

## Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

# Induction Ceremony JUSTICE CHRISTINE DONOHUE

### **APPEARANCES:**

Supreme Court:
Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor
Justice Max Baer
Justice Debra Todd
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty
Justice David N. Wecht

The Duquesne Club 325 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 Friday, January 8, 2016 at 11 o'clock a.m.



Justice Christine Donohue

# Proceeding

COURT CRIER: The Honorable Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor and the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania presiding over this special ceremonial session of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez. Oyez. Oyez. All persons who have business before this court may now appear and they shall be heard. God Bless the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

Please be seated.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Good Morning.

I would like to welcome everyone to this ceremonial session of the Supreme Court, convened for the purposes of inducting Judge Christine Donohue as a Justice of this Court. As many of you know, it has been a busy week for the Court inasmuch as this is our third ceremonial session. We started Tuesday in Philadelphia and moved West yesterday, and we'll conclude today.

It's a grand week for the Court though because it's a historical court. It's a historical week. We have a historical institution that goes back a lot of years. But like all institutions, it's comprised of people and occasionally there is turnover. This is historic in that this is almost one-third of this Constitutional Court that's being refreshed by our new colleagues, who we welcome.

As the program notes, and as you have heard me repeat in Philadelphia and yesterday, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania was created by the Judiciary Act of 1722, although even beyond that it traces its lineage back to William Penn's provincial court; which was actually founded in 1684 under William Penn's frame of government. As a consequence, and as is readily apparent, that makes our Supreme Court the oldest tribunal of last resort in the nation. Now it has been in existence and sitting continuously for well over three hundred years.

It is the constitutional duty of our Supreme Court to make the final judgment interpreting Pennsylvania law and our Pennsylvania Constitution, which is our organic frame of government, here in this Commonwealth. As well, our Supreme Court, by virtue of our most recent Constitutional convention in 1968, has administrative authority over all aspects of our large unified judicial system in this very large Commonwealth. From our magisterial district judges, through our trial courts in our 67 counties, through our two intermediate courts, and our Supreme Court.

And so, Justice Donohue, my colleagues and I welcome you to this historical court on this very special day. With full confidence that you will fulfill the trust placed in you by the electorate of this Commonwealth.

With that we move to the invocation.

(God Bless America performed by Maria Sargent, accompanied by David Crisci)

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Now, we'll have the pledge of allegiance, led by Justice Donohue's great nephew, Colson Lewis.

(Pledge of Allegiance performed)

Thank you. We now call on Attorney Charles Evans for remarks, and for the purpose of introducing the elected officials here present for this ceremonial session. Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

Mr. Chief Justice, members of the Supreme Court, members of the judiciary generally, and everybody in the room, thank you so much for coming. As a matter of fact, I think you should give yourself a round of applause for coming to join the Court and Judge Donohue for - Justice Donohue for this.

Mr. Chief Justice, I ask leave to make the announcements regarding the elected officials here. Thank you, sir.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you.

MR. EVANS: This is always one of the hardest tasks, if you've ever had to do it.

There is no particular order, except for the first. At the direction of Madam Justice, I am going read the names of the Superior Court judges in attendance.

The Honorable Mary Jane Bowes, from whom we will hear more later, the Honorable Kate Ford Elliott, the Honorable Susan Gantman, the Honorable Patricia Jenkins, the Honorable Anne Lazarus, the Honorable Sallie Mundy, the Honorable Paula Ott, the Honorable Jackie Shogan, the Honorable James J. Fitzgerald, III, the Honorable John L. Musmanno, the Honorable William H. Platt, the Honorable Victor Stabile, and last, but not least, the Honorable Alice Dubow. Thank you, judges.

In addition, I would like to announce the names of some of the other distinguished guests here, President-Elect Sarah Austin of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Dori Bain Schnippert, former director of members - of membership and continuing legal education, Allegheny County Bar Association, and a longtime friend of Justice Donohue's; David Blaner, executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Association; Mr. Rick Bloomingdale, president, AFL-CIO of Pennsylvania; Senator Robert P. Casey, from whom we will hear more from later; Mr. Ed Cernick, Jr., and Mr. Ed Cernick, Sr., commission of transportation, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Christopher Channel, he is with the ACBA, Allegheny County Bar, civil litigation section; State Senator Jay Costa is with us; County Executive Richard Fitzgerald; president of Duquesne University, brand new spanking president of the university, Kenneth Gormley, formerly dean of the law school; Sheriff Joseph Grody of Pottsville, PA, Schuylkill County; Mr. John Hanna of Indiana, a longtime Democratic supporter of the - of the justice; Elliot Howsie, Esquire, chief public defender of Allegheny County; City Controller Michael Lamb; the honorable Mark Longetti, longtime friend, Pennsylvania representative; Mr. Mark Martini, president, Allegheny County Bar Association; Mr. Jason Matsis, president, Pennsylvania Association for Justice; Judge Carol McGinley, Lehigh Valley Court of Common Pleas; Mr. Joseph Messa, president, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers' Association; State Representative Brandon Newman; the Honorable Nicholas P. Papadakos, retired Supreme Court Justice, thank you for joining us, sir; William Pew, V, president, Pennsylvania Bar Association; Melanie Shannon Rothey, president-elect of the Allegheny County Bar Association; Barry Simpson, executive director of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Mr. Frank Snyder,

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, political; State Representative Pam Snyder; Mr. Brian Tobin, chief, Schuylkill County Sheriff's Office; and a special note, Mr. John Vento, AFL-CIO, long, longtime friend of so many people here and of Justice Donohue; Mr. Jack Wagner; District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Jr.

The next fellow couldn't be here because he - I understand there's business in Ohio tomorrow that's going to tie him up, and that would be Arthur Rooney, III, President, Steeler Nation.

We also want to welcome Carol Fitzgerald, president of the Pennsylvania Society; and I want to recognize also president judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Jeff Manning.

Now, that completes the list as it has been assembled, and I trust it has been accurate and complete. Thank you, again, all of you.

It's certainly a privilege. This is just a happy day, a privilege, though, to be asked to give remarks with such a distinguished array of people assembled. When my wife, Marilyn, who is seated in the front row, and I were asked to help her to the extent that we could, in her Supreme Court candidacy, we leaped at it because that's an honor and we've been there before with the Superior Court, so it was easy to join in.

I first met - and I'm going to call her Christine, I can't help it - I first met Christine when she was in law school and she applied for a clerkship at the firm of Sikov and Love in the Lawyers Building in Pittsburgh. I was a partner there, and I was a committee of one to interview her. Well, I knew in about five minutes that I had something special here, that this Duquesne University law student was really special, so I walked her back to my senior partner Seymour Sikov, and he had the identical reaction, and Christine Donohue started her legal career that day, and stayed there and built a reputation early on for her acumen in trial work, which was particularly unusual for a woman lawyer at that time.

She went on to be an attorney with us, and if my memory is right, she tried her first jury trial case in about eight months into her career, and I know the case because it had been mine, and a lady - you know what that means

- and I can tell you afterwards you said, "You didn't come into the courtroom until after I won the case," but it was - it was - it was a woman who had been injured on a bus, and it was not an easy case, and she won, and - and collected the verdict, which is always nice.

She helped to create the then new law firm of Evans, Rosen, Portnoy, Quinn, and Donohue, and remained active and did excellent jury trial work.

Subsequently, she moved her practice into the commercial law and related field, but always in litigation, always in jury trials, and I know that Jack Barbour of Buchanan, Ingersoll and Rooney will address some of his observations of her.

