

>> ALL RISE.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE,
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS
NOW IN CEREMONIAL SESSION.
GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA
AND THIS HONORABLE COURT.

>> PLEASE REMAIN STANDING FOR
THE INVOCATION BY THE
REVEREND JIM BEZAIRE.

>> LET US PRAY.

GRACIOUS GOD, WE COME
TOGETHER THIS AFTERNOON, TO
HONOR TOM D. HALL, WHO HAS
SERVED WITH INTEGRITY AS
CLERK OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME
COURT FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS,
AND IS NOW BEGINNING A NEW
CHAPTER IN HIS LIFE AS HE
ENTERS RETIREMENT.

WE ARE EVER SO THANKFUL FOR
HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY
AND LEGAL ANALYSIS, AND MOST
ESPECIALLY, HIS CALM AND
GRACIOUS DEMEANOR.

WE PRAY THAT HIS TIME OF
RETIREMENT WILL BE FULFILLING
AND REWARDING FOR BOTH HE AND
LISA.

WE PRAY ALSO FOR JOHN
THOMASINO AS HE ASSUMES THE
MANY DUTIES TOM SO FAITHFULLY
CARRIED OUT WHILE IN SERVICE
TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.
LORD, WE ASK THIS IN YOUR
MOST HOLY NAME.

AMEN.

>> PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT, AND MOST
ESPECIALLY TO THE MANY
MEMBERS OF OUR EXTENDED COURT
FAMILY WHO HAVE RETURNED TO
US TODAY FOR A VERY SPECIAL
OCCASION.

TODAY WE'LL HONOR SOMEONE WHO
SERVED THIS COURT IN ONE OF
ITS MOST RESPONSIBLE OFFICES
FOR WHAT MAY BE VIEWED AS THE
MOST SIGNIFICANT PERIOD OF

TIME IN ITS HISTORY AND CERTAINLY ITS MOST PUBLIC. THAT PERSON, OF COURSE, IS OUR CLERK OF COURT, TOM HALL. IN JUNE THIS YEAR, THE BAR CONVENTION, THIS COURT HONORED TOM FOR HIS MANY TALENTS WHICH HAVE BENEFITTED THE WORK OF THE 3RD BRANCH IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. IN A RESOLUTION, THE COURT NOTED THAT TOM COMBINED THE TALENT FOR ADMINISTRATION WITH A TALENT FOR LEGAL ANALYSIS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE CONSISTENTLY DELIVERED WITH A CALM AND EVEN TEMPER. TODAY, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING PAPERLESS, AND IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION. TOM HAS HAD A MAJOR PART IN THAT AND WILL HAVE ENDURING LEGACY FOR HELPING TO LEAD THE WAY. TOM, ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, AND THE ENTIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS, YOUR RELENTLESS DEDICATION, AND EXCELLENT SERVICE AS THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT'S 20TH CLERK OF COURT.

[APPLAUSE]

>> NOW I'D LIKE TO CALL UPON THE HONORABLE WILLIAM DECICCO, CLERK OF COURT FOR THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES. >> CHIEF JUSTICE POLSTON AND HONORABLE JUSTICES OF THE COURT, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. WHAT A GREAT HONOR IT IS TO BE HERE TODAY TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, TOM HALL, AS HE RETIRES FROM HIS POSITION

AS CLERK OF THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.
MY ASSOCIATION WITH TOM STEMS
FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
APPELLATE COURT CLERKS, AN
ORGANIZATION OF OVER 200
STATE AND FEDERAL APPELLATE
COURT CLERKS WHO ARE
DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE
ADMINISTRATION AND PRACTICES
OF THE APPELLATE COURTS IN
THIS COUNTRY AND TO PROVIDING
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THOSE CLERKS, ON THE ISSUES
WE ALL FACE FROM DAY TO DAY.
IT IS AN ACTIVE GROUP OF
COURT PROFESSIONALS DEVOTED
TO PUBLIC SERVICE.
I CAME HERE TODAY TO SAY TO
YOU, WITHOUT QUALIFICATION,
THAT NO ONE HAS DONE MORE FOR
THE APPELLATE COURT CLERKS IN
THIS COUNTRY THAN TOM HALL.
LET ME TELL YOU WHY.
SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING CLERK,
HE SPOKE AT OUR ANNUAL
MEETING IN 2001.
ON THE VALUABLE LESSONS HE
LEARNED IN HANDLING
HIGH-PROFILE CASES.
[LAUGHTER]
>> HE WAS JOINED BY BILL
SUITOR, THE CLERK AT THE U.S.
SUPREME COURT, AS I'M SURE
MANY OF YOU WILL RECALL,
THOSE LESSONS WERE LEARNED
FROM THE CASE OF BUSH V.
GORE.
I REMEMBER SEEING TOM ON
TELEVISION, THE FIRST TIME I
SAW HIM IN FRONT OF ALL THE
CAMERAS AND SATELLITE DISHES
AND TRUCKS PARKED OUTSIDE OF
THE COURTHOUSE HERE, AND I
HAD ONE THOUGHT AND ONE
THOUGHT ONLY -- THAT POOR
GUY!
[LAUGHTER]
>> THE FOLLOWING YEAR TOM WAS

ELECTED TO A THREE-YEAR TERM ON OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HE ATTENDED MEETINGS ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY TO FOSTER THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND IN 2005, HE HOSTED OUR ANNUAL MEETING IN KEY WEST.

THIS IS AN ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING TO HOST ONE OF THESE CONFERENCES. ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE HOST CLERK IS TO HELP ORGANIZE THE HOSPITALITY SUITE, WHERE ALL THE MEMBERS CAN SOCIALIZE IN THE EVENING.

AND I AM TOLD BY MR.†LES STEIN, THE CLERK OF THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT AND THE CLERK THAT RUNS THE HOSPITALITY SUITE, THAT TOM VOLUNTEERED TO BE IN CHARGE OF QUALITY CONTROL OF THE BEER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> MR.†STEIN INFORMED ME THIS TURNED OUT TO BE AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY BECAUSE TOM NEVER MET A BEER HE DIDN'T LIKE, PARTICULARLY IF IT WAS FREE BEER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IN ANY EVENT, AFTER HOSTING OUR MEETING IN 2005 TOM COORDINATED THE VENDOR SHOW AT OUR 2006 MEETING IN FT. WORTH.

HE WAS THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2007 MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS AND SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT AND THEN PRESIDENT IN 2008 AND 2009.

AND IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THE LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES HE TOOK ON, TOM MADE PRESENTATIONS AND COORDINATED BREAKOUT SESSIONS AT EVERY SINGLE MEETING, FROM ELECTRONIC FILING TO ALMOST

ANY OTHER ISSUE THAT YOU CAN THINK OF THAT AN APPELLATE COURT CLERK WOULD HAVE.

AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR MEMBERS, HE WAS THE KEY PLAYER IN ESTABLISHING THE NCACC EDUCATIONAL FUND WHICH NOW SUBSIDIZES THE COST OF BRINGING DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS TO SPEAK AT OUR MEETINGS.

ALSO, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION THAT FOR EIGHT YEARS, TOM USING HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS FROM THE NAVY, HE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE "U.S.S. CONSTELLATION" BY THE WAY.

I DON'T KNOW IF PEOPLE KNOW THAT.

USING HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS AND LISA AND MATT ASSEMBLED A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF OUR MEETINGS EACH YEAR DISPLAYING THEM TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND ARCHIVING THEM FOR FUTURE CLERKS.

BECAUSE OF ALL HE DID, THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APPELLATE COURT CLERKS AWARDED TOM HIGHEST HONOR IN 2012, THE J.O. SENTELL AWARD NAMED AFTER J.O. SENTELL, THE CLERK OF THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT AND ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NCACC.

THE CITATION READS THE NCACC IS A BETTER CONFERENCE DUE TO TOM'S HARD WORK AND SERVICE IN MANY WAYS OVER THE YEARS. HE EPITOMIZES THE QUALITIES WE HONOR AS APPELLATE COURT CLERKS.

REGARDING TOM'S HARD WORK, IT REMINDS ME OF THE SAYING, YOU SHOULD NEVER TRUST LUCK TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

REMEMBER THE HARDER YOU WORK, THE LUCKIER YOU'RE GOING TO BE.

THAT'S TOM HALL.
BUT EVEN AFTER DOING ALL OF
THIS AND RECEIVING THE
HIGHEST AWARD WE COULD GIVE
TO HIM, TOM DIDN'T LET UP.
INSTEAD HE JUST CO-HOSTED OUR
MEETING IN SEATTLE THIS PAST
SUMMER.

