

INVESTITURE OF

JUSTICE ABBI SILVER

JUSTICE ELISSA F. CADISH

Thursday, January 10, 2019
3 p.m.

Clark County Government Center
Clark County Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada



**IN THE SUPREME COURT AND THE
COURT OF APPEALS OF THE
STATE OF NEVADA**

CHIEF JUSTICE MARK GIBBONS
JUSTICE KRISTINA PICKERING
JUSTICE JAMES W. HARDESTY
JUSTICE RON D. PARRAGUIRRE
JUSTICE LIDIA S. STIGLICH

CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL P. GIBBONS
JUDGE JEROME T. TAO

STEVE SISOLAK, GOVERNOR OF NEVADA

INVESTITURE OF ABBI SILVER
GARY GUYMON
NIA KILLEBREW

INVESTITURE OF ELISSA F. CADISH
JUDGE PHILIP PRO
SENATOR JACKY ROSEN

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INVESTITURE PROCEEDING

CLERK OF THE COURT:

All rise. The Supreme Court of the State of Nevada convenes in special session for administration of the official oaths of office to the Honorable Abbi Silver and the Honorable Elissa Cadish. Chief Justice Mark Gibbons presiding.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Ladies and gentlemen, will you please remaining standing. At this time, the supreme court is now in special session to conduct the investitures of Justice Silver and Justice Cadish.

We will proceed at this time with the invocation from Rabbi Sanford Akselrad. Rabbi, if you would please come forward.

RABBI AKSELRAD:

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for this honor of delivering the invocation as dear friends Elissa Cadish and Abbi Silver are sent to the highest court in our state.

In Jewish tradition, we are taught that there are 613 commandments by which traditional Jews live their lives. But before these laws were introduced, the rabbis taught that there were 7 laws incumbent upon all mankind—a remarkable concept, for it is one thing for a religion to teach that its adherents must follow certain laws and quite another to teach that everyone must follow these laws. These 7 laws were considered foundational to every society, and the one that is especially relevant today is the law that says we must establish courts of justice.

The ancients knew that no society could survive without courts of justice, and that no one was above the law. Indeed, in Jewish tradition, even the King was held accountable to the law. Tradition gave a description for the principles that a good justice must adhere to: You shall not judge unfairly; you shall not show partiality; you shall not take bribes, for bribes blind the eyes of the discerning. And the text says to all of us: “Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof”—“Justice, justice, must you pursue.” So the pursuit of justice is not the job of one individual, not just one judge, but of our entire society, for justice is too easily lost, forgotten, dispensed with, ignored, or corrupted, and therefore the character and trust that we place within our judicial system is of utmost importance.

In their wisdom, the voters have chosen two people, Elissa Cadish and Abbi Silver, to be their voice and conscience, and we gather here to bear witness to that decision and to embrace them as a community as arbiters of justice, for they are wise beyond their years, they are

passionate champions of justice, and their moral compass does not waiver. And so I invoke the name of the Divine to ask blessings upon them, and challenge us all to be partners with them in the pursuit of justice, both the source of truth and justice into our hands, life, and responsibility to create a just society.

May the cause of truth, justice, and humanity in no way suffer at our hands. May we have the courage to dare to do what is right than the fear to do wrong. May we see more clearly blind than blindly try and see, treating all with equal fairness, equal justice, and equal opportunity to be heard. Imbue our justices with wisdom, insight, and mercy, and as a community, let us not let the weight of justice bring us down, but let our love of justice give us the strength to stand tall for what is right, for it is up to all to pursue justice with all of our hearts, all of our souls, and all of our might. As fervently we pray, let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. May this be our blessing. Amen.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you very much, Rabbi.

At this time, we'll proceed with the Pledge of Allegiance, and I would like to have—that would be led by Jayden Jaster, Jaymie Jaster, and Shayna Beckerman. Ladies, go ahead.

IN UNISON:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Great. Thank you. Please be seated.

