



THE UNITED STATES
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Inside this Issue:

IN MEMORIAM:
HON. JOEL A. PISANO

DNJ MAGISTRATE ELEVATIONS-A
TESTAMENT TO THE COURT
BY JOSEPH L. LINARES, ESQ. &
HON. JOHN W. BISSELL (DNJ,
RET.)

TWO EXTRAORDINARY PATHS:
THE ASCENT OF JUDGE PATTY
SHWARTZ AND JUDGE ROBERT E.
COWEN

DNJ CELEBRATES HISTORIC
SWEARING-IN OF SEVEN NEW
MAGISTRATES
NICOLE PEAKS

On Behalf of The Historical Society:
Nicole M. Peaks, Librarian
Interim Editor



In Memoriam



Hon. Joel A. Pisano (ret.)

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Hon. Joel Pisano (ret.) on Friday, February 26, 2021. Tributes from friends and colleagues were circulated through the District of New Jersey Historical Society members. Former Chief Judge John W. Bissell, DNJ, wrote: "Joel was a valued colleague whose counsel I could always rely upon. He served our Court so capably, both as a Magistrate Judge and District Judge, with just the right touch. Rest In Peace my dear friend."

This sentiment was echoed by another former Chief Judge Garrett Brown, “Judge Pisano was a good friend, an excellent judge and an esteemed and unforgettable member of our Court.”

Joel A Pisano was born March 3, 1949, in Orange, NJ, to Salvatore Pisano and Rita W. Bergonzi Pisano. He graduated from Lafayette college in Easton PA (BA, 1971) and received his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark (JD, 1974). His summer job following college graduation was as School Custodian at his former high school in Belleville.

Judge Pisano lived a life of service to others, he wrote on his Judicial Committee questionnaire:

I was a charter member of the Optimist Club of Belleville, which is an organization dedicated to performing community service. I participated in many club activities including awarding scholarships to deserving graduating high school students and participating in lunch programs and walk-a-thons on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of New Jersey. I regularly serve as an umpire in the Newark Fresh Air Fund softball tournament, in which many local law firms compete for the benefit of the Fund's programs.

After law school, he began his legal career as Assistant Deputy Public Defender for New Jersey Office of the Public Defender (1974-1978). Judge Pisano was involved in Essex County politics in the 1980s as chairman of a coalition group that helped former Montclair Mayor Robert Russo win the race for Essex County District 5 freeholder. He also served as member and chairman of the Belleville Board of Adjustment (1978-1985). During this time, he worked in private practice (1978-1991) until taking the bench as a U.S. Magistrate Judge December 11, 1991.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton appointed Joel Pisano to the District of New Jersey as successor to Maryanne Trump Barry who had been confirmed to serve on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Pisano began his time on the bench commuting to Camden after the Senate confirmed the four and a half year long delayed nomination of former U.S Attorney Faith Hochberg who was then assigned to the vacancy in Newark.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the late Senator Frank Lautenberg offered these words:

This is a good day for New Jersey. I am so pleased the Senate has confirmed the appointment of an outstanding citizen of our State, Joel Pisano, for a seat on the U.S. District Court for New Jersey. He is a competent, thorough, well-thought-of individual. Magistrate Pisano's depth of experience and organizational skills are exactly what we need at a time-when staggering caseloads are making it more and more difficult for our Federal judges to spend as much time with each case

as they would like to. Joel Pisano can tackle this kind of challenge with energy to spare.

Despite having never clerked for a judge prior to taking the bench, Judge Pisano was viewed by Senators Lautenberg and Robert Torricelli as an excellent addition to the Article III judges having had experience with a wide variety of cases including patent and trademarks, environment clean-up disputes, anti-trust, securities litigation, and employment discrimination, and civil RICO matters. As a Magistrate, he was used to performing many duties of a District Court Judge, having managed nearly 600 pretrial proceedings in civil matters.

Judge Pisano had a reputation for competence and commitment. He consistently impressed the attorneys who appeared before him.