SO BEYOND ANY DOUBT, HE HAS
DONE MORE FOR THE SUCCESS OF
THE NCACC AND THE CONTINUING
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
APPELLATE COURT CLERKS IN
THIS COUNTRY THAN ANYONE
ELSE.

HE IS A VERY SPECIAL PERSON
TO US.

TOM AND LISA, MATT, I SPEAK
FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
APPELLATE COURT CLERKS AND
OUR FAMILIES WHEN I SAY THANK
YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS.

WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AND I WANT TO ADD ONE
OTHER THING.

TOM, FROM ONE NAVY VETERAN TO
ANOTHER, I WANT TO EXPRESS TO
YOU THE TRADITIONAL NAVY WISH
OF FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING
SEAS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO
CONTINUE TO EXCEL IN THE
FUTURE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, CHIEF
JUSTICE POLSTON.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I ASK THE HONORABLE TIM
SMITH, CLERK OF THE COURT OF
PUTNAM COUNTY AND CHAIR OF
THE FLORIDA COURTS' E-FILING
AUTHORITY BOARD TO APPROACH
THE BENCH FOR COMMENTS.

>>†CHIEF JUSTICE POLSTON,
MEMBERS OF THE COURT, MAY IT
PLEASE THE COURT.

I'M SO HONORED TO BE HERE
REPRESENTING THE TRIAL COURT

CLERKS IN THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, ALL 67 ELECTED
CLERKS AROUND THE STATE.
WE WERE TALKING EARLIER ABOUT
HOW THAT SYSTEM DIFFERS IN
OUR STATE FROM OTHERS, BUT IT
WORKS FOR US.

AND AS THE HONORABLE
MR. †DECICCO WAS TALKING ABOUT
IN THE APPELLATE COURT, THE
TRIAL COURT, THIS IS WHERE
IT'S LIKE A CONVEYOR BELT.
THESE CASES COME AND WE'VE
GOT TO MOVE THEM QUICK AND WE
CONTINUE TO DO THAT, AND ONE
OF THE THINGS THAT I HEARD IN
THE INVOCATION AND IN
HONORABLE DECICCO'S COMMENTS
WAS TOM'S GOOD DEMEANOR,
CALMNESS THAT HE BRINGS TO
THE EFFORT, AND I WILL TELL
YOU AS CHAIR OF THE FLORIDA
COURTS' E-FILE AUTHORITY,
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAS
HAPPENED.

I BROUGHT A SAMPLING OF CASE
COURT JACKETS.

NOW, THE PAPERWORK IS NOT
REAL.

SO NOBODY WORRIES THAT WE'RE
MOVING CASES AROUND.

AND I BROUGHT MY IPAD.

CHIEF JUSTICE POLSTON, IF YOU
DON'T MIND, I BROUGHT A PROP.
THIS IS A PICTURE OF TOM HALL
AT OUR LAST E-FILE AUTHORITY
MEETING.

[LAUGHTER]

>> THIS IS WHAT TOM DOES MOST
OF THE TIME DURING THE
MEETING.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IT WAS INTERESTING TO ME
THAT I THINK TO MYSELF, TOM
SURE LOOKS AT HIS IPAD A LOT,
SO WE WERE HAVING A VERY
TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ABOUT
STANDARD CRIMINAL CASE CODE
DOCKETS, DESCRIPTIONS, CODE
WORK GOING ON, AND TOM IS

OVER THERE, AND I CAN SEE HIS FINGER MOVING ON HIS IPAD, AND WE GET TO A DISCUSSION ON IT AND TOM DOESN'T LOOK UP AND SAYS YOU'RE MISSING LINE 13 SECTION 2.

[LAUGHTER]

>> HOW DID HE DO THAT? I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH IT WHEN I'VE GOT A PIECE OF PAPER. BUT THAT TELLS YOU THE DEPTH OF TOM'S KNOWLEDGE IN WHAT HE DOES FOR ALL OF US.

AS WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD THROUGH OUR E-FILE EFFORT HERE, ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE COURT FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THAT.

IT HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE EFFORT.

WE ARE HAVING MUCH SUCCESS. IN FACT, I HAD HIM PULL SOME STATISTICS FOR ME THAT TALKED ABOUT THE CIVIL FILINGS FROM APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

WE HAD OVER 7 MILLION DOCUMENTS FILED THROUGH THE PORTAL, TOTALING 28 MILLION PAGES, AND ON AN ANNUALIZED BASIS, THAT'S 67 MILLION PAGES THROUGH THE PORTAL.

NOW, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T PRINT THOSE SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW.

BUT WE KNOW WHAT IS COMING. THIS IS GOING TO THIS, AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADING, AND WE KNOW WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO, THAT WE'RE REALLY GOING TO BEGIN TO SEE THE BENEFIT OF THAT EFFORT.

IT WILL ALLOW QUICKER SERVICE TO THE TRIAL COURTS.

IT WILL PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE TO THOSE FOLKS THAT COME IN THE FRONT DOOR OF ALL THOSE COURTHOUSES AROUND THE STATE, AND FOR THAT I'M VERY THANKFUL.

I WAS AT THE LAST FCTC

MEETING, JUSTICE POLSTON, AND DURING THE BREAK -- JUDGE MUNYON DOES LET US TAKE A BREAK PERIODICALLY.

WE WERE STANDING IN THE HALLWAY IN TAMPA, AND I NOTICED THAT JOHN THOMASINO, THE INCOMING CLERK WAS SPEAKING TO CLERK.

AND I HAPPENED TO BE GOING BY, AND I HEARD JOHN SAY, TOM, HE SAID I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A GREAT MENTOR, AND TOM SAID, I PREFER IDOL.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SO, BUT I WILL TELL YOU AND I'LL WRAP MY COMMENTS UP HERE, THAT TOM REALLY IS AN IDOL TO ME, AND PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU READ HIS BIO, IN THE PROGRAM, ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR SO MANY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COURT SYSTEM, AND FOR THE CITIZENS OF NOT ONLY FLORIDA BUT OF THIS NATION, AND HE REALLY IS A TRUE HERO IN MY VIEW.

AND TOM, WE WISH YOU WELL, AS YOU MOVE FORWARD INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF YOUR LIFE.

WE CONGRATULATE YOUR FAMILY. WE HOPE THIS ALLOWS YOU TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEM, AND I'M SO HONORED TO CALL YOU AS MY FRIEND.

THANK YOU, MR.†CHIEF JUSTICE.
[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, TIM, FOR THOSE REMARKS AND FOR ALL THE WORK THAT YOU DO, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE E-FILING AUTHORITY BOARD.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR WORK.

THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES RAOUL CANTERO, FORMER JUSTICE OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, FOR REMARKS.

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE
POLSTON, MAY IT PLEASE THE
COURT AND ALL PRESENT.
FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY
IT'S AN HONOR TO SPEAK TO YOU
AND TO THE COURT TODAY
WITHOUT GETTING QUESTIONS.

[LAUGHTER]

>>†DON'T BET ON IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> I JOINED THE COURT IN 2002
WHEN TOM WAS HERE, AND I WAS
ALSO THE ADMINISTRATIVE
JUSTICE ON THE COURT WHILE I
WAS HERE, WHICH MEANT THAT I
WAS THE LIAISON TO THE
CLERK'S OFFICE TO PUT THINGS
TOGETHER AND MAKE SURE THE
CASES THAT HAD THE SAME
ISSUES, TRAVEL TOGETHER WERE
TAGGED TOGETHER, AND I
LEARNED THAT THE CLERK'S
OFFICE, AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW,
IS KIND OF LIKE AIR
CONDITIONING.

AIR CONDITIONING IS THERE,
BUT YOU DON'T NOTICE IT WHEN
IT'S WORKING, YOU ONLY NOTICE
IT WHEN IT STOPS WORKING, AND
THEN YOU NOTICE IT REAL FAST.
AND TOM KEPT THAT AIR
CONDITIONING WORKING THE
ENTIRE TIME IT WAS HERE.
YOU NEVER NOTICED THE CLERK'S
OFFICE BECAUSE IT WORKED SO
WELL, IT WORKED LIKE
CLOCKWORK.

NOT ONLY TOM, BUT EVERYBODY
UNDER TOM WAS PROFESSIONAL.
THEY WERE THE FACE OF THE
COURT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD,
AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I
WOULD GET CALLS FROM FRIENDS
OF MINE OR LAWYERS WHO WERE
CALLING OR MAYBE HAVE
SOMETHING BEFORE THE COURT
BEFORE OR HAD COME HERE FOR A
CEREMONY LIKE THIS ONE AND
THEY WOULD SAY, YOU KNOW,
THEY'RE SO NICE THERE IN THE

CLERK'S OFFICE, ONE OF THE NICEST CLERK'S OFFICE THAT I KNOW OF.