Okay. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the supreme court, we want to thank you all for being here on this very special occasion for the investiture of Justice Abbi Silver and Justice Elissa Cadish. I see we have an overflow crowd back there, so folks, thank you for staying here with us. We really appreciate it, and we'll go ahead and proceed forward.

Before we go ahead, it was called to my attention that apparently the City of Las Vegas has a special event about 4:30 today, so unfortunately, we'll lose a couple of our guests here today who are committed to go to that event. So they will have to leave at approximately 4:30. With that in mind, I would like to proceed with the introduction of my colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court and the Nevada Court of Appeals.

First of all, my name is Mark Gibbons. I am the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. On my far left down there is not politically speaking, or maybe we have, as he might say apropos, we have Senior Justice Michael Cherry. And ladies and gentlemen,

I know we have a lot of people to introduce, so I would ask you to please hold your applause until the end, although Justice Cherry certainly deserves it, and we appreciate you doing that. So Justice Cherry is being replaced here by Justice Cadish. She's assuming his seat on the supreme court.

JUSTICE CHERRY:

And my house.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

And your house in Carson City, too, as well. Thank you.

So next to Justice Cherry, we have from the Nevada Supreme Court, Justice Lidia Stiglich. Next to—thank you—but next to Justice Stiglich we have Justice Jim Hardesty. Okay, and again, you can hold the applause, but thank you for doing that.

On my right is Associate Chief Justice Kristina Pickering. Next to Justice Pickering is Justice Ron Parraguirre. Next to Justice Parraguirre—we have a gap in chairs for a reason, and you'll find out later in the program—we have Senior Justice Michael Douglas. And again, Justice Silver is replacing Justice Douglas on the supreme court. And next to Justice Douglas is, from the Nevada Court of Appeals, Judge Michael Gibbons.

At this time, I would like to also introduce members of the judiciary that we have here present. And ladies and gentlemen, I apologize in advance, we have a lot of people here, I was given a list. I'm sure I'm going to accidentally omit some people, so at the end, when we get done with the dignitaries, please raise your hand, because we want to make sure everybody is recognized if I missed you on this list. My eyesight isn't quite as good as it used to be, but I think I know most of the people, so I'll do my best on covering that.

So at this time, for the members of the judiciary—excuse me, I'll get the right list here—we have, first of all we'll start with, from our United States District Court here—and I'll get the list here—we have U.S. Magistrate Cam Ferenbach, thank you. We have Judge Gloria Navarro; Senior United States District Judge Phil Pro. Also from the Clark County District Court—and I'll go across the front, it might be easier—then we have Judge Mark Denton. We have Judge Rob Bare, going over to the other side, Judge Adriana Escobar. We have Judge Michael Villani; Judge Stefany Miley; Judge—let's see, okay, yes, Kerry, I'm sorry, I couldn't see you; thank you Judge Kerry Earley, thank you, Kerry, on that; Chief Judge Linda Bell. Behind Chief Judge Bell, we have Judge Bill Kephart; Judge Ron Israel; Senior Justice of the Peace Nancy Oesterle; Senior District Judge Jennifer Togliatti; Judge Doug Herndon. Okay, moving over to the other side here, we have Senior Municipal Judge Betsy Kolkowski; Family Court District Judge Chuck Hoskins; District Judge Joanna

Kishner. We have also Judge Ken Cory back there; and we have Judge Rebecca Burton, thank you, thank you, Rebecca.

Going to the others, we have some special guests here from Chicago, Illinois, coming out for Judge Silver; and we're really pleased to have the judges here; and I think—let me get the right list here; I apologize for that—thank you. We're just trying to make sure we don't miss anybody, but I'm sorry, I've got the judges from Chicago here. I apologize. We've got a bunch of lists, as everything came up here, so let me go back. We have, I know two judges that I met from the suburbs of Chicago. Judges, please, if you would stand up so everybody can see you, and thank you so much for coming here.