From John Azarello, Esq. -*Judge Pisano was a man who possessed a keen intellect, a good sense of humor and great compassion for others. He never forgot where he came from and always made all litigants feel welcome in his courtroom. Win, lose or draw, you always knew you would be treated fairly in Judge Pisano's courtroom. May his soul Rest In Peace.*

Donald Robinson, who has appeared regularly before Judge Pisano told northjersy.com: "His death leaves a void in what we call the federal family. He was very active in bar affairs, and very active as a judge and as a mediator. He will be missed greatly."

He was well-respected and demonstrated a capacity for fairness and thorough understanding of the law. In the New Jersey Law Journal and Almanac of the Federal Judiciary surveys he was praised for his skills in managing cases, his efficiency in moving the calendar quickly and "street-wise" nature from prior experience as a trial attorney.

Judge Pisano was confirmed by a vote of 95-2 and received his commission on February 16, 2000. He retired from service February 16, 2015.

He received the Seton Hall University School of Law, Distinguished Graduate Award (2001) and the Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Law Society, Outstanding Achievement Award (2004).

In 2015, The Judicial Conference of the United States adopted a resolution recognizing "with appreciation, respect, and admiration...the substantial contributions made by Hon. Joel A. Pisano as Chair of the Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System."

Appointed by the Chief Justice of the United State, he was noted as an "outstanding jurist" who played a vital role in the administration of the federal court system. He served with distinction as leader of his Judicial Conference committee while, at the same time continuing to perform duties as a judge. He set a standard of skilled leadership and earned deep respect and sincere gratitude for innumerable

contributions and dedicated service to the Judicial Conference and to the entire federal judiciary.

The Essex County Bar Association named him Professional Lawyer of the Year (2016).

The Boy Scouts of America honored Judge Pisano in 2018 at its Legal Services Awards dinner for outstanding legal professionals. The award recognized Judge Pisano for “leadership and interests within the legal services industry, for embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in his personal and professional life.” The event chair, Dennis Toft stated, “Boy Scouts of America is dedicated to building character, providing training in the duties of citizenship and, in so doing, building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. This year’s honorees embody that very same dedication. By demonstrating, time and again, exemplary leadership, model citizenship, and steadfast commitment to the community, each of the five honorees reflects perfectly all that Boy Scouts of America represents.”

He was a sought-after public speaker who served as Judge for Seton Hall University Law School Gibbons Moot Court Competition and the Rutgers University Law School Trial Advocacy Course. He was an avid supporter of the Volunteer lawyers for Justice. A year after his retirement, he was appointed as Ethical Practices Officer for the International Longshoremen’s Association. At the time he remarked, *“As the Ethical Practices Counsel, I will be committed to ensuring the ILA is free from corruption and organized crime influence through my thorough investigations and prompt responses to complaints and inquiries from ILA members. I look forward to serving the ILA membership in my new position.”*

His former law partner Liza M. Walsh shared her reflections, “Judge Pisano and his wife Elizabeth, my husband William Walsh and I have been friends for over 30 years. For the last five years Joel and I practiced law together. Joel was a wise counselor and a dear friend to all who came to know him during his time in private practice, his many years of public service on the federal bench, and as a mediator and arbitrator. He lived life to the fullest. He will be missed by all who were lucky to have known him. My firm, my family and I were among the lucky ones.”

He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years Elizabeth Breckenridge Pisano. The Pisanos fell in love with the Lowcountry from Pat Conroy’s books. They moved to Beaufort, South Carolina, where his wife volunteered at the Conroy Literary Center. Per his obituary, they both enjoyed playing golf, travel, reading and cooking.

In sharing the news of his passing, Keith J. Miller, Esq. summed up the consensus among his friends and colleagues, “A great Judge, a fine man, and a friend to all of us. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.”

Sources:

[Confirmation hearings on federal appointments: hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress, first session, on confirmation of appointees to the federal judiciary.](#)

[2015 Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States 1 \(2015\)](#)

[146 Cong. Rec. \(2000\), S1062-64 Part 1](#)

[146 Cong Rec S584-89 \(Feb 10, 2000\)](#)

[northjersey.com/story/obituaries/2021/02/28/joel-pisano](#)

[Obit Hon. Joel A. Pisano](#)

Tributes to Judge Pisano from members of the Historical Society:

I was so saddened yesterday to hear about Joel. He faced his illness with courage, grace and, almost unbelievably, an upbeat attitude. He was a fantastic judge and person. I will miss him.