THAT SAYS A LOT ABOUT TOM AND ABOUT THE REPUTATION, THE ATTITUDE THAT HE INSTILLED IN THAT CLERK'S OFFICE, AND I HOPE THAT THAT CONTINUES AFTER YOU LEAVE, TOM, AND I'M SURE IT WILL.

TOM NOT ONLY -- HE WAS LIKE AIR CONDITIONING NOT JUST BECAUSE THE CLERK'S OFFICE WENT UNNOTICED BUT TOM HIMSELF IS PRETTY COOL. COOL UNDER PRESSURE.

SOMETIMES HE WOULD COME INTO OUR CONFERENCES AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF AN EMERGENCY AND HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A RIOT GOING ON OUTSIDE, BUT POLICE CAME AND WE TOOK CARE OF IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WE SAY EXCUSE ME?

WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?

I THINK HE SAID THERE WAS A RIOT OUTSIDE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, WE TOOK CARE OF IT, EVERYBODY IS GONE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THERE WAS A HURRICANE GOING ON OR WHAT IT WAS.

TOM ALWAYS REACTED WITH EQUANIMITY AND CALMNESS. BECAUSE HE WAS CALM, WE REMAINED CALM.

YOU ARE RETIRING, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CALM ANYMORE, YOU ARE GOING OUT INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A PUBLIC SERVANT, AND SO -- AND I KNOW THAT YOU ARE A BIG UM HURRICANES FAN.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A NEW NICKNAME NOW, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE COOL TOM.

I BROUGHT SOMETHING TO
MEMORIALIZE YOUR FUTURE--
I BROUGHT YOU A MIAMI
HURRICANES FOOTBALL JERSEY
WITH YOUR NEW NICKNAME ON IT.
WILD MAN TOM HALL!

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

>> SO TOM, ENJOY IT, ENJOY
YOUR FUTURE, THANK YOU FOR
THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ABLE
TO WORK WITH YOU DURING THE
TIME I WAS HERE.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I THINK JUSTICE LEWIS
ALREADY HAS THAT NUMBER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE
TO RECOGNIZE MAJOR HARDING,
FORMER JUSTICE OF THE COURT,
FOR COMMENTS

>> THANK YOU, MAY IT PLEASE
THE COURT.

IT'S A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE
HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE
EXCEPTIONAL WISDOM THE
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT
JUSTICES WERE BLESSED WITH
WHEN WE DECIDED IN 2000 TO
MAKE TOM HALL NEW CLERK OF
THE COURT.

IT HAPPENED SHORTLY BEFORE MY
TENURE AS CHIEF JUDGE WAS SET
TO EXPIRE, BUT DURING MY 34
YEARS OF JUDICIARY AND MY 50+
YEARS AT THE BAR, I'VE HAD
THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING A
NUMBER OF CLERKS AROUND THE
STATE, AND I CAN TELL YOU
THERE WERE SOME THAT WERE
VERY GOOD, AND I CAN TELL YOU
THERE WERE SOME THAT WERE
VERY BAD, AND I CAN SAY WITH
COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT NONE
OF THOSE WERE ABLE TO COMPARE
TO THE EXCELLENCE THAT WE SAW
EXHIBITED HERE IN OUR WISE
CHOICE, TOM HALL.

MOST ALL HERE REMEMBER, I

LOOK OUT AND SEE THAT THE AGE IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO REMEMBER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> THAT IN NOVEMBER OF 2000, AN ELECTION TOOK PLACE, WE ALL REMEMBER THAT DURING THAT NIGHT, THE CANDIDATE GORE CALLED THE CANDIDATE BUSH AND CONCEDED THE ELECTION, AND THEN LATER ON CALLED AND WITHDREW HIS CONCESSION.

WE REMEMBER THE PRESS WOULD CALL A WINNER, AND THEN THEY WOULD RECANT AND SAY THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

WE SAW LAWSUITS BEGIN TO BE FILED IN THE COURTS AROUND THE STATE.

BUTTERFLY BALLOTS, HANGING CHADS, ABSENTEE BALLOTS, CRIES FOR RECOUNTS WERE DAILY IN THE NEWS, AND IT BECAME VERY CLEAR, AND TO THOSE OF US HERE, THAT OUR COURT MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE RESOLUTION OF THOSE ISSUES.

BUT THROUGH THE REMARKABLE EFFORTS OF, AND AT THE REQUEST OF TOM HALL, LOWER COURTS AROUND THE STATE BEGAN TO FAX COPIES OF ALL PLEADINGS RELATING TO THE ELECTION TO THIS COURT.

NOW, REMEMBER, THIS WAS BEFORE IPADS AND ELECTRONIC FILING, AND IT SOON BECAME OBVIOUS THAT FAXING THESE PLEADINGS WAS NOT GOING TO WORK, AND TOM ARRANGED TO ESTABLISH AN E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE PLEADINGS TO BE SENT TO HIM, AND THOSE PLEADINGS WERE SENT TO HIM BY E-MAIL AND WERE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE JUSTICES FOR THEIR REVIEW.

6 MONTHS AND 14 DAYS AFTER TOM HALL TOOK OFFICE, SO

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2000, AT 4:38
IN THE MORNING, THE MARSHAL
CALLED TOM HALL AND TOLD HIM
THAT AN ATTORNEY FOR THE
SECRETARY OF STATE HAD
BROUGHT A PLEADING TO THE
COURT AT 4:30 IN THE MORNING
TO BE FILED.

TOM GOT UP, GOT DRESSED, CAME
TO THE COURT, AND DOCKETED
THE FIRST PLEADING IN THAT
EVENT.

IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE
PRESS WOULD BE IN THE COURT
BUILDING FROM MORNING TO
NIGHT TO GET COPIES OF
PLEADINGS FILED WITH THE
COURT, WITH THE CLERK, AND
TOM, IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID
THAT, SET UP TWO PAGES IN A
WEBSITE, ONE UNDER THE
"CLERK'S OFFICE" HEADING, AND
ONE UNDER THE "PRESS"
HEADING, SO THAT THE PUBLIC
AND THE PRESS COULD GET A
COPY OF EVERY PLEADING FILED
IN EVERY CASE IN THIS COURT
WITHOUT ENTERING THE
BUILDING.

NO ONE HAD TO COME INTO THE
BUILDING AND GO TO THE
CLERK'S OFFICE, AND THIS WAS
MAGIC, MY FRIENDS.

NOT ONLY FOR THE CLERK, BUT
FOR THE MARSHAL, WILSON
BARNES, WHO IS GREATLY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY
AND HOW TO MANAGE THE
POTENTIAL CROWDS THAT WERE
FORMING AND HOW TO KEEP THEM
OUTSIDE OF THE COURT.

EVEN WITH COPIES BEING
AVAILABLE ONLINE, MANY COPIES
HAD TO BE MADE, AND THIS
PRESENTED ANOTHER CHALLENGE
FOR OUR NEW CLERK.

DURING THE ELECTION EVENT,
THE BIG OLD -- AND I MEAN OLD
-- XEROX COPIER THE CLERKS
USED FOR MANY YEARS -- WE

DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS,
BUT FOR YEARS -- IT BROKE
DOWN WHEN THEY WERE GETTING
READY TO PRINT AN OPINION
THAT WAS TO BE RELEASED.
TOM HALL, IN HIS USUAL CALM
DEMEANOR, CALLED ALL OF THE
EMPLOYEES TOGETHER, THEY
SPREAD OUT TO THE JUSTICES'
CHAMBERS, TO THE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, TO
THE LIBRARY AND OTHER PLACES,
AND MADE COPIES ON OUR
MACHINES FOR THAT OPINION TO
BE HANDED OUT WHEN TOM AND
CRAIG WATERS WENT OUT TO
ANNOUNCE THE DECISION OF THE
COURT.

AFTER THAT, TOM ARRANGED FOR
A XEROX REPAIRMAN TO THE
PRESENT IN THE COURT AT ALL
TIMES.

[LAUGHTER]

>> DURING THAT ELECTION, TOM
REPORTS THAT OVER 600,000
COPIES WERE MADE.