The best way - and I thought how could I convey something about her that maybe you don't know, and that is the organizations that she contributed to in a major way, and early on in her career. She was president of the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers' Association. She was on the board statewide of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers, now Pennsylvania Association for Justice, but she also was named chair of the Amicus Curiae Committee. For those of you who are not lawyers, that's the committee that decides whether the organization should participate in appellate cases on matters that we deem important to our members. She - it was an invited member of Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. She is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the beat goes on.

She was named Super Lawyer early on. She was named top - one of the top 50 lawyers in Pittsburgh. She has been named in Best Lawyers of America, a prestigious publication, and that to me is as good as I could condense, because each and every one of those were very real earned positions that she had.

But then there came a time when she said to me and to my wife that she wanted to run for the Superior Court, and she had a very nice way - I call it pride with humility - to say that she thought she was ready and thought that she could serve the court in a good way, but there were people who said, "Nice enough woman, but just another lawyer, she

can't win," and you don't say that to her, she didn't take that, but Marilyn and I were with her throughout the state a number of evenings and she would speak to community groups, she would speak to people seeking votes, and, you know what, they had the same impression that Mr. Sikov and I had of her back in the day, something special, and she deserves the job she is seeking, and, so, she won, and happily joined the Superior Court, where she has been immensely happy with the colleagues and the people that she works with.

Well, okay. Then comes the Supreme Court, and there were people who said, "She's smart, she's a nice person, but she has no political connections, or at least not enough to attain that high level," and that wasn't right, and just like with the Superior Court, those persons sort of, one by one, realized when they got to see her and know her, that she was something special, that she deserved the job that she was seeking, and, so, we assemble today.

I thought I could just give you a few - this is very personal remarks on my view of Justice Donohue as a judge in her legal career. First of all, I want to say that her achievements underscore that if you show up every day and if you do what you're supposed to do and follow the rules, you can go as far as your talents will take you, and that's her, and one of the observations is that she has developed an ability to avoid the pressure of going along just to go along, to have the ability to avoid the temptation to not get involved in controversial cases, because the easy route is to do that. That may not score points with everybody, but it's part and parcel of how she believes in adjudicating.

And, finally, and this is particularly the personal one, she's never said this, never written it, and this is some just some personal thoughts as I gleaned from her opinions and knowing her so well, she treats everybody equal, all litigants, whether they're in a jury trial, whether it's in the appellate courts, everybody's equal, all litigants, and that's an easy statement to say, but if you throw in the fact that there aren't any exceptions, it's not who you are, who you aren't, it's not who you know or who you don't know, everybody in, nobody out, and that reminds me of the lady justice holding the scales.

If you remember, the scales, first of all, are even, and she's blindfolded, no peeking, and it's that kind of judicial approach, in my personal view, which makes courtrooms precious places, and, so, this very special person is now joining a very precious assembly of justices, and we all wish her well, and I also want to, on a personal note also, to congratulate - congratulate our other two new justices, Justice Wecht to my immediate left, Justice Dougherty, and thank you, you campaigned very hard, and these three folks, Justice Donohue and these two fellows I just mentioned, where I don't know if it was precedent setting, but they campaigned as friends, together, and for the right reasons, and to that I say thank you and congratulations.

And as I - as I leave, I - I want to wish - I know we all do - the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the entire judiciary of the Commonwealth truly a better tomorrow. Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

We next recognize for remarks Judge Timothy Lewis.

JUDGE LEWIS: Thank you, Chief Justice, and may it please the Court, or shall I say the Courts.

Friends, colleagues, Steve, Jackie, family, Christie, what a day, what a beautiful day. You know, it's supposed to rain today, Justice Donohue, but nowhere in our midst, as far as I am concerned.

There is no higher honor than to be asked to bear witness on behalf of a friend, and I cherish that honor today as my friend of more than 38 years, Christine Donohue, continues to fulfill her destiny.

From the moment I met her until this very moment, her life has been defined by three constant themes, and I have never, not one time ever, seen her waiver from these values: Integrity, compassion, and an abiding commitment to our nation's enduring struggle to reconcile its past with its promise, and a faith in the righteous virtue of that effort, and I believe that our gathering here today is providential.

I don't need to tell you that this is a difficult moment in our nation's history, and this Court, like other courts, will have to answer new and complex questions of equality and justice in a rapidly changing business and social

environment and an increasingly dangerous world, and so, those who serve must have the courage to humble themselves in self-awareness to align our lofty national ideals with our promise, and that is not an easy task. That requires an honest assessment of who we really are, and, so, their values will continue to determine quality of justice for all of us, and, thus, the meaning of our full investment in it, and, so, that is precisely why for me to bear witness on this occasion, and on behalf of this friend, this is an honor that knows no bounds. She is, in the words of the great poet, a hope that the present has brought us.

We met on a warm afternoon in late August 1977 on the seventh floor of Rockwell Hall at Duquesne University School of Law, a very foreboding and dark atmosphere at the time. Ken Gormley has worked wonders to try to change that, and we thank you for that, Ken, even though - those of us who on occasion are invited back, and it was on the eve of classes, one of us was a hopelessly lost first-year student, that would be me, and I was - I was struggling to find the table with the used case books, and it was embarrassing. A second year student named Norman introduced himself to me, and I told him that I assumed the books were over there, and Norman's response was cold, but he did at least make an impression.

"Around here," Norman said, "you don't assume anything. You - you understand?"

And then a nice person appeared. "I'm pretty sure they're over here," she said, with a smile, and I was relieved. "I'm Christie Donohue, and I guess we're both looking for the same thing," and thus began a three-year journey through law school where her academic prowess left me, and I - I think about 95 percent of the class in the dust. She was equally quick with a humorous retort or a thorough response to a complicated question.

Her intellect, as Chuck has said, was simply stunning, and no one was more down to earth. A group of us hung out together all over the place through law school, including in parents' home in Point Breeze, and after law school there were many more years of dinners and debates and personal and professional growth, all leading to today, a new chapter reflecting the well-earned confidence reposed in her by the citizens of this Commonwealth.

But as that path unfolded, and long before she became an appellate judge, what struck me about Christine Donohue were her questions. My friend has always questioned everything. I don't know whether anyone else here has noticed that. Wherever we might be, whatever we might be talking about, it was always, "Well, why is that right," or, "How is that fair," or, "How does that make sense," or, "What does that mean," and I think that we recognize in each other a kindred spirit, an almost unquenchable thirst for a better understanding, but what I always knew about her was that her search emanated from someplace different. It was from a - an effort to reconcile what she was hearing or what she was observing with some very deeply ingrained values.

Our late friend and legendary civil rights leader Byrd Brown was fond of saying, "Forgive me, but I'm just a product of my environment." He said that as he spoke truth to power in his fight for justice in the courtroom and on the street corner, and there are some who use this phrase to deflect responsibility, others to appreciate the richness of all experience and how it might advance our common faith and our understanding and to impact it to others.

But I'm here to tell you that we are truly blessed that Christine Donohue remains a product of her environment. When you have parents like hers, when you come from a family like hers, with the core values that she learned along the way, and you bring all of that and 35 years of experience to this esteemed position, and we and this Court benefit vitally, so, yes, we are truly blessed, but her questions and her search for answers I believe were also shaped by the times that shaped her.

Many of us here today were born when legal segregation was just ending, but its moral corruption had become an entrenched political, social, and economic force, this self-sustaining source of power, whose legacy continues to this day, and many of us who chose this profession were shaped by the suffering of too many, too many who yearned for and prayed for and often died for an end to the relentless indignities of racism, class discrimination, sexism, and homophobia.

Those of us who are the products of that environment often learned firsthand that its undoing required questions

and answers and a constant demand for justice, and it also required judges and justices with the wisdom to understand that sometimes, sometimes, a nation needs to achieve a victory over itself in order to breathe precious life into our ideals.