-Hon. Joseph Dickson, USMJ (ret)

This is such terrible news. Joel was a valued colleague whose counsel I could always rely upon. He served our Court so capably, both as a Magistrate Judge and District Judge, with just the right touch. Rest In Peace my dear friend. -Former Chief Judge Jack Bissell, DNJ (ret)

Judge Pisano was a good friend, an excellent judge and an esteemed and unforgettable member of our Court. -Former Chief Judge Garrett Brown, DNJ (ret)

Such a good friend, and an accomplished person who never lost the common touch. We will miss him. -Hon. Leda Dunn Wettre, USMJ

I just heard myself so very sad. Judge Pisano was such an amazing person and such a great judge. I Had my first Initial appearance in his courtroom. A story I just told judge Martinotti the other day. Who remembers when both he and Judge Cavanaugh were honored by seton hall together what an amazing time. One of the great ones "I'm sure he is up there with Judge Politan having a beverage"
-Stacy Biancamano, Esq.

It is just a sad day for us all. -Susan Travis, Management Specialist, Clerk's Office, DNJ Judge Pisano was a man who possessed a keen intellect, a good sense of humor and great compassion for others. He never forgot where he came from and always made all litigants feel welcome in his



courtroom. Win, lose or draw, you always knew you would be treated fairly in Judge Pisano's courtroom. May his soul Rest In Peace. -John Azzarello, Esq.

I just learned that Joel Pisano passed away today. A great Judge, a fine man, and a friend to all of us. He will be missed. May he rest in peace. -Keith J. Miller, Esq.

Judge Pisano and his wife Elizabeth, my husband William Walsh and I have been friends for over 30 years. For the last five years Joel and I practiced law together. Joel was a wise counselor and a dear friend to all who came to know him during his time in private practice, his many years of public service on the federal bench, and as a mediator and arbitrator. He lived life to the fullest. He will be missed by all who were lucky to have known him. My firm, my family and I were among the lucky ones. -Liza Walsh, Esq.

DNJ's Magistrate Elevations – a testament to the Court

By: Joseph L. Linares, Esq. & Hon. John W. Bissell (U.S.D.J., *Ret.*)



The last couple of decades have seen United States District Court appointments hail from the current Magistrate bench. What has become common in this district is not being repeated in other Districts; and with good reason – the qualifications, service and training of the DNJ magistrate bench is routinely heralded by practitioners within and outside of New Jersey. Further, the District Court Judge's reliance on and collaboration with the Magistrate Judges has proven effective at marshaling the loaded dockets levied on an understaffed bench. Indeed, the respect shared between the Magistrate and Article III Judges in this district is palpable.

The number of Magistrate Judges receiving Presidential appointments to serve as U.S. District Judges has increased over the past couple of decades resulting in the Magistrate Bench servings as a pseudo farm system from which Presidential appointments hail. The transition of many of the Magistrate Judges to District Court Judges has been smooth and often accompanied by a naturally truncated learning curve due to familiarity.

In 1985, Hon. Robert E. Cowen became the first Magistrate appointed to serve as a District Court Judge. Most recently, Hon. Madeline C. Arleo made the jump from magistrate to District Court Judge in 2015. Indeed, thirteen Article I jurists have been appointed as District Judges in the District of New Jersey including sitting Judges Arelo, Shipp (2012), Salas (2011), Cecchi (2011), Wigenton (2006), Wolfson (2002), and Chesler (2002). Forty percent of the District Judges appointed since 1985 have come from the magistrate bench. Whether viewed on a percentage basis or in terms of the number itself, the upward trend of Magistrate Judges elevations ranks among the highest in the country. As detailed herein, this is no accident. 28 U.S.C. § 636 and 18 USC § 3401 are the legislative embodiments which create the position of Magistrate Judge (formerly titled U.S. Magistrate.) These

statutes enumerate most powers of this Article I judicial officer. Typically, a U.S. District Court, through its local rules, further defines the responsibilities of Magistrate Judges in a given District. The practices of the District Judges in that Court (either individually or collectively) often further refine the duties and authority of its Magistrate Judges. To the extent that authority is narrowed, or duties are (or appear to be) menial, the position of Magistrate Judge is, necessarily, less attractive to a practicing attorney exploring a possible judicial career as is true for some neighboring districts.