THAT'S A LOT OF TREES.
CRAIG WATERS AND TOM HALL
FREQUENTLY APPEARED ON THE
STEPS OF THE BUILDING TO
EXPLAIN TO THE PRESS THE
DECISION OF THE COURT OR SOME
OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENT, LIKE
LETTING THEM KNOW THAT, AT
THAT TIME, THE RECORD OF THE
COURT WAS BEING LOADED ON A
FEDEX TRUCK OUT BACK TO BE
OVERNIGHTED TO WASHINGTON,
AND WITH THAT ANNOUNCEMENT,
THE PRESS IMMEDIATELY LEFT
CRAIG AND TOM ON THE FRONT OF
THE SUPREME COURT, AND CAME
RUNNING AROUND TO THE BACK OF
THE COURT TO SEE THE TRUCKS
BEING LOADED AND OBVIOUSLY
RECORD ON THE TRUCK WAS FAR
MORE NEWSWORTHY THAN ANYTHING
CRAIG OR TOM WOULD HAVE TO
SAY THAT DAY.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WHILE CRAIG WATERS DID MOST OF THE HEAVY LIFTING, REPORTING EVENTS IN THE COURT, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN CRAIG WAS TIED UP ELSEWHERE AND THAT RESPONSIBILITY FELL ON TOM'S SHOULDERS.

LIFE BECAME INTERESTING AS TIME WENT ON, AND TOM FOUND IT EVEN MORE INTERESTING WHEN A TRIAL COURT RECORD WAS DELIVERED TO THE COURT, AND IN THAT RECORD WERE 38,000 BALLOTS.

HE ARRANGED VERY CALMLY FOR THOSE BALLOTS TO BE UNDER 24-HOUR GUARD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, UNTIL THEY WERE TO BE SENT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

WHEN OUR SECOND DECISION WAS APPEALED -- AND HE WAS HOPING THIS WOULD BE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE, BUT WHEN OUR SECOND OPINION WAS APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT COURT ACCEPTED JURISDICTION ON A SATURDAY. AND IN THE ORDER ACCEPTING JURISDICTION, THEY SAID THEY WANTED THE RECORD OF THIS COURT TO BE IN THEIR CLERK'S OFFICE BY NOON OF THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AND PART OF THE RECORD OF THAT CASE WAS THOSE 38,000 BALLOTS.

AND TOM HAD THE CALMNESS TO CALL THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT IN WASHINGTON AND ASK DO THE JUSTICES REALLY WANT THESE BALLOTS?

THE CLERK SAID WAIT A MINUTE. I'LL CALL YOU BACK.

HE CALLED BACK AND SAID DON'T SEND THE BALLOTS.

HE WAS TOLD ALSO WHEN HE TRIED TO FIND A FEDEX TRUCK TO PUT THE RECORD ON TO SEND TO WASHINGTON, THAT THERE

WERE NO OVERNIGHT DELIVERIES
OUT OF TALLAHASSEE ON
SATURDAY.

AND SO IN HIS CALM WAY, HE
CALLED AND ARRANGED FOR A
STATE PLANE TO BE AVAILABLE
SUNDAY MORNING, AND HE TOOK
THE RECORD ON SUNDAY MORNING
AND FLEW IT TO WASHINGTON,
AND THE RECORD WAS DELIVERED
INTACT AND ON TIME TO THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED
STATES.

THE COURT DID NOT HAVE TO
WAIT 10-13 YEARS TO EVALUATE
WHAT A GOOD DECISION WE MADE
WHEN WE SELECTED TOM HALL TO
BE OUR CLERK.

IN HIS CALM, HIS STEADY,
METHODICAL WAY, TOM MADE WHAT
COULD HAVE BEEN A
CATASTROPHIC EVENT OF
EXTRAORDINARY PROPORTIONS
SEEM LIKE A DAY-TO-DAY FORCE
OF EVENTS.

HE USED PREVIOUSLY UNUSED
TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THE COURT
SEEM AHEAD OF ITSELF BY
PROVIDING TO THE COURT, THE
PRESS, THE PUBLIC AND
ACTUALLY TO THE WORLD WHAT
THEY NEEDED TO KNOW EVEN
BEFORE THEY EVEN KNEW WHAT
THEY NEEDED TO KNOW.

I COULD NOT HELP BUT NOTICE
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
WAY THE PRESS AND THE WORLD
WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE
JUDICIAL DECISIONS OF THE
U.S. SUPREME COURT AS OPPOSED
TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE
DECISIONS OF OUR COURT WERE
DISTRIBUTED.

TOM, YOU MADE US LOOK GOOD.
SO TOM, YOU THINK IT'S TIME
TO RETIRE?

WELL, I WILL TELL YOU THAT
THAT'S THE ONLY DECISION THAT
YOU'VE EVER MADE THAT I'VE
QUESTIONED.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND YET I UNDERSTAND, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW WE APPRECIATE YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE, THE COURT, THE ENTIRE LEGAL SYSTEM OF FLORIDA.

YOU'VE MADE A MARK THAT WILL BE OBVIOUS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

WE WISH YOU WELL.

BLESS YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> NOW I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE HONORABLE MARTHA WARNER, JUDGE OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL FOR COMMENTS.

>>†MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. GOING NEXT TO LAST AND SPEAKING ABOUT TOM MEANS I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE SAID ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT TOM THAT I WOULD HAVE ALSO SAID. AS MY COLLEAGUES KNOW, THAT NEVER STOPPED ME FROM TALKING.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WHEN I MET TOM HE WAS THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF AT THE FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL.

HE AND I WERE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE TAPPED WITH FIGURING OUT HOW COURTS RESPOND TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE IN PERFORMANCE BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT.

I WONDERED AT OUR FIRST MEETING, NOT KNOWING TOM HARDLY AT ALL, WHAT SPECIAL VALUE A STAFF ATTORNEY, EVEN A DIRECTOR OF STAFF ATTORNEY WOULD HAVE FOR THE PROJECT? DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO FIND OUT.

TOM NOT ONLY KNEW SO MUCH

ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE DCA'S, HE HAD A TREMENDOUS APTITUDE FOR COURT MANAGEMENT AND THE INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES INVOLVED.

DEVELOPING A RESPONSE TO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT THAT RESPECTED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BRANCH WITH AN INTENSE AND CHALLENGING PROJECT.

TOM WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ENTIRE PROJECT, PROVIDING QUIET LEADERSHIP, GUIDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS, AS WELL AS ADVOCATING OUR RESULTS TO A VERY SKEPTICAL GROUP OF JUDGES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.

THIS WORK, WHICH HAS TOM'S DNA ALL OVER IT, LED EVENTUALLY TO PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE TRIAL COURTS AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF THE TRIAL COURT AND APPELLATE COURT BUDGET COMMISSIONS, EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT INNOVATIONS IN THE BRANCH.

ABOUT THE TIME WE WERE COMPLETING OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY STUDY IN 1999, SID WHITE RETIRED FROM THE SUPREME COURT, AND TOM MENTIONED HE WAS CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR THE CLERK'S POSITION.

SINCE I HAD ACTUALLY WONDERED HOW THE FIRST DCSA COULD KEEP SUCH A TALENTED PERSON FOR VERY LONG, I WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T LEAVE THE COURT SYSTEM.

HE WAS JUST TOO VALUABLE. WHEN HE DID APPLY, I GUESS I WASN'T SHY ABOUT LETTING SOME OF THE JUSTICES KNOW THAT TOM REALLY WAS THE BEST PERSON ARE IN JOB BECAUSE I KNEW

THAT TO BE ABSOLUTELY TRUE.
FORTUNATELY, FOR THE SUPREME
COURT, AS JUSTICE HARDING
SAID FOR THE STATE OF THE
FLORIDA, THE JUSTICES DID
APPOINT TOM AS CLERK AND ALSO
APPOINTED HIM TO ABOUT EVERY
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE AND BAR
COMMITTEE ON THE PLANET.
HE CONTINUED TO SERVE WITH ME
ON PERFORMANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY AS ALWAYS
PROVIDING BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND
EXPERTISE TO ACCOMPLISH THE
MANY TASKS THAT WERE ASSIGNED
TO US.

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT
PROJECTS WE WERE ALL INVOLVED
IN WERE CREATION OF RULES
DETERMINING THE NECESSITY FOR
DECREASING INCREASING
REDEFINING COURT'S DISTRICT
AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING
THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
APPELLATE COURT JUDGES AND
STUDIED DELAY AND RULE
CHANGES THAT HAVE
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED DELAY
ON APPEAL AND THE IMPORTANT
CHILD CASES.