And, so, my friend, as I know you know, just as your parents laid the groundwork that brings you to this day, this was the groundwork that turned the promise of freedom and equality under the law into a moral truth befitting a civilized society and opened doors for you, opened doors for me, opened doors for us all, and all of us together, I believe, continue to, with you, search for better answers to challenging questions, and I - I believe that this is why we are here today.

We are here to honor you as you become a guardian of our ongoing effort to redeem the promise of a nation. Your investiture marks a significant milepost by which we measure our progress in that noble endeavor, and as your friend of nearly 40 years, and as your proud classmate, and as a fellow toiler in the vineyard of the law, and as a citizen of this Commonwealth, I bear witness on your behalf today by saying to all that you are well suited by upbringing, by temperament, by intellect, by experience, and most important of all, by your integrity, to join this honorable court and to add luster to its venerable history, and I want you to know that as you take your oath of office this morning, I will be cheering for you, I will be cheering proudly, knowing in my heart that you have always known the answer to the essential question, the one that subsumes all the others, the question asked by the prophet, "What doth the Lord require thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God," and on behalf of your classmates, on behalf of all of us, I congratulate you, and I wish you Godspeed.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, very much, Judge Lewis.

The Court next recognizes Attorney Jack Barbour, the CEO and managing partner of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, Justice Donohue's firm.

MR. BARBOUR: Thank you, Chief Justice. I have to say - and Tim said it and Chuck said it - this really is a joyous

occasion. I am honored and completely humbled to be here before the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Common Pleas Court judges here, and at Justice Donohue's swearing in

I did wonder first when Christine asked me to speak. "Why did Christine ask me to speak?" I went through the possibility that perhaps along with the Chief Justice, I would personally double the number of Republicans in the room, but I concluded that that probably was not it, so Christine and I have a very similar background, and one of the reasons that I marvel that we're both here is because of that background. There was nothing in the way, at least our economic circumstances, that would lead anyone to believe that either of us would be up here today. I think people know that Christine's parents, a seamstress and a coal miner, my parents were a social worker and my dad did go to Delaware Valley College in Bucks County, but he was, in essence, an educated farmer, but both of our parents gave us the values that - taught us the value of - or, the rewards from hard work and using your brain, and I think at least many, many years out, I think that's come to show why Christine is here, and perhaps why she asked me to introduce her.

Christine joined the Klett Rooney firm probably over 25 years ago. She, as Chuck said, did not have a background in commercial litigation, but she soon became a go-to litigator in our firm. She was tough. Christine would always figure out how to win a case, or, as was appropriate, settle it

We both had great respect for the other's skills, but I don't want you to think for a minute the fact that Christine asked me up here that we didn't respectfully dissent from each other's opinions on frequent occasions, and in the context of a large law firm, the term respectfully dissent has a very broad definition.

We both, however, were - we had the same mentor, Christine for commercial litigation skills, and me more on the business side, Ed Klett was one of the best commercial litigators, and he was also one of the best business lawyers that I think either of us ever met, and Ed was very influential on both of our careers, and I would say is a material part of why Christine will soon be up here, and I'm up here talking about her.

I did learn in the law firm - Tim said it, Chuck said it - Christine's intellect was second to none, her ethics were second to none, and it really was an honor and a pleasure to be her partner.

I will say that Christine and I - as I said, we would respectfully dissent, and this really didn't dawn on me until the last day or so when I was preparing a speech that - how I would liken our relationship.

I have four children. My oldest two, my son's loud and opinionated, the next one's a doctor, daughter, they fight like cats and dogs, but my son had a handicapped child a few years ago, and there was no one that came to his and his wife's assistance more than my daughter. Christine and I haven't shared that kind of experience, but I really do feel like Christine is my professional sister. We went through so much together as we grew, and, again, it wasn't that we never disagreed, we did disagree, but we always figured out what the right answer was in the end.

Going forward, Christine did have this position in our firm where she was so well respected, everybody knew what a good lawyer she was. Christine informed me that, you know, she was going to run for Superior Court at some point, and my first reaction was, "Oh, go ahead, if you want to. I'm not sure why you would run. You've got a very good career in the private practice, but, you know, if that's your - what you want to do, great." Well, it soon became very clear to me that Christine in this race - you do have to get elected wasn't only good politically, she was one of the sharpest political minds that I had ever met anywhere across the state, and I mean that, she was superb, and she got elected.

I've read some of Christine's opinions. Christine as a judge is an excellent judge. Her opinions, again, as I would expect, as well reasoned, they're intellectually sound, she's earned her position based on that, but also, as I said, she was a superb politician. After she won, I said, "You should think for running for something else like senator." I said, "There's already one of those from Scranton," so - but that thought sort of went away for four or five years - and I know he's here - and she said, "I'm going to run for Supreme Court." Now, at that time I knew who was in the party, you know, to get the nomination, to win the election, but I knew that Christine, without the political base, was such a

sincere, earnest person, and came across as such, and smart, that I had no doubt she would - we would be here today because of that ability, and I do think that she stands out for her ability to understand people and to work with people.

And in that regard, and the last thing I want to say about Christine is - I also say my youngest son, Luke, who's a junior at Penn, is here. Luke loves politics. We discuss politics all the time. Luke says, "Dad" - well, two things - "why is" - different discussions, usually - "you have as many friends who are elected Democrats as you do Republicans. Why is that," and similarly address, "Why is there this gridlock in Washington, gridlock in Harrisburg?"

I said, "Luke," you know, sooner or later, good elected officials figure out what the right thing to do is, and say, "We have to get it done," and they get it done. That's probably why there's gridlock, because not enough people are doing that.

I think similarly, with the background of the law, background of the facts, judges have to figure out what the right thing to do is, and get it done, and I know Christine not only has those ability - that ability, she excels at that ability, and I, too, am very proud of all the new people, the current people sitting on the Court and at this table, and especially proud of Christine, so Christine, it's great. Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, very much, Mr. Barbour.

Next, for remarks, we'll hear from Judge Bowes of the Superior Court. Also, I'd like to recognize and acknowledge the presence of two of our federal colleagues, Judges Mike Fisher and Tom Hardeman of the federal court of appeals.

Judge Bowes.

JUDGE BOWES: Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished justices, may it please the Court. Actually, I hope my words always please you, but I digress.

It is very clear from the earlier speakers that the Supreme Court is gaining someone who is a stellar litigator and an outstanding attorney, but what I would like to address today is the outstanding jurists who will in a few moments officially become a member of the Supreme Court.

Christine Donohue was elected to the Superior Court in 2007, and she hit the ground running. It quickly became apparent to everyone around her that this was a razor sharp intellect, honed by years of litigating complex civil and personal injury cases. A hard worker, she welcomed the heavy caseload of the Superior Court, and read every brief. With thorough preparation and keen understanding of every case, she would zero in on the issues at hand, and question the lawyers about the facts, the law, and their argument.

Now, she wouldn't speak just to hear herself talk. Rather, she would probe the issue and dissect the argument quickly as to reveal the true merits of a case.

Even without the benefit of preparation, Christine could master the facts and the issues without reading a word. Once, a colleague became sick on the morning of our argument session. I quickly called Christine, "Can you come over?"

"Absolutely, no problem." She sat there the entire day and had not read a single brief. Quick as an e-mail goes flying through the sky, Christine was able to grasp the essence of the cases and ask her usual perceptive questions, with the attorneys being none the wiser that she had just stepped in.

Her written decisions are clear and precise, always well organized, scholarly without being pedantic, concise without being perfunctory. Her legacy in the Superior Court jurisprudence is a body of work that is well regarded, easy for the bench and bar to understand and apply, and thoughtful in its approach to the rule of law. Serving with her on an argument panel was a privilege and a pleasure.