In the District of New Jersey, however, the Local Rules confer upon our Magistrate Judges the full measure of duties and authority authorized by statute. These rules include, *inter alia*, Local Civil Rules 72.1 and 73.1, and Local Criminal Rules 5.1 and 58.1. Of equal importance, District of New Jersey Judges, in practice, look to the Magistrate Judges to exercise these powers. With respect to magistrate duties in civil cases, the Magistrate Judges address all aspects of pretrial case management with a heavy focus on the increasingly complex discovery subjects. Magistrate Judges also adjudicate many non-dispositive motions and, at the request of the presiding District Judge, prepare reports and recommendations for consideration by both the Court and counsel on motions and other aspects of a case where a District Judge's ruling is required. Indeed, where consented to by the parties, the Magistrate Judges may handle full disposition of certain matter.

LOCAL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL RULES
OF THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY



With Revisions as of December 5, 2022

Magistrate Judges in the District of New Jersey regularly conduct settlement conferences at many stages of a case as it winds its way to potential summary judgment or trial. Although not addressed specifically here, federal statutes and rules also confer considerable authority to Magistrate Judges in criminal cases, which the DNJ's Local Criminal Rules reiterate. This empowerment of Magistrate Judges frees the District Judges to focus their attention on criminal trials and sentences, and dispositive motions and trials in civil cases, which an Article III Judge must address. Given the current judicial crisis and vacancies in the District of New Jersey, the Magistrate Judges continue to play a more vital role in the administration of justice.

Conversations with judicial officers of other Districts confirms that the tasks undertaken by Magistrate Judges outside of the District of New Jersey are considerably less challenging or significant. Indeed, many attorneys admitted *pro hac vice* are often surprised at the level of sophistication and autonomy exhibited by DNJ Magistrate Judges. When a magistrate vacancy occurs in this

District, seasoned practitioners who have likely practiced before these jurists, are attracted to apply to (e.g. most recently Magistrate Judge Wettre). It has become commonplace for this District to receive competing and impressive candidate submissions for the magistrate bench; especially because it has proven to be a pipeline to an Article III appointment.

This District's culture welcomes new Magistrate Judges as a full partner of all of our judicial officers. Because the new Magistrate Judge is usually well known by most if not all of the District Judges and brings experience as a respected attorney in this Court, assimilation to the Bench is fluid. No hint of a status inferior to that of the District Judges attached to the Magistrate Judge position is perceived by local practitioners.

When a District Judge vacancy occurs, and we now have a few, a sitting Magistrate Judge has certain advantages in the pursuit of the position as compared to magistrates pursuing Article III appointments in other Districts including familiarity with the nature of our cases (civil and criminal) and practitioners. Naturally, a sitting Magistrate Judge has had the opportunity to earn the respect of the bench and bar, and render decisions in cases drawing public attention displaying the skills, intellect and quality of work expected of District Judge. While the selection and appointment process has too many variables (and too many variations from case to case), a sitting Magistrate Judge in the District of New Jersey is fully qualified by training and experience to take the next step on the judicial ladder. Furthermore, when word comes that a Magistrate Judge is "on the list" of prospective appointees to the District Court, attorneys who know and respect that judge will frequently support that nomination. The natural byproduct of these factors is a substantial number of appointments from the ranks of Magistrate Judges.

To some extent, the elevation of Magistrate Judges has become a self-fulfilling prophecy as the potential for District Court appointment plays a role, at the outset, in the decision of whether or not to apply for a Magistrate Judgeship. Undoubtedly, this prospect of potential elevation, together with the duties, authority and stature of the Magistrate Judge position in our Court, encourages experienced and skilled attorneys to apply for the position, knowing it is not simply dead-end judicial service.

It is no surprise that the saturation of talent on the magistrate bench has yielded an unprecedented number of District Court appointments. Once a member of the bench, a District of New Jersey Magistrate will be given the opportunity, authority and a certain level of autonomy which promote advancement to a District Judge. Their distinguished service as District Judges proves the wisdom of our continuing to promote our Magistrate Judges to the role of District Judge. Given the current judicial vacancies, it would not be surprising to see one or more filled by sitting Magistrate Judges. Indeed, many would benefit from such appointment(s).