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE
POSSIBLE WITHOUT TOM'S
PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP.
BECAUSE HE HAD THE CONFIDENCE
OF THE SUPREME COURT, HE
BROUGHT GRAVITAS TO OUR
DISCUSSIONS AND OUR OUTREACH
TO CONSTITUENT GROUPS, SUCH
AS THE COUNTY CLERKS.

TOM WAS ALSO EFFECTIVE WITH
THE LEGISLATURE WHEN HE WOULD
APPEAR IN FRONT OF THEM ON
VARIOUS PROJECTS.

TOM AND I WENT TOGETHER TO
SEE THE LEGISLATORS ON
SEVERAL ISSUES INVOLVING
ELECTRONIC FILING AS WELL AS
SOME OTHER PERFORMANCE
MEASURES.

HE HAD A TREMENDOUS ABILITY

WITH THE SENATORS AND THEY TRUSTED WHAT HE SAID ON BEHALF OF THE COURTS.

I ACTUALLY DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY OTHER PERSON IN THE ENTIRE BRANCH THAT HAS AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAS ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COURTS OF FLORIDA.

HE'S WORKED COLLEGIALLY WITH ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE AND WATCHED COMMITTEES STOP AND LISTEN CAREFULLY WHEN HE OFFERS OPINIONS AND ADVICE. OVER THE YEARS, I KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOMETIMES TEMPTATIONS DANGLED TO TAKE HIM AWAY FROM THE COURT. HE HAS STAYED AWAY BECAUSE HE HAS COURT MANAGEMENT IN HIS BLOOD.

THAT MAY SOUND A LITTLE WONKY, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT IS NOT.

EFFECTIVE COURT MANAGEMENT IS AT THE CORE OF SECURING JUSTICE FOR ALL.

OF ASSURING PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

COURT MANAGEMENT HAS AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, IMPACT ON THE DAY-TO-DAY LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS WHO ACCESS THE COURT THAN A BLOCKBUSTER DECISION ON A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OR A SEARCH-AND-SEIZURE DECISION.

IT ALSO INCREASES JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE WHEN COURTS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THEMSELVES.

THIS IS A CONTRIBUTION THAT TOM HAS MADE TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA THROUGH HIS EXTENSIVE WORK AS CLERK OF THE COURT.

I WISH YOU WELL ON YOUR NEW ENDEAVORS, TOM.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REALLY RETIRE, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO BENEFIT THE COURT SYSTEM.

I'M SURE YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ALL THAT YOU DO.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING PART OF ALL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ALL THAT WE'VE DONE.

AND I WILL SURELY MISS YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AT THIS TIME, I CALL UPON MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONORABLE BARBARA PARIENTE TO MAKE HER REMARKS.

>> THANK YOU.

I WANT TO FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE OF THE COURT WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS RETIREMENT CEREMONY A SPECIAL ONE FOR TOM.

IF I HAD EVERYONE STAND UP, I WOULD USE MY LIMITED TIME, BUT YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND WE THANK YOU, AND THE WAY HE DID SO WILLINGLY SPEAKS VOLUMES HOW TOM IS ADMIRER NOT JUST BY THE JUSTICES, NOT BY THE APPELLATE COURT CLERKS, THE CLERKS OF COURT, BUT BY EVERYBODY IN THIS COURTHOUSE, AND I SEE OUT THERE MANY FAMILIAR FACES, INCLUDING MANY OF OUR DEPUTY CLERKS AND CLERKS WHO HAVE WORKED UNDER TOM'S SUPERVISION.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH US.

IT'S BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH TOM FOR HIS ENTIRE TENURE AS CLERK OF THE COURT. WHICH LASTED THROUGH EIGHT CHIEF JUSTICES.

WHEN WE FIRST ADVERTISED FOR THE POSITION UPON SID WHITE'S RETIREMENT AFTER 35 YEARS, 35

YEARS AS CLERK, TOM WAS THE ONLY LOGICAL CHOICE, AND YOU HAVE BY NOW HEARD WHY. TOM HAS GROWN WITH THIS POSITION, MANY TIMES FORTH, BY EVENTS BEYOND HIS AND OUR CONTROL, STARTING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION THAT HIT THE COURT IN 2000 AND ALSO THE SIX HURRICANES THAT HIT THE COURT IN 2004. THROUGH IT ALL, TOM -- AND WE DID NOT COORDINATE WHAT ADJECTIVES WHAT WORDS WE WOULD USE -- HERE YOU GO. TOM HAS REMAINED CALM, STEADFAST, AND HERE IS ONE I THINK EVERYBODY WOULD USE, SERIOUS. VERY SERIOUS. HELPING THE COURT ENSURE THAT THE CITIZENS OF FLORIDA ARE WELL SERVED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, ALWAYS GOING THE EXTRA MILE AND MORE. TOM'S DEDICATION HAS NEVER WAIVERED. HE HAS BEEN AVAILABLE AND CONNECTED, NOT JUST 9:00 TO 5:00, BUT IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING, 24/7. I CAN ATTEST AND SEVERAL OF CAN YOU ATTEST TO SEEING HIS E-MAILS AT MIDNIGHT AND THEN AGAIN AT 6:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING. I'M NOT ONE THAT WOULD HAVE SEEN E-MAIL AT 4:00 IN THE MORNING. I KNOW THEY'RE THERE. AND THROUGH IT ALL, TOM HAS REMAINED CALM, STEADFAST AND SERIOUS, VERY SERIOUS. IN FACT NOT COUNTING TODAY AND NOT COUNTING LISA AND MATT, HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN TOM CRACK A SMILE. ANYBODY? [LAUGHTER] >> OKAY, HOW ABOUT A BIG

SMILE?

[LAUGHTER]

>> EXACTLY.

THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN THE PAST 13 YEARS IN TOM HAS BEEN HIS PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES.

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THIS IMAGE OF TOM.

ALL RIGHT?

THERE'S A LITTLE SMILE, A LITTLE SMILE THERE, LISA SAYS.

OKAY.

BUT IN HIS EARLY YEARS, TOM WAS DESCRIBED AS A YOUNG ABE LINCOLN.

TALL AND LANKY.

LINCOLN DIDN'T SMILE MUCH EITHER.

CAN YOU SEE THE RESEMBLANCE?

[LAUGHTER]

>> BUT HERE IS A PHOTO THAT I WAS ABLE TO FIND OF TOM FROM HIS FIRST SECURITY BADGE ISSUED TO HIM RIGHT AS HE BEGAN WORKING AS CLERK, AND BEFORE EXPERIENCING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 2000.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WHAT DO YOU THINK?

[LAUGHTER]

>> DID HE SMILE?

[LAUGHTER]

>> NOW THERE IS ANOTHER PROMINENT CHANGE THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST 13 YEARS, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT TIM REFERRED TO.

THAT IS, THERE IS SOMETHING PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO TOM. HIS IPAD.

WHO HERE HAS SEEN TOM, OTHER THAN TODAY, WITHOUT IT?

[LAUGHTER]

>> WELL, I'M SAD TO SAY, TOM, THIS WAS A COURT-ISSUED IPAD.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE SURGICALLY REMOVED.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SERIOUSLY, AND TOM, AS WE KNOW IS SERIOUS, VERY SERIOUS.

TOM HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH FOR THE COURT.

THE APPELLATE COURTS AND THE COURT SYSTEM.

AND EVEN A STINT AS ACTING MARSHAL WHILE HE WAS ALSO CLERK, THAT TOM HALL HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA.

TOM, YOU WILL BE MISSED NOT ONLY BY THE JUSTICES OF THE COURT, THE APPELLATE JUDGES AND THE APPELLATE CLERKS, BUT ALSO BY ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS WHO HAVE CORRESPONDED WITH YOU--

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND CONSIDER YOU THEIR FRIEND.

AS ONE PRISONER WROTE IN THE SHORTEST HABEAS PETITION TOM RECEIVED DURING HIS TIME AS CLERK.

QUOTE, "I WANT OUT NOW!"

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT TOM SAID TO US, "I WANT OUT NOW!"

[LAUGHTER]

>> FINALLY, WE SEARCHED FOR THE MOST APPROPRIATE PICTURE FOR THE SOLEMN OCCASION, AND HERE IT IS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> ALL RIGHT.

TOM, WITH A BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE, WAVING GOOD-BYE.

TOM, YOU HAVE HAD A GREAT RIDE.

YOU HAVE WRANGLER WITH TECHNOLOGY.

YOU HAVE TAKEN THE BULLS BY THE HORN.

