

**REMARKS
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES
SWEARING-IN OF NEW ATTORNEYS
NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

GOOD MORNING.

**ON BEHALF OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT AND
THE WHOLE JUDICIAL BRANCH, CONGRATULATIONS AND
WELCOME TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW. CONGRATULATIONS ARE
ALSO DUE TO YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND LOVED ONES WHO
HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH AND SUPPORTED YOU ON YOUR LONG
TREK TO THIS DAY.**

**I WOULD BE REMISS IF, ON THIS OCCASION, I DID NOT POINT
OUT THE VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLAYED BY ATTORNEYS IN THE
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR STATE. THE
HONORABLE T. CLARK HULL, WHO SERVED AS A STATE SENATOR,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND A JUSTICE OF THIS COURT OFTEN
STATED: "WHILE THE DOCTORS WERE HEALING WITH LEACHES,**

THE LAWYERS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE WRITING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS BILL OF RIGHTS." THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE AND IMPOSING LEGACY. AMONG OUR FOUNDERS WHO WERE LAWYERS WAS JOHN ADAMS WHOSE ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF THIS COUNTRY IS KNOWN TO YOU. HE MADE HIS NAME AS A LAWYER WHEN HE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO WERE ACCUSED OF MURDER IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY BOSTON. OTHER LAWYERS INCLUDE THOMAS JEFFERSON AND CONNECTICUT'S ROGER SHERMAN WHO SIGNED BOTH THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION. LEGAL HEAVYWEIGHTS IN OUR HISTORY ALSO INCLUDE ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHO HELD TOGETHER A NATION; THURGOOD MARSHALL, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUSTICE ON THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT WHO ARGUED AND WON NUMEROUS CIVIL RIGHT'S CASES INCLUDING THE TEXAS VOTING

RIGHTS VOTING CASES AND *BROWN v. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION*. CONNCTICUT'S CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY WHO, ON BEHALF OF THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, ARGUED ELEVEN CASES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, TEN OF WHICH SHE WON. PARENTHETICALLY, SHE LOST THE ELEVENTH BUT THE SUPREME COURT REVERSED ITSELF A FEW YEARS LATER. THESE LAWYERS STAND OUT NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE GREAT LAWYERS BUT BECAUSE THEY USED THEIR SKILLS IN A POSITIVE WAY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OTHERS. THEY DID THE RIGHT THING WHEN IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE POPULAR OR EASY THING TO DO. THEY PERSISTED EVEN THOUGH THEY DREW THE DISDAIN AND RIDICULE OF OTHERS AND IN THE CASE OF LINCOLN, AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET.

NOR ARE THE DAYS OF LEGAL GIANTS BEHIND US. THE THEME OF LAW DAY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES IN 2011 WAS "THE LEGACY OF JOHN ADAMS FROM BOSTON TO

GUANTANAMO." ON THAT DAY OUR SUPREME COURT BESTOWED AN AWARD ON EMMANUEL MARGOLIS, A LAWYER FROM STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT. DURING THE LAST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND UNTIL HIS DEATH THIS PAST SUMMER, MANNY ARGUED MANY UNPOPULAR CASES, BUT DID SO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE CLIENT'S CAUSE NEEDED REPRESENTATION. AMONG HIS CASES WAS THAT OF A HOMELESS MAN FROM NEW HAVEN WHO WAS ACCUSED OF MURDER. MANNY CHALLENGED THE SEARCH OF THE DEFENDANT'S DUFFLE BAG, WHICH HE KEPT IN AN AREA UNDER A BRIDGE WHERE HE HAD BEEN LIVING AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST. MANNY PERSUADED THIS COURT THAT THE DEFENDANT'S DUFFLE BAG QUOTE "REPRESENTED IN EFFECT, THE DEFENDANT'S LAST SHRED OF PRIVACY . . ."

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT MANNY ARGUED ON BEHALF OF A TWENTY YEAR OLD STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN A STUDENT DEFERMENT AND HAD LATER

SURRENDERED HIS DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD TO A MINISTER AS A PROTEST OF THE VIETNAM WAR. HE WAS CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO CARRY HIS DRAFT CARD AND THEREAFTER RECLASSIFIED AS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE. MANNY PERSUADED THE HIGHEST COURT THAT THE RECLASSIFICATION WAS INVALID BECAUSE THE STUDENT'S ACT WAS PROTECTED POLITICAL SPEECH. HE REPRESENTED CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES EVEN ON BEHALF OF CAUSES THAT HE BELIEVED TO BE ABHORRENT, INCLUDING REPRESENTING THE KU KLUX KLAN WHEN THE CITY OF WATERBURY REFUSED TO GRANT IT A PERMIT TO MARCH AND HOLD A RALLY. ATTORNEYS LIKE MANNY REMIND US THAT ASSERTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS EXISTS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

OF COURSE, I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE PRACTICE OF LAW HAS NOT CHANGED. IT HAS. IN THE WORDS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PROTEST POET, BOB DYLAN, "THESE TIMES