TWO EXTRAORDINARY PATHS

The Ascent of Judge Patty Shwartz and Judge Robert E. Cowen



Hon. Robert E. Cowen



Hon. Patty Shwartz

Federal Court Judges (e.g. U.S. Supreme Court Justices, U.S. Court of Appeals Judges, Federal District Court Judges) are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate pursuant to the Appointments Clause in Article II of the United States Constitution. Because each Judge is a political appointee, no prescribed path exists to become a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge. Within the Third Circuit, a review of the biographies of the sitting Judges, as published by the Federal Judicial Center¹, reveal the two common paths to the Circuit Bench.

The first path is best summarized as a *per se* judicial progression. Under this path, the Jurist receives an initial Presidential appointment, which elevates he or she to United States District Judge. The appointees were elevated from State Court judgeships, Federal Magistrate judgeships, private practice, public service, or academia². After serving in the United States District Court, the respective Judges received a subsequent Presidential appointment to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

1. <http://www.fjc.gov/history/judges>

2. Current Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judges who judicially progressed: Judge Marryanne Trump Barry, Judge Robert E. Cowen, Judge Joseph A. Greenaway Jr., Judge Thomas Michael Hardiman, Judge Richard Lowell Nygaard, Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, Judge Jane Richards Roth, Judge Anthony Joseph Scirica, Judge Thomas Ignatius Vanaskie

The second path is best summarized as a direct appointment. Under this path the Judges were appointed directly to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals from State Court judgeships, pri-vate practice, public service, or academia³.

Two remarkable examples of seemingly direct appointment can be seen through the ascension of the Hon. Robert E. Cowen, U.S.C.J. and the Hon. Patty Shwartz, U.S.C.J. Judge Cowen ascended to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in a rather accelerated example of judicial progression. At the age of 55, Judge Cowen received an appointment to the Federal District Court. Less than two years later he was elevated to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, one month shy of reaching his 57 birthday.

Judge Cowen was appointed to a new seat created by “The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act of 1984”⁴(The “Bankruptcy Act”). The Bankruptcy Act was passed in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Northern Pipeline Construction Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co.*, 458 U.S. 50 (1982) which limited the power of Congress to assign adjudicative authority of Article III Judges to Federal bankruptcy judges⁵.

Prior to the act, such authority had been vested in non-Article III adjuncts⁶. The Bankruptcy Act established new Federal Bankruptcy Judge positions in each district, and allowed the Federal Courts to refer bankruptcy cases automatically to the Bankruptcy Judges in their respective jurisdictions⁷. In 1985, Judge Cowen was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to fill one of three new vacancies in the District of New Jersey created by The Bankruptcy Act, and was swiftly confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

On June 30 1986, the Honorable James Hunter III, who had been serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, reached senior status⁸ creating a vacancy on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals⁹. Less than two years after being nominated to the Federal District Court, President Reagan again commissioned Judge Cowen—this time to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Before receiving consecutive nominations from President Reagan, Judge Cowen served as a Federal Magistrate for seven years in the District of New Jersey from 1978 to 1985. Prior to his tenure as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Cowen was the Director of the Division of Ethics and Professional Services for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Trenton, New Jersey. The path and speed with which Judge Cowen judicially progressed through the Federal District Court to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is quite uncommon.

3. Current Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judges who were directly appointed from outside the judiciary: Judge Thomas L. Ambro, Judge Michael A. Chagares, Judge Morton Ira Greenberg, Judge Cheryl Ann Krause, Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo, Judge Dolores Norman Sloviter

4. 98 P.L. 353, 98 Stat. 333

5. See *Connolly v. Bidermann Indus. U.S.A.*, 95 Civ. 1791 (RPP), 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8059, at *5-6 (S.D.N.Y. June 11, 1996)

6. Id.

7. 28 U.S.C. § 157(a)

8. Senior status is defined by statutory law, specifically 28 U.S.C. § 371. Senior status is a form of semi-retirement for United States federal judges, and judges in some state court systems. A judge must be at least 65 years of age and have served in federal courts for 15 years to qualify, with one less year of service required for each additional year of age.