AND HAVE YOU LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH BULLS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WE WILL BE SORRY TO SEE YOU RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNSET, BUT WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COURT AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN ADVANCING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

THANK YOU, WILD MAN, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO US.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES CARYN BELLUS, CHAIRMAN OF THE APPELLATE PRACTICE TO THE FLORIDA BAR TO APPROACH FOR A PRESENTATION TO TOM.

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. THANK YOU CHIEF JUSTICE POLSTON, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COURT, FOR ALLOWING ME, ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLATE PRACTICE SESSION, TO RECOGNIZE TOM AND SOME MORE OF HIS INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

AS WE'VE HEARD TODAY, HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COURT, THE LEGAL SYSTEM, THE JUDICIARY, SIMPLY CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.

BUT THERE'S ONE MORE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH HIS EXTENSIVE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN KEY.

THE APPELLATE PRACTICE SESSION OF THE FLORIDA BAR, AND HIS UNENDING ASSISTANCE IN HELPING TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE APPELLATE JUDICIARY AND THE APPELLATE PRACTITIONERS. BEFORE BECOMING CLERK OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT IN 2000 AND AFTER LEAVING PRIVATE PRACTICE IN MIAMI.

TOM WAS A CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY AT THE FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS FOR TEN YEARS.

IT WAS AT THAT COURT THAT TOM
CAME UPON THE PRACTICE
SECTION SCENE.

SINCE THEN, HIS ONGOING
EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE.
FIRST 1997, TOM PLANNED FOR
AND INITIATED ONE OF OUR
SIGNATURES, KEY CLE EVENTS
THAT EXIST TO THIS DAY.

THE APPELLATE PRACTICE
WORKSHOP, SOMETIMES KNOWN AS
THE LEARNING THROUGH DOING
WORKSHOP.

BECAUSE OF TOM'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH STETSON UNIVERSITY AND
THE APPELLATE COURT, THE
SECTION HELD THE FIRST
WORKSHOP IN 1998.

FOR THOSE OF WHO YOU HAVE NOT
ATTENDED OR PARTICIPATED IN
THE PROGRAM, IT IS AN
INTENSIVE SKILLS WORKSHOP AND
INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY WHERE
THE LAWYERS WRITE MOCK BRIEFS
THAT ARE GRADED BY JUDGES.

WE HAVE MOCK ORAL ARGUMENTS
AND ATTORNEYS HAVE THE UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND WORK
WITH THE APPELLATE JUDGES IN
DEVELOPING AND HONING THEIR
APPELLATE PRACTICE SKILLS.

I ATTENDED IT IN 1999, THE
SECOND WORKSHOP.

IT WAS FANTASTIC.

HAVING THE ABILITY AS A YOUNG
LAWYER TO LEARN FROM JUDGES
AND JUSTICES WAS SIMPLY
INCREDIBLE AND IN LARGE PART
DUE TO TOM'S EFFORTS, AND
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I STILL HAVE THAT VIDEOTAPE
SOMEWHERE.

NOW DESPITE TOM'S RETIREMENT
FROM THE COURT TODAY, HE HAS
ALREADY VOLUNTEERED TO HELP
ME IN THE SECTION PUT ON
ANOTHER WORKSHOP NEXT SPRING,
SO WHEN YOU GET A CALL FROM
ME OR FROM TOM, DON'T TURN IT
DOWN, I'VE ALREADY TRIED TO

WRANGLE IN JUDGE WEBSTER
TODAY.

DON'T BE SURPRISED.

ON TOP OF THAT INCREDIBLE
PROGRAM, THE APPELLATE
PRACTICE SESSIONS PRO SE
HANDBOOK IS ANOTHER TOM
BRAINCHILD.

AFTER A YEAR OR SO OF
PLANNING, THE PRO SE HANDBOOK
WENT INTO PUBLICATION IN
2002, AND TO THIS DAY SERVES
AS A GUIDE FOR APPELLATE PRO
SE LITIGANTS BEFORE THE
FLORIDA COURTS.

TOM HAS ALSO BEEN
INSTRUMENTAL IN FACILITATING
THE ANNUAL DISCUSSION WITH
THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT AT
THE FLORIDA BAR ANNUAL
MEETING.

AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
THAT TOM KEPT THE APPELLATE
PRACTITIONERS UP TO DATE AND
INVOLVED AND KNOWING EVERY
DETAIL OF WHAT WAS GOING ON
IN THE PLANNING FOR E-FILING
AND MADE SURE WE ARE ALL UP
AND READY TO GO.

TOM ALSO SERVED AS AN OFFICER
BEGINNING 2001 FOR THE
SECTION AS A TREASURER, AND
EVEN SERVED TWO YEARS,
DELAYING HIS OWN ADVANCEMENT
IN THE SECTION, TWO YEARS AS
VICE CHAIR SO AS NOT TO
CONFLICT AS POSITION OF CHAIR
OF THE NATIONAL APPELLATE
COURT CLERKS ASSOCIATION AND
SERVED AS SECTION'S CHAIR IN
2005.

HE'S THE RECIPIENT OF THE
JAMES C. ADKINS AWARD
PRESENTED TO A SECTION MEMBER
WHO SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED
TO A PRACTICE SECTION IN THE
STATE OF FLORIDA.

WITHOUT DOUBT, TO SAY HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO APPELLATE
PRACTICE ARE SIGNIFICANT IS

AN UNDERSTATEMENT.
THIS SECTION'S PURPOSE IS TO
PROMOTE EXCELLENCE AND
PROFESSIONALISM IN APPELLATE
PRACTICE.
TOM EMBODIES EVERYTHING THAT
THE SECTION STRIVES TO
ACHIEVE.
IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT TOM
WITH THIS PLAQUE AND THANK
TOM FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE.
ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLATE
PRACTICE SESSION OF THE
FLORIDA BAR AND IN
RECOGNITION FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS CHAIR
FROM 2005-2006, WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SHARING THE NEXT
CHAPTER OF YOUR AMAZING
CAREER.
THANK YOU.
[APPLAUSE]
>> THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME
COURT, HONORABLE TOM HALL TO
APPROACH AND GIVE HIS
RESPONSE.
>>†MR.†CHIEF JUSTICE AND MAY
IT PLEASE THE COURT.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO
SPEAK AT MY OWN FUNERAL.
[LAUGHTER]
>> BUT I'M KIND OF GLAD I
DID.
AS I'VE TOLD MANY OF YOU, I
DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANT TO DO
THIS CEREMONY.
I REALLY GENERALLY DON'T LIKE
THEM, AND I CERTAINLY DON'T
LIKE THEM ABOUT ME, BUT ONE
EVENING I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM
THE CHIEF SAYING TO REMIND ME
TO TALK TO HIM THE NEXT DAY
ABOUT MY RETIREMENT CEREMONY,
AND JOHN THOMASINO IS GOING
TO BE THE NEW CLERK.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIP.
IF YOU RESPOND TO THOSE
E-MAILS AT NIGHT, THEY
RESPOND BACK.
[LAUGHTER]

>> SO I RESPONDED AND SAID,
WELL, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO
DO IT, BUT I WILL COME TALK
TO YOU ABOUT IT.

THE CHIEF RESPONDED AND SAID,
WELL, COME SEE ME TOMORROW,
AND I'LL TRY TO TALK YOU INTO
IT, WHICH I KNEW MEANT I
WASN'T GETTING OUT OF IT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SO AT ANY RATE, I DID GO
TALK TO HIM AND I SAID, WELL,
I DEFINITELY WANT TO DO IT,
TOLD ME WHAT THEY HAD IN
MIND.

IT WAS GOING TO BE IN THE
COURTROOM, AND ONE OF THE
THINGS I ASKED HIM WAS WELL,
IF IT'S IN THE COURTROOM, CAN
WE CLOSE THE CLERK'S OFFICE?

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE
CEREMONIES, THEY ALL TAKE
PLACE, EVERYBODY IS IN HERE
AND HAVING A GOOD TIME AND
THERE'S OFTEN A RECEPTION AND
FOOD AND EVERYTHING, BUT
WHILE THAT'S GOING ON, THE
CLERK'S OFFICE IS DOWN THE
HALL WORKING AND NEVER EVEN
GETS TO SEE THE CEREMONIES
LET ALONE TAKE PART IN THEM.
HE AGREED WE COULD CLOSE THE
CLERK'S OFFICE.