Now, I, too, am not suggesting that we agreed all the time. In fact, we have had healthy disputes along the way, but every time I received Christine's dissents, I would always stop and carefully consider her view.

They were always well crafted, well-articulated, and many times her dissents, while they may not have ultimately persuaded me, they made my writing sharper as she tested my assumptions, my ideas, or my conclusions.

I am a better judge for having toiled alongside Judge Donohue, and I thank you for that. I know I speak for my

colleagues when I say we will miss Christine Donohue from our circle of trust. We will miss her as a colleague and as a friend. We will miss the sparkle that she brought to every gathering, her quick wit, and her hearty laugh. We will miss the shopping expeditions, but we will also miss her ability to challenge assumptions, to wonder why things are the way they are, to ask the hard questions, and to press for improvement, cognizant always of the sacred trust that the citizens had reposed in her.

Christine was a strong voice for increasing transparency in the court system, and for ensuring that the public had ready access to our - to our decisions, for while it is our work product, it is their law. She fought to ensure that every litigant was treated fairly and equally, mindful always of the challenges inherent in the practice of law, but the hallmark of her tenure on this Court was her unwavering dedication to the constitutional rights of all.

As Justice Felix Frankfurter reminded us, it is easy to make light of insistence on scrupulous regard for the safeguard of civil liberties when invoked on behalf of the unworthy, but slowly and incrementally by such disregard are the rights of liberty extinguished.

Christine focused her attention and ours on the constant need to preserve and protect those rights, even in the face of those considered most unworthy. Just like E. F. Hutton, when Christine spoke, everyone listened, and, so, it was no surprise that the electorate listened and decided that she should serve on this Supreme Court. It was apparent from the debates, the interviews, and the endorsements that here was a remarkable woman. She was born of modest circumstances, and never forgot her roots, a true daughter of Pennsylvania. Christine absorbed the foundational lessons of life, integrity, honesty, hard work, and discipline, and applied them in every chapter of her life. Her superior legal skills laid the groundwork for a superb justice who applied her considerable intellect to the problem at hand, and who wasn't satisfied until it was fully explored and resolved to the very best of her ability. Her determination, dedication, and passion for the law have propelled her to where she is today, about to take a seat on the highest court.

We are losing a bright, shining light on the Superior Court, but the Supreme Court is gaining a jurist who thirsts

for justice, a jurist upon whose shoulder the mantle of authority rests humbly, whose dedication to the constitution is complete, and who will serve the citizens of this great Commonwealth in the manner which they so richly deserve and for which they so desperately seek.

British author Sidney Smith noted that in seeking justice, we find that truth is its hand mate, freedom is its child, peace is its companion, safety walks in its steps, victory follows in its trains. It is the brightest emanation from the gospel. It is the attribute of God.

Christine, may God's wisdom and counsel be upon you. May your work in the days - ahead continue to defend and protect the dignity and rights of every citizen of Pennsylvania, and may the cause of justice be our ever present guide. Godspeed, my friend, and may the force be with you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, Judge Bowes.

The next speaker is John Morris, Esquire.

MR. MORRIS: Chief Justice, Justices, distinguished guests, it's always been a privilege to appear before this Court, and today a particular pleasure, not only because I expect to be able to sit down with having - without having to encounter any of your probing questions.

On September 11th, 2001, the Disciplinary Board of this Court was assembled in Hershey, Pennsylvania. As the news came in, first all wrong and then all horrible, confusion reigned, and midst that consternation it was cut through by Board member Donohue who stated that, yes, it would be appropriate to suspend our deliberations, but, no, we did not have to take cover. Someone on the Board actually suggested that we get under the table, and Christine was not going to go for that.

On the Disciplinary Board, she moved us beyond mere subjective judgment. She demanded precision in every case, strict analysis, applying the rules to the facts, looking for consistency, looking for precedent when necessary, creating it when it was not available. I cannot recall one occasion when Christine's position did not carry the day on that Board. Now, I could also brag that the majority always voted with me, but that's only because I always voted with

Christine. Now, she took those same skills to the Superior Court.

Now, I have not read all of her opinions. I think there are a thousand of them, and I haven't gotten around to all of them quite yet. She can read - she can write faster than I can read, so it's going to take me a while, but I noticed her particular skill at re-centering the law in those areas where it may have drifted away from its intended purpose, yet retaining the flexibility to apply all principles to new and novel situations in the best common law tradition.

Since I know that she enjoyed her time on Superior Court, I asked her, "Why in the world are you going to run for another office?" All of you judges here assembled, all of you Justices, by the fact that you're here, know the drill, showing up at some rural firehouse, having skipped dinner to meet with twelve people who will ask you a question about your views on the invasion of Iraq. Well, she said she liked the process and thought it was valuable.

Now, those words might come easily to somebody who's four for four in elections, but this was before the election, at a time when the only thing that was certain was that she would be facing qualified and attractive opponents, but she valued the process. Of course, she wanted people to see her, but she also treasured the opportunity not available in a fancy law office or the secluded chambers of an appellate court, the chance to meet face to face with the people whom she sought to serve.

She has distinguished her herself as a lawyer, as a judge, as a friend. She was a terrific lawyer. She's practiced before this Court, Commonwealth Court, Superior Court, trial courts throughout the state. As a member of - fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, she was state chairman.

She was a big shot as a lawyer. As a judge, she was precise, prompt, and prodigious. As a friend, she's charming and challenging. Favoritism, out of the question.

The one case my office had in front of her panel, she not only was willing to rule against us, but in doing so, was willing to overlook grievous error by the lower court. She's also extremely candid. On one occasion, when I heard her panel was coming into Philadelphia, I gave her a call and

said, "Christine, would you like to get together for dinner?" Her answer, "No."

That's pretty candid.

Some of you may have noted that she can be rather direct, but she's also very gracious. Continually, I've heard her express her gratitude to the good lawyers with whom she practiced and the fine judges with whom she served, and with that, she's also had the good grace to recognize that the road from coal miner's daughter to Justice on the nation's oldest Superior Court - Supreme Court is paved not only with skills, hard work, and good mentors, but also with a measure of plain good fortune, good fortune being a debt to be repaid through good service. Justices, it's an honor to be able to give brief voice to all assembled, and wishing Christine Donohue productive and rewarding years on your Court. Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, very much, Mr. Morris.

The final presenter is our senior senator, Robert Casey, who we welcome and recognize.

Senator.

SENATOR CASEY: Thank you, very much. May it please the Court, Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished members of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

This is my third appearance before the Court this week. It is a privilege and an honor, and knowing that I'm in the presence of the Supreme Court and this distinguished audience, I wanted to ask permission of the Chief Justice, if I may, to utter the following, "Go Steelers." I haven't had a chance to talk to the Chief Justice directly about my three appearances, but I didn't use it well because this is the closest I will get to high-level appellate argument in a long time, and I'm grateful.

I don't want to worry folks, Justice Donohue and her team, in preparing the program, was kind enough to put above my name the word address. Don't worry, it won't have the impact of the Gettysburg Address, but I hope somewhat close to the length, but this is, as I have said, twice this week, when we were in Philadelphia for Justice Dougherty's swearing in ceremony, then yesterday for Justice Wecht, this

is a celebration. It's certainly a celebration of democracy. A process led to this day where people went before the voters and were elected, so it's certainly a celebration of that.

It's also a celebration of our system. We have a system I think that we sometimes take for granted, especially our judicial system, maybe, at every level, and Judge Lewis gave us a - a reminder of how important our system of justice is.

Today is also a celebration, of course, of the rule of law, equal justice under the law, and the independence of the judiciary, and we celebrate that today as we did two other times this week. It's also, obviously, a celebration in the time and a time to confer commendation on one individual who has risen to the highest court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so we commend the achievements of Christine Donohue, now Madam Justice Christine Donohue.

