has instilled all of his strong values and passion for life in the three of us. And today, Dad, we get to be here for you, and we are very, very proud of you.

I will now read the Commission from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

“Reposing especial trust and confidence in your prudence, integrity and ability, and under authority of the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate, have appointed and do by these presents,

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commission you to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania;

To have and to hold the said office, together with all the rights, powers and privileges thereunto belonging, or by law in anywise appertaining, until the first Monday of January 2016, if you shall so long behave yourself well," Dad.

Signed by Governor Corbett.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, after reading of the Commission from the governor, it is very appropriate that we hear some comments from the Lieutenant Governor, James Cawley.

Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CAWLEY: I bet you are all happy to see me, yet another speaker. Well, in the annals of everything has been said but not everyone has said it yet comes my meager offering.

Our Commonwealth is blessed to have a great many people who might be able to serve our highest court. But, there was one name in particular that kept coming up and immediately rose to the top, and that was the name of Judge Corry Stevens.

Much has been said about the Judge's integrity, his forthrightness, his professionalism and his sterling reputation. And it is demonstrated here in this beautiful courthouse that the Judge is joined by so many of his colleagues and friends and family to be able to fill this rotunda. It is demonstrated, as has been said, by his choice of location to assume this lofty office. And it has been demonstrated by the impressive career of public service.

And I will say this now, Judge, in front of everyone. I want to thank you for limiting your elected interest primarily to the legislative and judicial branches of government because there is little doubt that if you had turned your attention to becoming Lieutenant Governor three years ago, I would not be standing here right now. So on behalf of my family, I say thank you.

But on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, and, of course, our Governor, Tom Corbett, I want to thank you,

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Corry, for your career, commitment and understanding that the first best duty of government is public safety; and for your strong intent to realize that the rule of law must reign supreme in our great Commonwealth.

Congratulations to you, sir. And God bless you.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Well, we are finally at that time where, once again, you will lose your first name. And to assist in the administration of the oath of office would be Louise Stevens, Justice Stevens' wife. And the oath to be administered by Chief Justice Ronald Castille.

Will you all please join us.

(Judge and Mrs. Stevens approach the podium for the following oath:)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Congratulations. Are you prepared to take the oath of office, Judge Stevens.

JUDGE STEVENS: I am.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Please raise your right hand and place your left hand on the Bible and repeat after me.

(Judge Stevens complies.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I, and your name.

JUDGE STEVENS: I, Correale Stevens...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Do solemnly swear...

JUDGE STEVENS: Do solemnly swear...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: That I will support, obey and defend...

JUDGE STEVENS: That I will support, obey and defend...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: The Constitution of the United States of America...

JUDGE STEVENS: The Constitution of the United States of America...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania...

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JUDGE STEVENS: And the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And that I will discharge the duties of my office...

JUDGE STEVENS: And that I will discharge the duties of my office...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: As a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania...

JUDGE STEVENS: As a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania...

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: With fidelity.

JUDGE STEVENS: With fidelity.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So help me God.

JUDGE STEVENS: So help me God.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Congratulations, Justice Stevens.

(Audience applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Louise Stevens, RN, BSN, MSN, could you please assist your new husband.

(Robing of Justice Stevens takes place.)

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Justice Stevens, on behalf of the members of the court, we welcome you as a colleague on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

(Audience applause.)

JUSTICE STEVENS: Please be seated. Thank you for your patience. I will not test it; I will be very brief.

Mr. Chief Justice, Justices on the Supreme Court, members of the judiciary and elected officials, and family and friends, as Brittany said, a lot of kind things were said today; and it is with great humility and appreciation that I thank you for that.

I keep life in perspective. Some of you may remember the old show, *The Honeymooners*, when Jackie Gleason played Ralph Kramden. He was a bus driver who was quoted as saying, "Be nice to the people on the way up 'cause you're

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gonna meet them on the way down.” So you have got to keep life in perspective.

This ceremony is more than about me; this ceremony is about you, each of you; for the way that, over time, I have met you. You have taught me. You have inspired me. You have encouraged me. You have guided me. This ceremony is about the honest, hard-working people in Luzerne County, and Northeastern Pennsylvania who have given me the honor and the privilege to represent them; people who, through family, friendship and faith, meet the daily challenges that life throws at us.

And this ceremony is about the judiciary, the Supreme Court Justices, the trial judges, the magisterial district judges, the federal judges who, every day, every day, they use their talent and their dedication and their intellect to ensure that we remain a system of law.

Judicial decision-making cannot be based on public opinion or on the personal beliefs of the individual judge. Decisions must be made on the law and on the facts of record in court under sworn testimony under oath, tested by cross examination and other rules to make sure that people have a fair and impartial ruling.

While by necessity, judges operate in a confidential setting, the Court should not be secretive or mysterious. The Superior Court, as President Judge Kate Ford Elliott has said, puts all written decisions online for the media and the public, not just selected opinions. And in doing this, every single member of the Superior Court has agreed with that and supports that.

As president judge of the Superior Court, I have encouraged wider use of our internet site by our constituents. And as has been mentioned, we have had sessions in high schools, law schools, college campuses in the community.

In September, the Superior Court will hold a special regular court session in Dallas Area High School in Luzerne County. Come and observe your Court; all the sessions are open to the public.

PCN has graciously offered as a public service a Courts 101 program where Corinna Wilson and I discuss the courts, our legislature and law-making. And I have to mention this

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volunteer program coming out of Hazleton, a local TV station called Sam-Son Productions. It is available on the internet. They have a little show there that is entertaining and also educational. I believe the title is called "The Judge Stevens' Show."