9. See Federal Judicial Center, History of the Federal Judiciary, James Hunter III, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/hunter-james-iii>

The Hon. Patty Shwartz, U.S.C.J meteoric rise is unique as well. Across the judges currently sitting on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Judge Shwartz is the only judge to have ascended to the Third Circuit bench without *judicial progression* or receiving a *direct appointment*. Rather, she was appointed from a Federal Magistrate judgeship to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, bypassing the U.S. District Court.

After attending public schools in New Jersey, Judge Shwartz graduated from Rutgers College with highest honors and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review. After a short time in private practice in Philadelphia, Judge Shwartz clerked for the Hon. Harold A. Ackerman, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. Thereafter, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the United States Attorney in the District of New Jersey.

While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she held various supervisory positions, including Chief of the Criminal Division and Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney. She remained at the U.S. Attorney's Office until she was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey in March, 2003. She held this position until her elevation to the Court of Appeals. "The American Bar Association [gave] Judge Shwartz's nomination its highest rating, deeming her unanimously well qualified[,]” and on April 10, 2013 Judge Shwartz assumed her current role of United States Circuit Judge in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The ascents of Judge Robert E. Cowen and Judge Patty Shwartz to Third Circuit Court of Appeals stand out among their peers because of how extraordinarily unique each of their elevations were. The path and speed with which Judge Cowen judicially progressed through the Federal District Court to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is uncommon. But for The Bankruptcy Act, Judge Cowen's accelerated judicial progression through the Third Circuit may not have occurred. Similarly, Judge Shwartz is the only Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge currently serving to have been appointed from a Federal Magistrate judgeship. Two extraordinary paths indeed.

DNJ Celebrates Historic Swearing-In of Seven New Magistrates



Pictured above from left: Hon. Jessica S. Allen, Hon. Matthew J. Skahill, Hon. André M. Espinosa, Hon. Sharon A. King, Hon. José R. Almonte, Hon. Rukhsanah L. Singh, Hon. Elizabeth A. Pascal
(photo credit Sean Sime)

On August 2, bench and bar colleagues, friends, and family, gathered at the Park Chateau in Central New Jersey for an historic event, the ceremonial investiture seven new U.S. Magistrate Judges in the District of New Jersey. Chief Judge Freda L. Wolfson, District of New Jersey presided over the ceremony which commenced at 3:00 pm and was adjourned at 4:35 with the 500 attendees enjoying a reception in the same location. In the light filled room, the District Seal and a lectern helped to invoke the feel of a courthouse. The ceremony proceeded with the group taking their Oaths with family members holding their Bibles and then assisting with their robing. Each judge was then introduced by a current or former member of the federal or state judiciary and allowed to make brief responsive remarks.

According to an AO Judicial Historian, "I have never heard of an instance of a ceremonial swearing in

of multiple magistrate judges at one time in my 25 years at the AO.” While there were many instances of two magistrate judges on the same court entering duty on the same day (there was only one documented instance with three judges being sworn-in together), no more than that has been recorded and no evidence indicated that these swearings-in were done in a ceremonial fashion.

In her opening remarks, Chief Judge Wolfson described how the seven judges “magnanimously and readily agreed to share the day with their new colleagues.” She expressed gratitude to all who helped make the event a success. Further she praised the tradition of excellence that the Magistrate judges demonstrate in the District. “To be clear, Magistrate Judges are selected by the District Court Judges, and we focus on finding the most qualified applicants. Politics play no role -- and how refreshing is that? Not surprisingly, therefore, that eight out of our 17 active District Judges, two of our Senior Judges, and one of our Circuit Judges are all former Magistrate Judges... [Y]ou will recognize we have continued our tradition of appointing incredibly talented Judges who also look like and reflect the rich diversity of the communities we serve in this district.”

That diversity was represented by the fact that being sworn in were judges of Pakistani, Mexican, Dominican, and Trinidadian descent; in addition, four out of the 7 new judges are women. Also notable, for the first time in the 233-year history of the District Court, the majority of the Article III judges on the bench will be women.

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