She didn't get here because she had a clear pathway. She had to work and work and work, and worked very hard as a lawyer and as a judge and as a candidate. We salute her, and we salute all those who serve the public. Despite all of the challenges in both Harrisburg and Washington, every once in a while you can find inspiration within the boundaries of those two jurisdictions.

In Harrisburg, I worked in the finance building for ten years. In the 1930s, they did a good thing, they inscribed on that building some basic precepts, inscribed on that building is the best definition of public service. It says, very simply, "All public service is a trust given in faith and accepted in honor," so based upon Justice Donohue's record, her work and her achievements, and her character, we have no worries at all that she understands what is inscribed on that building, that she understands that this is a trust, that she must accept with honor.

We're grateful, as well, on a day like today to reflect a little bit. This is a formal proceeding of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, but it's also a celebration of a - the ascendance of one member of that court, so it does tend to be personal and it does tend to be reflective. So, on a day like today, we both remember and draw inspiration from our past, our personal past, the history of our Commonwealth, and I think the history of our families.

It is, I believe, no matter where you are, I could go to every seat in this audience, including the dais, and draw

inspiration from what I believe are the shared values of hard work and sacrifices, a real heritage in our Commonwealth. People understand what it means to work hard. They understand that you only have the fruits of your labor with that hard work.

We also have a chance today to celebrate and to recognize the members of this Court who are with us today. I was thinking just about - just about hometowns and birthplaces and origins and where the formative years of these justice were - were spent, and depending on where they were after their - right after their birth, or in the years when they were working as a lawyer or public official or judge, you can see just the - both the diversity of our state and the promise of our state.

I'll start on my left, Justice Dougherty, from the great city of Philadelphia and all that he brings to the Court with his experience and with his background; Justice Todd, Lawrence County, born in Ellwood City, not too far from here, and we appreciate that geographic or jurisdictional diversity; Justice Saylor, Chief Justice Saylor, from Somerset County, Meyersdale, hometown; and then, of course, two Allegheny Countians, Justice Baer and Justice Wecht, and all that this - the members of this Court bring to this day.

And now we turn to a daughter of the coal region. For those who live in what we used to know as the bituminous coal region - I'm an anthracite coal region guy, so I will restate that, a daughter of the anthracite coal region - there are slight differences - but she hails from not just the coal region, not just the daughter of a seamstress and - and a coal miner, United Mine Workers coal miner, but she was born in Coaldale in Schuylkill County - stay with me here - but was raised in Lansford in Carbon County. Am I right?

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Right.

SENATOR CASEY: I want to make sure I have these right, I'm before the Court, and we could go right down the line to the Superior Court, the members of the Superior Court, and the richness of the diversity and the learning and the commitment to public service that they bring, as well as the members of the federal bench who are with us, and the Court of Common Pleas, and all of our judges.

I mention that coal region not just by way of a commercial for our mutual backgrounds in a sense, her much closer, by the way, to those roots than I am, I'm distant from that, it goes back a lot further in my family, she's much closer to this heritage, and that's why this achievement is so significant, but I often remember what I read years ago in a Pennsylvania history book about Stephen Crane, the great novelist, who I - and I checked this this morning, he was dead by the age of 28, but even at that young age he had produced wonderful novels, and at one point in his career, right around the time he was waiting for the Red Badge of Courage to take off and to be accepted by McClure's Magazine, they sent him to a coal mine near Scranton and told him, "Report what you see there." Apparently, what he wrote was greatly edited, he was angry about that, but the way he described that coal mine was - or, I should say is good reading for all of us. He talked about the coal mine being a place of inscrutable darkness, a soundless place of tangible loneliness, and then he goes on from there and it doesn't get any better. At one point, he describes all the ways you could die in a coal mine, and he ended it by saying the hundred perils.

Now, we know we're, thank goodness, far from that. We know that that is not what we face today, but it's good to reflect and remember that there was that kind of darkness. Think about this, in 98 years, 31,047 known fatalities, just in the anthracite mines, 31,047 people. I don't have the numbers for Southwestern Pennsylvania, but some number like that, thousands, at least, if not more than that.

Why did that change? Well, it changed because the AFL-CIO and labor organizers, like Rick Bloomingdale's here, and he knows his history better than I, went out and fought and - and worked hard to - to make sure that workers had rights. Legislation changed it. Society moved in the right direction to change and provide worker protections so there wouldn't be thousands, literally, every year of fatalities in coal mines, but also the law and the courts brought about that change, and we respect and appreciate why and how that happened.

Now, we're in a different age today, but even today we'll face and continue to face other kinds of darkness. It may not be the danger of a coal mine, it may not be the harrowing

experience that must have been for those miners and their families when they were facing that danger, but there are other darknesses throughout our land and throughout the world, we don't have to recite them here today, but on a day like today, we can be happy and proud and confident that when confronted with that kind of darkness in our midst, in our time, we know that many of our leaders will stand up against it, and I have no doubt, and none of us do, not only today, but no matter what day it would be, that these Justices and this newest Justice will confront that darkness with the bright light of - of justice, and, Christine, we're so glad that we're with you today and so happy to be part of this ceremony. God bless you, Godspeed, and God bless this great Court.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you, very much, Senator Casey.

At this point, President Judge Gantman of the Superior Court is going to present the commission.

JUDGE GANTMAN: Thank you, Chief.

From the governor's office, Christine Donohue, of the County of Allegheny in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings.

"Whereas it appears by the certificate and returns made according to law of the election held on the 3rd day of November, 2015, that you have been duly elected justice of the Supreme Court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, know ye, that in conformity to the provisions of the constitution and the laws of the said Commonwealth in such case made and provided, I do by these presents commission you to be a Justice of the Supreme Court, to have and to hold the said office together with the rights, powers, and emoluments thereto belonging or by law in anyone appertaining for the term of ten years to be computed from the first Monday of January, 2016, if you shall so long behave yourself well. Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, City of Harrisburg, this 15th day of December, in the year 2015, and of the Commonwealth, the 240th year, Governor Tom Wolf, Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro Cortez." Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: And, now, the main event, Justice Todd is prepared to administer the oath of office, if you're prepared to take the oath.

JUSTICE TODD: Justice Donohue, before you - before you come forward, I just want to comment that we've made a lot of history here this week with the installations of Justice Dougherty and Justice Wecht, and now Justice Donohue, but I do want to mention that we're making a little more history by virtue of the fact that undoubtedly this is the first time in Pennsylvania history that the proud daughter of a Pennsylvania coal worker, coal miner, is being sworn in to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court by the proud daughter of a Pennsylvania steel worker.

Please place your left hand on the Bible, and raise your right hand, and repeat after me. I, Christine Donohue -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: I, Christine Donohue -

JUSTICE TODD: - do solemnly swear -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - do solemnly swear -

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JUSTICE}}$  TODD: - that I will support, obey, and defend

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - that I will support, obey, and defend -

JUSTICE TODD: - the constitution of the United States

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - the constitution of the United States -

JUSTICE TODD: - and the constitution of this Commonwealth -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - and the constitution of this Commonwealth -

JUSTICE TODD: - and that I will discharge -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - and that I will discharge -

JUSTICE TODD: - the duties of my office -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - the duties of my office -

JUSTICE TODD: - as a justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - as justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania -

JUSTICE TODD: - with fidelity -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - with fidelity -

JUSTICE TODD: - so help me God.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: - so help me God.

JUSTICE TODD: Congratulations.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Chief, if it pleases you, I'd like to be robed in front of the podium.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Yes.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: With your brother and sister.