BUT YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY CLOSE
THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

SO LUCKILY TODAY THERE IS
SOMEBODY FROM THE LIBRARY
SITTING IN, AND IF THERE'S
ANY PLEADINGS COME IN,
THEY'RE SITTING THERE TO TAKE
THEM, ANSWERING PHONES,
TAKING MESSAGES, AND
MR. †CHIEF JUSTICE, WE HAVE A
PROCEDURE IN PLACE IN CASE
THERE IS AN EMERGENCY THAT
COMES IN.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SO I COULDN'T BRING MY
IPAD IN, BUT I'VE GOT MY
PHONE.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SO IN CASE YOU HEAR BUZZING OVER THERE AT THE CHIEF DEPUTY AREA OR MY PHONE, WE MAY HAVE AN EMERGENCY.

AND, OF COURSE, IF IT'S A REAL TRUE EMERGENCY, WE HAVE TO GET THE COURT OFF THE BENCH.

SO I HAVE MY LITTLE NOTE READY THAT PROTOCOL SAYS I WOULD HANDLE THE MARSHAL.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND LUCKILY I'VE ONLY HAD TO DO THAT ONCE IN MY CAREER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> THE REAL REASON, THOUGH, THAT I AGREED TO DO THIS WAS BECAUSE RATHER THAN REALLY RECOGNIZING ME, THIS IS A RECOGNITION OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE, AND MAY BE TOUGH FOR ME TO GET THROUGH THIS, BUT THE REAL, REAL, REAL REASON THEY WAS ABLE TO DO ALL THAT I DID WAS BECAUSE OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE. I WOULD LIKE EVERYBODY WHO'S EVER WORKED IN THE SUPREME COURT CLERK'S OFFICE TO STAND UP AND RECOGNIZE THEM.

[APPLAUSE]

>> YOU'LL ALSO NOTE WE GOT RESERVED SEATING FOR THE CLERK'S OFFICE WHICH NORMALLY DOESN'T HAPPEN EITHER.

[LAUGHTER]

>> YOU ALWAYS IF YOU MENTION SOMEBODY YOU RISK OVERLOOKING PEOPLE.

THERE'S A FEW I HAVE TO MENTION.

SARAH GAINNEY IS HERE.

SARAH IS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON THEY LET US CLOSE THE CLERK'S OFFICE, AND I WAS HERE 13 YEARS AND SID WAS HERE 35 YEARS.

SARAH WAS HERE 46 YEARS AND 9

MONTHS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO REALLY MADE IT WORK AND WHO REALLY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO ALL THOSE OTHER THINGS WERE THE CHIEF DEPUTY CLERKS.

DEBBIE CASSAU, TANYA CARROLL AND SUSAN MORELY.

REAL REASON I COULD BE GONE IS BECAUSE THEY COULD RUN THE CLERK'S OFFICE WITHOUT ME, AND THEY DID ON MANY, MANY OCCASIONS.

I HAVE TO TELL ONE STORY FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CASE.

JUDGE JOHN NEWTON, ON THANKSGIVING DAY, I WAS WATCHING CNN, AND HE CAME UP AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND WE WERE WATCHING TV, AND SO HE CALLED, AND I SAID WHAT'S GOING ON?

HE SAID JOHN IS HERE TO FILE SOME NEW EMERGENCY CASE, AND IT WAS THANKSGIVING DAY, AND I JUST PUT THE TURKEY IN THE OVEN, AT MY HOUSE.

I'M THE GUY WHO DOES THE TURKEY.

HER MOM DOESN'T DO IT. SHE'S ALLERGIC TO POULTRY AND COULDN'T HAVE TURKEY.

I'M THE ONE WHO DOES THE TURKEY.

THE COURT HAD SPLIT BECAUSE WE ISSUED OPINION ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THE COURT -- IT WAS THANKSGIVING EVENING, THE COURT SCATTERED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

DEBBIE AND I CAME IN, GOT THE PLEADINGS TO THE COURT WHEREVER THEY WERE, AND THE COURT REACHED A RULING AND WE WERE GOING TO ISSUE AN ORDER, AND DEBBIE AND I WERE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND STARTED TO

ISSUE THE ORDER AND REALIZED NEITHER ONE OF US COULD DO AN ORDER THROUGH THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, SO DEBBIE TYPED IT IN WORD, AND WE ISSUED IT THAT WAY.

THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD GET IT OUT.

IT POINTS OUT WE NEEDED ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO BE THERE TOO.

YOU JUST CAN'T HAVE THE MANAGEMENT.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE REGULAR PEOPLE THERE DAY TO DAY.

THE OTHER PERSON I REALLY HAVE TO MENTION IS VICKY, MY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

WHEN WE GOT THE POSITION THERE WOULD BE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE -- I NEVER TOLD VICKY THIS STORY -- I PICKED SOMEBODY ELSE I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HIRE, AND DEBBIE AND BARBARA AND TANYA AND STACY CAME IN AND SAID YOU GOT IT WRONG.

YOU GOT TO HIRE VICKY.

[LAUGHTER]

>> SO I HIRED VICKY, AND TURNED OUT TO BE PROBABLY THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

THANK YOU, VICKY.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED, I WORKED FOR EIGHT CHIEF JUSTICES AND A TOTAL OF 13 JUSTICES AND, TO A PERSON, THEY HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY GREAT TO WORK WITH; AND TO A PERSON, EVERY ONE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICES HAS ALLOWED ME TO RUN THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND DO MY JOB AS CLERK.

THEY PROBABLY HAVEN'T ALWAYS AGREED WITH EVERYTHING I DID OR EVERY DECISION I EVER

MADE, BUT REALLY STAYED OUT AND LET ME RUN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, WHICH I AM VERY, VERY MUCH APPRECIATIVE.

I WANT TO THANK THE SPEAKERS. I APPRECIATE THAT EVERY ONE OF YOU AGREED TO SPEAK ON MY BEHALF, AND I PERSONALLY ASKED EACH ONE OF THEM TO DO IT.

BILL AND I HAVE -- FORMER NAVY PEOPLE.

WE BONDED IN THE CLERK'S ASSOCIATION AND HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER REALLY, REALLY WELL.

HE MENTIONED THAT HIGH-PROFILE THING HE DID. HE MADE ONE SLIGHT MISTAKE. ONE OTHER PERSON WAS IN ON THE PRESENTATION AND THAT WAS JOHN WHEELER, THE CLERK OF THE FIRST DCA, AND JOHN WAS -- IF YOU KNOW JOHN, HE AND I ARE VERY, VERY DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND WORK IN VERY, VERY DIFFERENT WAY, BUT WE'VE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS OVER THE YEARS AND WORK EXTREMELY WELL TOGETHER, AND WE PUT IN A LOT OF HARD TIME ON THAT.

TO THIS DAY, I'M PROUD THAT, UP UNTIL THIS YEAR, THAT WAS THE ONLY PRESENTATION THAT EVER GOT A STANDING OVATION AT A CLERK'S CONFERENCE.

AND JOHN WAS THE MAIN DRIVER OF PUTTING ALL THE PAPERWORK TOGETHER, AND WE CREATED THIS BOOKLET HOW TO HANDLE A HIGH-PROFILE CASE, AND WE HANDED IT OUT TO ALL THE CLERKS, AND I STILL HAVE MINE, I LOOKED AT IT A FEW DAYS AGO, AND IT HOLDS UP WELL.

ALL THE STUFF WE PUT IN THERE IS APPLICABLE TODAY, EXCEPT THE TECHNOLOGY HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY.

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CELL
PHONE BACK THEN.
SHOWS HOW DIFFERENT IT WAS.
AS EVERYBODY SAID, IT'S
REALLY, REALLY CHANGED A LOT
OVER THE YEARS.
THE TECHNOLOGY IS SO
DIFFERENT THAN IT IS NOW.
IT'S TRUE, WE OPERATE WITH
OUR IPADS AND IPHONES AND
CARRY THEM AROUND EVERYWHERE
WE GO.
WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE
COURT ANY TIME.
WE HAD AN EMERGENCY, AND I
SENT OUT AN E-MAIL AND SAID I
NEED TO HEAR FROM A JUSTICE.
LITERALLY WITHIN 30 SECONDS I
GOT E-MAILS BACK FROM FOUR OF
THE SEVEN, AND THEN THE REST,
AND THEY WERE SCATTERED
AROUND THE COUNTRY.
IT'S A REALLY, REALLY
DIFFERENT WORLD.
THE WORK IN THE CLERK'S
OFFICE IS THE SAME.
AS TIM MENTIONED -- AND I USE
THAT SAME ANALOGY ALL THE
TIME.
IT'S LIKE A CONVEYOR BELT.
IT NEVER STOPS.
IT KEEPS GOING, THE CASES
KEEP COMING IN, GOING OUT,
AND THE CLERK'S OFFICE NEVER,
EVER GETS A BREAK OF THAT.
IT'S PART OF THE MENTALITY
THAT YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH,
THE NEXT THING COMING DOWN
THE CONVEYOR BELT, NO MATTER
WHAT IT IS.
THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE
I'D LIKE TO THANK AND FIRST
AND FOREMOST IS MY FAMILY.
NOBODY EVER GETS TO DO WHAT I
DID UNLESS YOUR FAMILY GIVES
YOU FULL SUPPORT.
THEY HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL THE
WHOLE TIME.
[APPLAUSE]
>> I HAVE TWO SONS, MY OLDER

SON TROY COULDN'T MAKE IT TODAY.