- THEY ARE A CHANGING". AND I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WILL BE PRACTICING LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY. WE LIVE IN A TIME MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST CENTURIES IN WHICH THOSE LEGAL GIANTS LIVED. MANY OF THOSE CHANGES ARE POSITIVE. FOR INSTANCE, THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED THE PRACTICE OF LAW. BUT DO NOT ALLOW TECHNOLOGY TO CAUSE YOU TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE VALUE OF FACE TO FACE, PERSONAL INTERACTION. YOU AND YOUR CLIENTS WILL BOTH BENEFIT FROM YOUR GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND YOUR REPUTATION AS A RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY ADVOCATE. TECHNOLOGY CAN ASSIST YOU IN BUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND THAT REPUTATION, BUT USE IT JUDICIOUSLY – LET IT BE AN ADDED MEANS OF CONTACT, NOT THE SOLE MEANS. LOOKING AT THE PHENOMENON CALLED THE "SOCIAL MEDIA" PROVIDES AN ILLUSTRATION. THE SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BECOME MORE THAN *JUST* SOCIAL. IT HAS FOR

MANY, PARTICULARLY YOUR CONTEMPORARIES, BECOME A PART OF YOUR WAY OF LIFE. TWEETING, TEXTING AND E-MAILS HAVE NOT ONLY REPLACED, TO SOME EXTENT, FACE TO FACE SOCIAL INTERCOURSE BUT ALSO HAVE CHANGED THE WAY BUSINESS AND EVEN THE PRACTICE OF LAW IS CONDUCTED. YOU ARE ENTERING A PROFESSION WHERE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT. SOCIAL MEDIA CAN AND SHOULD BE ONE OF THE MEANS BY WHICH YOU BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS. BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH. GET TO KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES PERSONALLY. A GOOD WAY TO DO THAT IS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS. NOT ONLY WILL YOU GET TO KNOW PEOPLE BUT YOU WILL LEARN FROM THEM. PERHAPS ANOTHER LAWYER CAN BECOME A MENTOR TO YOU. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT YET HAVE JOBS AND, UNFORTUNATELY, I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU OUT THERE IN THIS ECONOMY, YOU CAN VOLUNTEER THROUGH THE

BAR ASSOCIATION TO DO PRO BONO WORK. IT WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO MEET OTHER LAWYERS BUT TO DO MEANINGFUL WORK FOR CLIENTS IN NEED, DEVELOPING AT ONCE YOUR LEGAL SKILLS AND YOUR REPUTATION AS A LAWYER.

GETTING INVOLVED, KNOWING PEOPLE AND LEARNING BY DOING.

A YOUNG LAWYER TELLS THE STORY ABOUT HAVING BEEN IN A COURTHOUSE TO ARGUE A MOTION ONE MORNING WHEN HE SAW ATTORNEY DAVID GOLDSTEIN, WHO WAS AT THAT TIME THE DEAN OF THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRIAL BAR. THE LAWYER KNEW HIM FROM A CASE IN WHICH THEY WERE INVOLVED AND FROM OTHER VARIOUS CONTACTS. HE WANTED TO INTRODUCE THE LAWYER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS CASE SO HE WALKED UP TO MR. GOLDSTEIN AND SAID I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY ADVERSARY, ATTORNEY SO AND SO. MR. GOLDSTEIN POINTED HIS FINGER AT THE TWO YOUNG LAWYERS AND SAID "THIS MAN IS NOT YOUR ADVERSARY - HE IS YOUR COLLEAGUE -

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT." THIS KIND, PERSONAL CONNECTION IS NOT REPLACED BY THE INTERNET.

JUST A BRIEF COMMENT ABOUT THE OATH YOU ARE ABOUT TO TAKE. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU STUDY THE OATH AND COMMIT IT TO MEMORY. THE ESSENCE OF THIS REMARKABLE OATH WHICH IS LOCATED IN § 1-25 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES WAS ADOPTED IN CONNECTICUT IN 1708. THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT IS BASED ARE TIME TESTED AND REMAIN THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION. TRUTH, HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND FAIR DEALING TO ALL WITH WHOM YOU COME IN CONTACT AS WELL AS LOYALTY TO YOUR CLIENTS AND TO THE COURT AND TO YOURSELF ARE ESSENTIAL TO BEING A LAWYER. AS LAWYERS YOU MUST EXEMPLIFY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION - MORAL COURAGE, PRINCIPLED DEVOTION TO THE LAW AND EQUAL JUSTICE.

I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH SOME SOUND ADVICE FROM A NON-LAWYER, STEVE JOBS, WHO SAID, “YOUR TIME IS LIMITED . . . DON'T BE TRAPPED BY DOGMA - WHICH IS LIVING WITH THE RESULTS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S THINKING. DON'T LET THE NOISE OF OTHER'S OPINIONS DROWN OUT YOUR OWN INNER VOICE. AND MOST IMPORTANT, HAVE THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND INTUITION. THEY SOMEHOW ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU TRULY WANT TO BECOME. EVERYTHING ELSE IS SECONDARY.

I WISH YOU ALL REWARDING CAREERS IN THE LAW.

ON BEHALF OF THE COURT AND EVERYONE IN THE JUDICIAL BRANCH WE CONGRATULATE YOU.