The floor is yours, Justice. You can use the podium or sit at your seat.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: I'll use the podium. Thank you.

And I think I might wear my glasses so I could see all of you wonderful people.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is just one of the very happiest days of my life, and I am so honored by your presence here today.

Chief, Senator Casey, Justices, my dear colleagues on the Superior Court, all of the many Common Pleas Court Judges who are here, thank you for sharing this day with me, my friends, my relatives. This makes this day as special as I could have ever imagined.

There isn't any one person in this room who did not in one way, shape, or form help me get here today, but, you know, as many times as I practiced what I wanted to say to you today, I've never quite made it through this part without becoming very emotional, so I'm going to try for that not to happen right now.

There are two people who are here today with me in spirit, and that is my mother, Mary Burke Lewis, and my father, Steve Lewis. Many of you know a lot about them

because of the television commercials that I did this year, but let me tell you a little bit more about my Mom and Dad.

Steve Lewis was an incredibly intelligent man with a phenomenal sense of humor. He was a councilman in the town of Lansford, Carbon County. He had so many friends, and each and every one of them considered him their best friend. As you know, my dad was also a deep coal miner, and for most of my life he had and suffered from debilitating black lung disease.

My mom, Mary Lewis, was also born in Carbon County in Palmerton, and she was smart and beautiful, had more friends than you could ever count, took pride in our family, in our home, and to this day, I have never known anyone who worked harder than my mom in the kiddie clothes dress factory where she was a seamstress, and, also, for a large part of my life, she was the sole support of our family, so, you know, I stand here today and I reach out to them.

They could never have imagined that I, their daughter, Christie, would be standing here today as a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. It really just was not part of their frame of reference, but this I can tell you, it is because of their love and their spirit and their hard work, and, most importantly, their view that there was no ceiling on what I could accomplish, that I am here today, and, so, thank you, Mom and Dad, for being with me here today.

You know, my mom and dad gave me something else, and that is my early role models. I'm the youngest of three children, and so preceding me in the Lewis family were my sister, Jacqueline, and my brother, Steve, and you really can't know about me unless you know a little bit about them.

When I was a young girl, I remember my sister, Jackie, getting on a plane to go to Europe by herself, unheard of, unheard of. She learned German and French, she went to college, she started her own communications company, she's a wonderful, proficient, beautiful photographer, and I tell you about Jackie because she showed me horizons that I could never have dreamed of as little girl in Lansford.

And then there was my brother, Steve - is my brother, Steve, and Steve was my babysitter and I was his shadow. He would take me to the baseball field with him where he would go to play and practice, and he'd park me along the

third base line, it's amazing that I'm here today, frankly, but there were very few places that my brother, Steve, went without me when I was a very little girl, and then when I was about seven years old, my brother enlisted in the United States Navy, and I recall most vividly watching with my mom and dad on the very earliest of live television as my brother's ship approached Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and I remember the fear and the pride that my parents and I had in what my brother was accomplishing, and, so, then he became my hero; no longer was I just his shadow.

When he came home from the service, he fulfilled the dream that he had, and that my dad had for him, and that was to become a Pennsylvania State Trooper, and, so, he, by doing that, taught me the entire concept of public service, and, so, where I am today, who I am today, was in large part directed by what I saw from my brother and sister. You could do anything you want to do, the lesson that my parents taught us.

And then I came to Pittsburgh and I acquired a new family, and that's Chuck and Marilyn Evans. You know, you've heard from Chuck earlier today. Chuck was the very first lawyer I knew as a friend and a mentor, and those of you who know Chuck Evans know that he is a trial lawyer to the core, and, so, Chuck instilled in me the sanctity for the notion that the trial by jury should always survive in Pennsylvania, and the other constitutional principle that when there is an injury to a citizen of the Commonwealth, there should be a remedy.

And then there was Marilyn, who, of course, put up with Chuck all of her life, and God bless her for that, but, you know, she, with open arms, welcomed me into their family, and we have been friends for 40 years, and this is a fact, I could not have run for the Superior Court or the Supreme Court without Chuck and Marilyn, because they were my daily advisors, they were my confidants, they were my critics, and they were and remain my dear and loyal friends, and, so, to Chuck and Marilyn Evans, my Pittsburgh family, I'm so very grateful to you.

And, so, as you all know, I practiced law in this Commonwealth, and, actually, in many other jurisdictions

for a very long time, and then my friends expanded into what I broadly refer to as the legal community.

There are so many lawyers in this room today with whom I practiced in the courtrooms of Pennsylvania, who I had cases against, did battles along those lines. Through the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, I learned the meaning of true collegiality among lawyers.

Throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the lawyers in Allegheny County remain to this day amongst the most collegial. I grew up at a time in the practice when lawyers could call lawyers they didn't know, but only knew that they were more experienced, and ask a question and get an answer and get advice, and that is, indeed, my friends, how we should still practice law, so I was very, very pleased, honored, and privileged to be part of the legal community for 27 years before coming to the bench, and as you have probably gathered, when I went on to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, I acquired yet another family, and Judge Bowes so eloquently talked about our friendships and relationships, and they are many and they are deep, and I was very ambivalent about leaving the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, but not only because of those friendships, but because unless you serve on that Court, you cannot envision the amount of hard work and courage that goes into those thousands and thousands of decisions that the Superior Court decides every single year, and I could tell you, and I insist on telling you, that there is never a case that is short shrifted, there is never a case that does not get the full attention of the panel of judges who hear it, there is never a case where there is not thought given as to whether or not the law is being followed, precedent is being applied, and that every litigant gets his or her fair shake in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. That Court has taught me what it means to serve on a Court with integrity and passion, and I thank you all for being such wonderful teachers for me, and I only hope that as I sit with my new colleagues, that I could feel the same warmth, camaraderie, and pride in the work that I had with the work that I did with you, so thank you, so much.

Let me move on a moment, and we'll go forward in history more quickly than you would imagine. You know, running a statewide campaign is - you know, you just have

to be there to be to believe it, and, you know, everybody sitting in the front of this room and many of the Court of Common Pleas Judges who are throughout the crowd know it on a smaller basis, but it cannot be done unless you have surrounding you people who are smart, dedicated, and share the same view of the campaign as you do, and I was so thoroughly blessed in 2015 to have that group of people around me.

I had a campaign manager, whose name is Mike Deneen, who couldn't be here today because he's involved in another campaign in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, but he was hardworking, polite, pulled together volunteers from throughout the state. I had - two finance women who worked with me who were the toughest, smartest, most pleasant people to deal with that I could ever have hoped to have been blessed with, and that was Julie Hallinan and Tara Jerry, and anyone who knows this knows that that's probably the toughest part of a statewide campaign, so, to them, I am very grateful. My gratitude to Darlena Mancuso, once my secretary when I was a new lawyer, who volunteered her time to keep my financial reporting in order, and otherwise made sure that the campaign operated on an even keel.

But I have to call out to one person on my campaign who spent more time with me than, frankly, I have spent with anyone else other than my former husband very many years ago, and that is John Zang, who is sitting here today in our courtroom, and, you know, John Zang was my driver, he was my handler, he was the chief cook and bottle washer of everything else that had to take place in the campaign, and John actually developed his own following on the campaign trial. People would say to me, "Where is J. Z.," and, so, you know, two things made those 47,000 miles on the trail bearable for me, and that was John Zang and Pirates baseball on XM Radio.

And, so, J. Z., I wish you well in whatever you do in the future. I have no doubt that you will be a resounding success.

One more thing about John Zang, given his age and my age, a lot of people on the campaign trail thought he was my son, and they would say, "Oh, your son is such a handsome man. Oh, what a" - and, you know, I've said this to John, and I hope he passed it along to his parents, he is not my son,

but I could not imagine having a better person or young man as a member of my family, so, once again, thank you, John.