HE'S A FORMER EAGLE SCOUT, HIGHLY DECORATED WAR VETERAN FROM THE FIRST GULF WAR. WHEN GENERAL SCHWARTZKOPF TALKED ABOUT THE HAIL MARY THING, AND THE GROUP WENT INTO IRAQ TO DIVERT THEM, THAT WAS MY SON'S SQUADRON. AND HE WAS REALLY IN THE LINE OF FIRE, AND THERE WERE A LOT OF SLEEPLESS NIGHTS IN OUR HOUSEHOLD.

HE MADE IT BACK, AND HE'S FINE AND HAS HIS OWN BUSINESS NOW, AND HE RECENTLY MOVED TO PENSACOLA, SO WE GET TO SEE HIM A LOT MORE NOW.

MY SON MATT IS A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL -- COLLEGE, SORRY, MATT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IF YOU LOOK AT THE PICTURE WHEN HE'S SWORN IN, HE'S ABOUT THAT TALL AND DOING ABSOLUTELY GREAT IN COLLEGE. THE THING I WANT TO SAY ABOUT BOTH OF THEM IS, ALTHOUGH THEY'RE BOYS AND DONE THE TYPICAL THING EVERY TEENAGED BOY DOES AS A TEENAGER, THEY HAVE NEVER GIVEN ME A SERIOUS MOMENT OF WORRY.

THEY ARE BOTH GREAT SONS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AND THAT, OF COURSE LEAVES LISA, AND MY MOTHER-IN-LAW ANN; BUT LISA, I SAID THIS ABOUT HER BEFORE, THAT GOD SENT HER TO FIND ME, AND IT'S BEEN A GREAT RELATIONSHIP AND IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR 24TH ANNIVERSARY.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AND, OF COURSE, THIS IS TYPICAL OF US.

ONE OR THE BOTH OF US IS ACTUALLY GOING TO BE OUT OF

TOWN, SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND FOR THOSE WHO KNOW, OVER THE PAST COUPLE YEARS, THE PERSON WHO I THINK HAS CONTRIBUTED AS MUCH OR MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE TO THE COURT SYSTEM IN THE STATE IS MY WIFE LISA, IN HELPING TO RUN DEMOCRACY AT STAKE AT FAIR AND IMPARTIAL COURTS AND SHE'S GOING TO CONTINUE THAT WORK AND I'M GOING TO WORK FOR HER DOING THAT.

OF COURSE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW ANN, WHO IS ALWAYS THERE, TAKEN CARE OF MATT FROM THE TIME HE WAS LITTLE, PICKED HIM UP FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY, WAS ALWAYS THERE TO SUPPORT; AND MY FATHER-IN-LAW BOB WHO PASSED AWAY LAST DECEMBER, I WISH HE COULD HAVE BEEN HERE TODAY.

UNFORTUNATELY HE CAN'T, BUT I KNOW HE'S WATCHING.

MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY A COUPLE YEARS AGO.

MY DAD ESPECIALLY WAS -- THEY'RE FROM OHIO, AND IN OHIO WE'RE LIKE THE TRIAL COURT CLERKS ARE ELECTED. THEY HAVE A UNIQUE SYSTEM THAT THE TRIAL COURT CLERK SERVES AS THE CLERK OF THE APPELLATE COURT IN THEIR DISTRICT.

SO FOR EXAMPLE, HERE BOB ENZER WOULD BE THE CLERK OF THE FIRST DISTRICT.

SO WHEN MY DAD -- IN HIS LATER YEARS, AFTER I WAS CLERK -- WOULD INTRODUCE ME, HE WOULD INTRODUCE ME AS A POLITICIAN.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED TO CONVINCHE HIM I WASN'T, I WAS APPOINTED AND

ALL THAT STUFF, HE WOULD STILL SAY, "HERE'S MY SON TOM, HE'S A POLITICIAN."

[LAUGHTER]

>> A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TALKED ABOUT E-FILING. I WAS QUOTED IN THE VERY FIRST BAR NEWS AFTER I BECAME CLERK AND SAID I WOULD LIKE TO GET THE COURT INTO E-FILING.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND 20 YEARS LATER I WAS QUOTED SAYING I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WHILE I'M CLERK.

LUCKILY WE DID.

ON FEBRUARY 27TH WE STARTED FILING E-FILING HERE IN THE COURT THROUGH THE STATEWIDE PORTAL AND COURTNEY BREWER, WHO I THINK I SAW IN THE AUDIENCE, SHE ACTUALLY FILED THE VERY FIRST E-FILING HERE AT THE SUPREME COURT.

AND AS CLERK, OF COURSE, I TOOK EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE AND DOCKETED IT MYSELF.

NOW I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY SURE I SCREWED IT UP.

[LAUGHTER]

>> AND BARBARA HARLEY, SITTING IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE LONGER THAN ANYBODY ELSE AND I THINK IS A FOURTH-GENERATION PERSON WHO WORKED AT THE SUPREME COURT. SHE'S THE ONE DOING DOCKETING AT THAT TIME.

EVERY TIME I MENTION I SCREWED IT UP -- AS SHE'S DOING NOW -- SHE LOOKS AT ME AND SMILES.

SHE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING. SHE'S NOT GOING TO TELL ME IF I SCREWED IT UP OR NOT.

I'M PRETTY SURE I DID SCREW IT UP.

AS TIM SAID, IT'S A MONUMENTAL PROJECT FOR A

STATEWIDE E-FILING PORTAL.
THERE IS NO STATE OUR SIZE
ATTEMPTING TO DO IT, LET
ALONE PULLING IT OFF.

SO I'M PROUD OF THE WORK
WE'VE DONE ON THAT.
WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH TIM
AND THE OTHER TRIAL COURT
CLERKS.

IT'S BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE,
AND I LOVE GETTING TO KNOW
ALL OF THEM AND THE PROBLEMS
THEY HAVE WITH THE TRIAL
PORTAL, AND IT'S BEEN A GREAT
EXPERIENCE.

IN CLOSING, ONE OF THE BEST
CEREMONIES TO HAVE IN THE
COURTROOM IS THE TOBIAS SIMON
AWARD. IT HONORS A LOT OF
PEOPLE.

SANDY IS ONE OF THE
RECIPIENTS OF THAT AWARD.
AND A FEW YEARS AGO THERE WAS
A LAWYER WHO TALKED ABOUT
EVERYTHING HE DID AND CAME UP
AND HE WAS A WHITE LAWYER WHO
MOSTLY REPRESENTED POOR
AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HAD
DONE IT FOR YEARS AND YEARS
AND YEARS AT A TIME WHEN IT'S
NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR WHITE
LAWYERS TO REPRESENT BLACK
CLIENTS, AND HE DID IT FOR
YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS,
AND PEOPLE WHO GET THAT AWARD
COME UP AND DO -- LIKE I'VE
DONE, THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR
FAMILY AND THANK ALL THESE
PEOPLE, AND THIS PARTICULAR
LAWYER CAME UP AND GAVE THIS
SHORT SPEECH IN WHICH HE
SAID, HE WAS JUST DOING WHAT
HE THOUGHT WAS RIGHT, AND HE
DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY WAS
WATCHING, AND SAT DOWN.
TO PARAPHRASE THAT, I THINK
OVER THE YEARS I'VE BEEN
DOING WHAT I THOUGHT WAS MY
JOB, AND I TRIED TO DO IT
RIGHT, AND I DIDN'T KNOW THAT

MANY PEOPLE WERE LOOKING.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> ON BEHALF OF THE COURT, I
WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF
YOU FOR BEING HERE TO HONOR
TOM TODAY, AND TO EXTEND TO
YOU AN INVITATION ON HIS
BEHALF TO JOIN US AT THE
HOTEL DUVAL FOR OUR RECEPTION
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS
CEREMONY.

THE COURT IS NOW ADJOURNED.

>> ALL RISE.