

**Remarks of Chief Justice William J. Sullivan
Attorney Swearing-in Ceremony
November 4, 2002**

GOOD (MORNING) (AFTERNOON). ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES ON THE SUPREME COURT, JUSTICES DAVID BORDEN, FLEMMING NORCOTT, JOETTE KATZ, RICHARD PALMER, CHRISTINE VERTEFEUILLE, AND PETER ZARELLA, IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU. WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT MEMBERS OF THE APPELLATE COURT, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT AND A NUMBER OF CHIEF CLERKS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE TIME FROM THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES TO CELEBRATE WITH US. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE CONSIDERABLE PRESENCE OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS.

TODAY MARKS THE THIRD TIME THAT CANDIDATES TO THE CONNECTICUT BAR HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ADMISSION CEREMONIES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT, A PROCEDURE THAT HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY BOTH THE JUDICIARY AND THE BAR AS A MOST APPROPRIATE AND FITTING ENTRANCE FOR NEW ATTORNEYS INTO OUR LEGAL SOCIETY.

WE HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY HELPED, ONCE AGAIN, IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TODAY'S EVENTS. I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEFLY RECOGNIZE THEM.

THE BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIR, ATTORNEY RAYMOND BECKWITH, WAS MOST ACCOMMODATING IN MANAGING THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH YOU WERE ALL NOTIFIED OF THE ADMISSION CEREMONY, AND IN ASSISTING US IN THE PROCESS BY WHICH YOU WILL BE REGISTERED AS ATTORNEYS.

LEADERS OF THE BAR ASSOCIATIONS – ATTORNEY DEBORAH TEDFORD, PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION, ATTORNEY JOHN MATULIS, PRESIDENT OF THE HARTFORD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, ATTORNEY PATRICIA KAPLAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAVEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, ATTORNEY WILLIAM DAVIS OF THE CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THOSE ASSOCIATIONS PARTICIPATED ENERGETICALLY IN THE PLANNING STAGES.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK JUSTICE PETER ZARELLA AND THE JUDICIAL BRANCH MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM – THE STAFF OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE, THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, THE FACILITIES UNIT, THE BAR EXAMINING COMMITTEE, THE SUPREME COURT, OUR REPORTERS, MARSHALS AND SECURITY OFFICERS. ALL WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH THE OUTSTANDING STAFF OF THE BUSHNELL TO MAKE OUR UNDERTAKING SO SUCCESSFUL.

TODAY'S CEREMONY IS THE RESULT OF A SUGGESTION THAT JUSTICE ZARELLA MADE TO ME OVER TWO YEARS AGO. HE TOLD ME THERE HAD TO BE A BETTER WAY TO WELCOME NEWLY ADMITTED ATTORNEYS TO THE BAR. PRIOR TO 2001, SWEARING IN CEREMONIES TOOK PLACE IN JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTHOUSES, OFTEN IN JURY ASSEMBLY ROOMS. A JUDGE ENTERED, HAD YOU RAISE YOUR HAND AND SWORE YOU IN. THE WHOLE CEREMONY TOOK 5-6 MINUTES. THEN EVERYONE GOT ON ELEVATORS, RODE THEM TO THE FIRST FLOOR AND LEFT THE COURTHOUSE. JUSTICE ZARELLA SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS SWORN IN AS AN ATTORNEY IN BOSTON MANY YEARS AGO, IT WAS DONE BEFORE THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT DURING AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY THAT UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DAY. HE FELT WE SHOULD MODIFY OUR SWEARING IN CEREMONY TO REFLECT THOSE FEELINGS. I AGREED AND GAVE HIM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PUTTING HIS IDEA INTO EFFECT. THE RESULT IS THIS CEREMONY TODAY.

TODAY IS AN EXCEPTIONAL DAY. FOR YOU, THE CANDIDATES, IT IS A CULMINATION OF YEARS OF STUDY, AS WELL AS FINANCIAL, AND OFTEN PERSONAL, SACRIFICE. WE CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR PERSEVERANCE IN NEGOTIATING EVERY TURN IN THE ROAD. FOR THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE CANDIDATES, IT IS THE COMPLETION OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF YEARS OF ENCOURAGING THE DREAMS OF THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU. ALL OF US CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED, AND IN THOSE THAT WILL SURELY COME.

NOW THAT YOU ARE ATTORNEYS YOU WILL HEAR PEOPLE DISPARAGE THE PROFESSION YOU HAVE CHOSEN. DO NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM. BE PROUD TO BE AN ATTORNEY. MOST OF ALL, RESPECT THE LEGAL PROFESSION; FOR IF YOU DO NOT RESPECT THE PROFESSION, PEOPLE WILL NOT RESPECT YOU. ALWAYS CARRY WITH YOU THAT FERVOR, THAT EXCITEMENT, THAT ENERGY THAT YOU HAVE TODAY – TO DO GOOD FOR MANKIND. NEVER LOSE THE DESIRE TO "MAKE A DIFFERENCE." NEVER BE AFRAID TO TAKE A POSITION OR DEFEND A CAUSE – NO MATTER

HOW UNPOPULAR – AS LONG AS YOU DO IT ETHICALLY, HONESTLY AND WITH RESPECT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL AND WELCOME TO THE BAR OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.