To Marty Marks, you know, Marty Marks has been a friend of mine since right before my campaign for the Superior Court, and Marty Marks is many things, but, for me, he was always a constant source of optimism, and he was my support throughout the sporadic political ventures that I have been involved with, and now that those political ventures are over, I can only hope that Marty will remain a friend and confidant to me. His communication skills are outstanding. His contacts and his progressive views enlightened me along the way, and, so, thank you, Marty Marks.

And then there's John Seidman, who I have known probably longer than both John Seidman and I would care to admit. I have to thank John for really helping me maneuver the politics of Pennsylvania, because, as you've heard from many and as most of you know, I really don't come from a political base or background, and, so, John Seidman's experience and friendship to me throughout this campaign were truly invaluable. There is no substitute for that experience or for his friendship, and, so, thank you, John Seidman.

And then one other person who is here today. Saul Shorr, who was my media consultant, and Saul Shorr is now, I believe, my friend. He is brilliant and funny and patient to a fault because he dealt with me for a large part of the campaign. He did something that I never believed would be possible, and that was that I was proud of my political advertisements. Saul Shorr was able to capture the notion that it doesn't matter who your parents are or where you come from, but if you're told that if you work hard and you could do whatever you want to do, it can be accomplished, and, so, I will always be remembered as the daughter of a seamstress and the daughter of a coal miner, and he made me embrace that concept, and who knew that it would resonate so with the citizens of Pennsylvania, and, of course, the answer is Saul knew, but, Saul, thank you, so much - I'm sorry, well, that would be me. Okay. Wait, wait, I have a comeback, "Oh, I'm going to have to explain to Hillary why I couldn't take that call." Oh, my goodness.

So, anyway, one more thing about Saul Shorr, although this is not to his economic advantage, Saul is really a firm believer that we shouldn't elect judges in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Saul, I'm going to prove you wrong.

You know, the number of people who were involved in my campaign and its success are just - they're innumerable, and, so, I can't thank any - everyone, but I will correct Jack Barbour, because, you know, this last election, in many regards, was a true bipartisan election of the three of us who were recently elected, and, so, I say thank you, first of all, to all of the Republicans and Democrats who supported my campaign and brought me here today, but I also want to specifically thank the working men and women in Pennsylvania and the unions who represent some of them.

It would be an understatement to say that I would not be here today with the support of those working men and women and the unions who represent them. There was financial support, but not as important, frankly, as the door-to-door canvassing and the telephone calls that were made, and, so, my friends, thank you, and I want to thank one person in particular, because as everyone in Western Pennsylvania knows, particularly Jack Shea, my favorite labor leader is in the room today, and that is Johnny Vento, 92 years young, and, you know, Johnny Vento never had a doubt at any point in time that I would be successful in this campaign, so thank you, Johnny Vento, in particular, and thank you, the men and women of labor in Pennsylvania.

You know, and I also want to publicly thank lawyers and trial lawyers in Pennsylvania who supported my campaign. I was a lawyer for 27 years, and proud of it, and to have the support of the people from whose rank I came was incredibly important to me. I was honored by the support and the endorsement, and I publicly thank you today for everything that you did for me, and, you know, there - thank you.

I'm going to take a little bit of a detour here. You know, we do elect judges in Pennsylvania, and along the course of the campaign, many people would say to all of us, "How do we make the bench more diverse? How do we do that? How do we get more men? How do we get more women? How do we get people of color," and, you know, there's a very simple answer to that question. Once you get to be where we are,

we can help promote women and people of color within the profession, but to get those people on to the bench, the political parties in Pennsylvania have an obligation under the system that we operate by to endorse and support women and people of color so that this bench - so that this bench and all of the benches of justice in this Commonwealth reflect the people of this Commonwealth.

I want to thank the Federation of Democratic Women who were stalwart supporters of mine, and I want to thank the men and women of the democratic committees in every single county who actually made an effort to coalesce around my candidacy, help me get to the general election, and then to come here today so that I could stand before you. I also want to thank Marcel Groen, who is the chairperson of the democratic party, who I know shares the beliefs that I just shared with you about the important role that the parties play in making sure that we who have an elected judiciary have a diverse bench, so thank you to everyone who supported me, and good luck to you, Marcel, in your goal to move this forward.

You know, I am really anxious to start my job as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Many of the speakers today, we've heard it over the past three days. Many of us refer to the concept of rule of law, and, of course, as a Justice, that will be my overarching guiding principle, and although there may not be total consensus on what that concept encompasses, I think most would agree that it means that laws are fairly applied equally across the board to all citizens, that laws are enforced equally, including against the government, if necessary, and that people who come to courtrooms not only have open access, but access with the help of competent lawyers to represent them, and then ultimately to have judges who are competent, diverse, and independent, and, so, as a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, it is my goal to be certain that in everything that I do that I am guided by those principles which essentially make Pennsylvania, or any government that abides by the rule of law, a government of opportunity and access to all, and, so, that's why I'm anxious to begin.

I also want to mention there are many, many judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in this room today, and many magistrate district judges, who are truly unsung heroes.

They are the face of the judiciary in the eyes of most citizens. I want you to know that I respect you and I recognize that you, like me, got to where you are through the elective process, and

I respect that, and I also will strive with all of my might during those days coming forward when I have administrative responsibilities, as Justices do, and those administrative responsibilities have to be carried out, I will strive to be careful that I never, ever confuse that responsibility with power to meddle, because that is not, in my view, what the administrative responsibilities of my office entail, and if I ever get confused, I have a poster in my office. You know, I - I could stand here and quote from Brandeis or Frankfurter or Holmes, but I have a poster in my office that I look at on a fairly regular basis, and it fits into this concept of being careful that you don't confuse power with responsibility, and the poster says, "If you start to believe that you are a person of influence and power, just try ordering someone else's dog around," no more humbling experience.

You know, I spent over 16 years of my legal - in my career as both a lawyer and a judge enforcing the ethical rules that guide and bind lawyers and judges in this Commonwealth, and there's one thing that I came to believe to my core, and that is it's the fact that lawyers and judges follow those ethical rules that elevates the legal profession to the pinnacle of all professions. It is and has always been one of my proudest accomplishments to become a lawyer and now a judge, and, so, the one thing that I will forever focus on, as I have to date, and as I go forward, I will follow those rules and I will act with integrity, because the people of the Commonwealth deserve that, at least, and that I can promise you.

There's one other thing that I want to mention in closing, you know, the debate will continue forever as to whether or not in Pennsylvania we should elect judges, allow citizens to elect judges, or whether we should have judges politically appointed, and that debate is going to go on because it has been going on. I might point out that there has never been a time in Pennsylvania history that Supreme Court Justices were ever anything but elected, so, you know, this debate is ongoing and it will continue. There's one thing

that I know for certain that you cannot replace if you take away electing judges, and that is going to all of the counties in Pennsylvania that are as diverse as you could ever imagine and actually hearing what the citizens believe the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania should be doing, and, so, in 2015, I listened very closely, and, you know, the message was so clear and simple, they want Justices to decide cases fairly, they want a Court that is free of scandal, patronage, political influence, and they want a Supreme Court that stands proud and tall in acting as the independent arbiter of the constitutionality of the acts of the other two branches of government. It is so simple, it's so pure, and the message was so clear, and I heard that message, and as I close today, I tell you that I am honored and thrilled with the opportunity to work with my fellow Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to carry out that legitimate mandate of the citizens of Pennsylvania in serving you on the Supreme Court.

Thank you, so much.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Before we conclude, as is our tradition, our other colleagues would like to say just a few brief words of welcome to Justice Donohue.