District Judge O'Donnell graciously lets us use his courtroom; where volunteers come in, and they play the role of people in real court cases. And then at the end, I take a few minutes and explain the law and how I made my decision.

Today I leave my Superior Court colleagues and staff members in an official capacity, but our friendship and mutual respect will remain.

It is with great pleasure that I accept the challenge of serving on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. And, fortunately for me, my experienced staff, administrative assistants Maggie Heffinger, Christine Chegwiddden; law clerks Stacy Rowlands, Mike Branley, Emily Walting, Genene Libonati-Ritz and Laura Bonin Walters will go with me. They make me look good.

This appointment is to fill a vacancy for the next two and a half years. And as I said to the judiciary committee, it is not my nature to be a seat warmer. I do not want to say some day I will run the Supreme Court; but I intend to be an active participant.

Unfortunately, Chief Justice Castille was apparently watching the judiciary committee when I said I want to be an active participant. He told me that tomorrow, I will have 70 petitions for review delivered by UPS. So I'm ready to go.

And Senators Lisa Baker and John Yudichak and John Gordner introduced me to the judiciary committee, and I really appreciate their courtesies.

And I know and respect the sitting Supreme Court justices. I will engage with them in careful analyses and deliberation in a collegial manner. I will be active in the community in legal education programs, as always, and under the canons of judicial ethics.

Lastly, and this must be said. I do not intend to go on the Supreme Court to be the role of a tie-breaker. That is not how I want to be remembered in my judicial career. Quite frankly, I think that lawyers who suggest that these Justices decide

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cases along political party lines do a disservice to all the judiciary in Pennsylvania.

I served on the Superior Court, as was noted, with Justice Tom Saylor, Justice Mike Eakin, Justice Seamus McCaffery and Justice Debra Todd before they were elected to the Supreme Court. I have known Chief Justice Ron Castille and Justice Max Baer for many years. And I am proud to call them my friends and now my colleagues.

Never, ever, ever did I hear any one of those Justices, nor any other judge in Pennsylvania at any time in my 29 years as a judge ever discuss a case along political party lines. Just as you may not always agree with others on every issue, judges have different viewpoints on how to read, analyze or apply the law.

In the final analysis, all I can promise you is that I will be diligent. I will research carefully, and I will make decisions carefully. In short, I will do my best to carry out the duties as a Supreme Court Justice.

In conclusion, I respect the legal process, and I ask you one favor, and this is an important favor. Please do not judge me during this term of appointment by any one particular decision. As Aristotle said, There is only one way to avoid criticism — “say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.”

You are going to agree with some, and you are going to disagree with some. That is the nature of our democracy. And in every court case, someone wins and someone loses. What is important, and everyone here, these judges all recognize that. But what is important is that people get their day in court and get their decision in a fair and impartial manner.

At the end of two and a half years, if you could look back and you could say, he was diligent, he was fair, he was impartial, then I will have earned your respect; and the people of Pennsylvania will have been properly served.

I thank my family for being here — my wife, Louise; my son, Attorney Brody Stevens; his wife, Attorney Kari Stevens; my daughter, Brittany Stevens; and my stepdaughter, Stephanie Baran. My son, Attorney Ryan Stevens, lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, and could not be here today.

So, in conclusion, I just want to say I appreciate your patience in being here. And everybody that spoke, thank you

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so much. Tonight, I am going to sit on the porch with Louise, put on a Kenny Chesney song, and I am going to remember this moment.

Again, I want to thank each of you. I want to thank Judge Jack Panella for being the greatest master of ceremonies. And I believe he is going to complete the program.

Thank you.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: You must sit up here now, Justice Stevens.

And, it is now official. Doesn't that sound great — Justice Correale Stevens.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: Be seated. We just have two very, very quick matters, and then we will wrap up the ceremony today. He really pressured me to get this done in 45 minutes.

We are very pleased that many members of the magisterial district court are here with us today. I cannot announce all of them. Would you all please stand. It is just wonderful that they all attended today.

(Audience applause.)

JUDGE PANELLA: And to conclude today's program, from Justice Stevens' own Bar association, a few concluding remarks from Joseph Saporito, the president of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

(Audience applause.)

MR. SAPORITO: Thank you, Judge.

May it please the Courts, on behalf of Bill Hall, president of the Lackawanna County Bar Association, we extend our gratitude to all of the members of the judiciary and to all of you for coming to today's induction ceremony.

Our Bar association has taken enormous pride in Justice Stevens' induction to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. We are grateful to him for having selected this magnificent structure, the Luzerne County Courthouse, as the location for the induction ceremony. And from the Bar, we say to him, Welcome home.

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(Audience applause.)

MR. SAPORITO: As members of this Bar association, the fourth oldest in the nation, we are proud of Justice Stevens' accomplishment. We are proud that he is a member of our association. We are proud of our association and its rich history. We are proud of the members of the county judiciary and the members of the judiciary throughout this great Commonwealth. We are grateful to all of you who have come to witness this joyous event.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, we also express from the Bar our gratitude to Governor Tom Corbett and the Pennsylvania Senate for nominating and confirming Justice Stevens.

The Supreme Court is now at its full complement, and it can continue the process of deciding the important legal issues facing all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you all for coming.

(Audience applause.)

COURT CRIER: This ceremony is officially adjourned.

(Induction Ceremony concluded at 5:25 p.m.)

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