Justice Baer.

JUSTICE BAER: Thanks, Chief.

First of all, Christine, you're off to an audacious start. We have a tradition that if our cell phones go off while we're in session, it's a \$50 contribution to our favorite charity.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Okay.

JUSTICE BAER: Now, mine went off during Justice Dougherty's, and I will comply, so maybe we can get together on the charity.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: That was President Judge Gantman's phone.

JUSTICE BAER: Plausible deniability.

Judge Lewis, I never hear you speak, Judge Lewis, where I'm not impressed by the eloquence and the intense thoughtfulness of your remarks. He described you as intense, compassionate, a person of great faith, but he also

said you questioned everything, and I noted that, and then our mutual friend, Jack Barbour, got up and discussed respectful dissent among you and all your colleagues, so I saw a common theme, and I got a kick out of it.

Christine decided a case, as many cases, but a case that came to our Court, and I wrote the reversal on that case. Now, that's going to happen on a continuous basis, but Christine then went on the campaign trail to those 67 counties or 47,000 miles discussing how she was correct and I was wrong.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Exactly.

JUSTICE BAER: So, Christine, you got the last word. 200 people read my opinion, and 25,000 heard your speech.

When you said to your colleagues on the Superior Court you only hope, you only hope, and then you discussed collegiality, I thought you were going to say that you're not annoyed when I reverse you, which is our plight in life, all of us who share the bench.

When President John Kennedy, after his first year in office, was asked if he enjoyed the position, he responded that the Greeks defined the use of full powers in pursuit of excellence as true happiness. I think, by that definition, that you are going to love our Court, because we will be in respectful dissent and majority continuously. It's the nature of the process. On the very difficult cases we decide, reasonable jurists can differ, and the fact that we reverse the Commonwealth Court doesn't make us right; it just makes us last, and we certainly recognize that with humility.

So we look forward to having your prodigious talent with us. I look very much forward to dissenting and having you dissent and enjoying that process with a person of your great, great ability, so welcome, and let's go forward.

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Thank you. That makes you think.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: All right. Justice Todd.

JUSTICE TODD: Madam Justice Donohue, congratulations. We welcome you, with open arms. For a long time now when someone hollers out in the street, "Madam Justice, Madam Justice," I know they're talking to

me; now I won't know, they might be talking to you. It's a very good thing.

I know that you are sad about leaving your family on the Superior Court, I was equally sad when I left that wonderful family, but you're joining a new family.

It's been a little bit of a dysfunctional family at times, but we're getting better and better.

Christine, we've been friends for over 30 years. We have strikingly similar backgrounds, both having grown up in hardworking, blue collar families, and I know that we both have brought those experiences and lessons with us into the practice of law and onto the bench. We were fellow commercial litigators for many years here in Allegheny County. We were fellow members of the Academy of Trial Lawyers. We were on the campaign trail together in 2007, where I got to know you and Chuck and Marilyn even better than I had before, and we always joked that we could give each other's speeches, and I'm sure we still could do that.

On a personal note, it is wonderful for me to have a sister on the Court. As you all know, our Court sits in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, so, in essence, our second home is the Pennsylvania Turnpike. There is a book called the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. I thought perhaps Justice Donohue and I could now become the Sisterhood of the Traveling Robes.

You heard Chief Justice Saylor speak eloquently about the history of our Supreme Court. Indeed, we are the oldest Supreme Court in the nation, and we have had a storied history. It is a noble institution. You have also read stories about the trials and tribulations of our Court. But I submit to all of you that the real story here today is the future of our Court. Together, Justice Donohue, let us along with our fellow Justices here on the bench today make that future great. Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Justice Dougherty?

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Madam Justice, Christine, and as I often text you on the campaign, Yo Buddy -

JUSTICE DONOHUE: Yo Buddy.

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: - in this elegant room, in this standing room only crowd, truly the best was saved for last.

You know, growing up, I was often told a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet. While you were never a stranger, because as a trial judge I feared your opinions, we didn't know each other. It wasn't until 18 months ago at the Penn Ag, the first event where we all got together, that you walked up and introduced yourself as, "Hi, I'm Christine Donohue." Well, interestingly, through the rigors of the campaign, not only did I get to know who you are and what you stand for, we really did develop a friendship.

During this campaign, I learned a lot of things about Madam Justice. First and foremost, I learned more about Jacqueline and Steve and her nephews than you could ever imagine. Many times along this campaign trail, as you heard, the turnpike, along that desolate road, I'm proud to say I found a true friendship.

Interestingly, the circumference of the Earth is 29,900 miles. Yet, our campaigns circled Pennsylvania two times the length of the Earth. Many times, after the rigors of the campaign, I would look forward to grabbing J. Z. and Christine, with whether it was my Dan Sykes or Shane Carey, and we would find or secret ourselves to a restaurant or a diner for a meal and usually a drink.

During this campaign, I have to share with you, Christine, you helped me find a lot of things that I often lose. Many times, it was the energy to continue, or it might be the hope that day you and I would go to victory, but mostly what I would lose that I would always find in your presence was my smile. There was never a time that we ended a day without a hug, a kiss, and a look forward to our next meeting.

As you know, I truly believe in family. You talk about your mom and dad. They're here. We know about the daughter of a coal miner daughter, we know that her mother was a seamstress - seamstress, and we know the name of the place of the business was the Cinderella dress factory. Well, at this very moment, your fairy princess, little godmother, your mom, is with us, and while she earned and brought home a Cinderella income, she embedded in you a Cinderella story, and at the end of the day, through your hard work, family, and because of who you are, I've learned that that fairy tale has become a reality. Good things really do happen to good people.

Congratulations, Madam Justice, my friend. I look forward to a long, healthy, and peaceful service.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Justice Wecht?

JUSTICE WECHT: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.

I have to begin not only congratulating my friend and colleague, Justice Donohue, for this - this wonderful event in the history of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, her elevation to this Court where she's going to do so many great things for Pennsylvania and for all of us, but also to congratulate her as unique among her running mates in remembering every single thing for her installation ceremony. Our friend and colleague and running mate, Justice Dougherty left his commission and speech in his car, I forgot to check whether there would be a United States flag in the room at my installation, but Justice Donohue, true to her record of achievement, forgot nothing, so congratulations.

The greatest judge never to serve on the United States Supreme Court, the immortal Learned Hand, said that the spirit of liberty is the one that's not too sure it's right, and I can tell you, as my colleagues on the Superior Court can tell you, that Justice Donohue was always willing to share and to engage in give and take, always ready to persuade, always ready to be persuaded, and her wisdom and her incredible intellect, her ability, her interest in discussing the law, and to never just buy hackneyed assumptions, to look underneath and go to the roots of problems and wonder about rules and principles and to wrestle with them, and to go back and forth, is a joy, it is what the common law is about, it is exactly the mark of a consummate appellate jurist.

I can tell you that, and this has happened many times in my time on the Superior Court, I'm sure for many of my colleagues, as well, and as recently for me as the interval of time between our election and our taking our seats on the Supreme Court, Justice Donohue convinced me I was wrong, and I changed my view and wrote a case differently, and the hallmark of a great appellate justice is the willingness to wrestle with the principles and the law, and to begin with no allegiance to a result, but, rather, a commitment to the process.

Justice Donohue, Christine, it has always been a great honor and a privilege, and truly a joy to serve with you, and it is - it is something I'm looking forward to so much to serve with you on the Supreme Court. God bless.

CHIEF JUSTICE SAYLOR: Thank you.

Thanks to all, and we'll now conclude this session with a musical closing performed again by Maria Sargent.

(America the Beautiful played.)

COURT CRIER: This special ceremonial session of the Supreme Court is hereby adjourned.

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