Judge Kathleen Delaney from the district court; Judge Joe Bonaventure, Justice of the Peace; and then, let's see, it's Melisa De La Garza, I believe, Justice of the Peace Melisa De La Garza; Senior Judge Don Mosley, District Judge Joe Hardy; we have Senior District Judge Valorie Vega; and one of our new district judges, Mary Kay Holthus. And Mary Kay, I can't see who's next to you there, I'm sorry. Okay, oh, Judge Sam Bateman; sorry, Judge, I couldn't see like that; Judge Tierra Jones from the district court; and let's see, our next judge, I'm sorry, I can't see—okay, yes, Judge, thank you very much; and Judge Suzie Baucum; and Judge Vince Ochoa; and our next judge is Judge—Thank you, Judge, very much, and thank you.

Okay, I think that—did I miss any of our district judges? Please let me know. Oh, Judge Dave Barker—Dave, okay, I didn't see you in your robe, and thank you—retired former Chief Judge Dave Barker; and who else do we have here? Judge Nancy Allf, of course; Judge, thank you very much; and Judge Dorsey, where is she? Did I miss Judge Dorsey? Oh, there she is in the back; I was looking at the front row. And Judge Gordon, thank you very much, our Federal District Court Judge, is there. I see Assemblyman Yeager setting next to you there as well, and so we'll be getting to you shortly then with the other ones.

Let's go to our municipal court. Did I miss, did I get our municipal court judges here in the back? Okay, Bert, Judge Bert Brown I see back in the corner here. And I think we have Judge Cara Campbell, and we have Judge Susan Roger here today as well. No? Okay. We're told they are coming, okay. Thank you, thank you for our municipal judges.

Okay, and I have the judges from Chicago—I'm sorry, I have the right list now, I apologize. We have Judge Susan O'Leary from the 12th Judicial Circuit from Illinois; Judge Domenica Ostenberger from the 12th Judicial Circuit; and we also have Judge Benes Aldana—is the judge here from Illinois?

JUDGE ALDANA:

Here.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Okay, thank you. Thank you very much, Judge. Okay, we will go to the justices of the peace, I think I did not read—so let me see if we have Judge Baucum. Judge Bonaventure we acknowledged, Judge De La Garza. Is Judge Graham here, Judge Elana Graham? Okay. Judge Harmony Letizia? Okay, Harmony, there you are, thank you. And Judge Diana Sullivan—is Diana here? Let's go to Natalie Tyrrell. Judge Tyrrell from North Las Vegas, I did not see. Judge Zimmerman? I don't believe I saw Judge Zimmerman here. And Judge Bateman we got. Thank you, Judge. We have you here on the list here with that. Okay, I think—did I miss any of the judges please?

Thank you. Well, we'll go on here to our other celebrities. I know I saw in the back celebrities, elected officials here. I saw, of course, we have former United States Senator and Governor Richard Bryan. Thank you, thank you. I think Senator Bryan deserves the applause for all his years of service for us. And then we have former Nevada Lieutenant Governor Lorraine Hunt-Bono, Lorraine. And I see Secretary of State Barbara Cevagske in front of Senator Bryan there, like that. And is Mayor Goodman here? Did I see her? I guess not. No, I guess she's getting ready for her other speech here this afternoon. Also, other elected officials, I mentioned Assemblyman Yeager, Chairman of our Assembly Judiciary Committee. Assemblyman, we'll be seeing you a lot I think up in Carson City coming up. Nevada Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson is not here. Okay. We have Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy. County Commissioner Justin Jones—is Commissioner—ah, there's Justin in the back, one of our new county commissioners. Thank you, Justin, and like that. We have City of Las Vegas Councilwoman Michele Fiore. Michele, thank you. And Nevada Gaming Control Chairwoman Becky Harris, former state senator. Becky?—no, no. And Clark County Public Defender, I think now I don't know if he's retired—Phil Kohn. Is Phil here? Phil? Okay, thank you. We will go to a couple of other people that we've been advised are here.

We have from Wynn Resorts, Elaine Wynn. Elaine, if she's here? Thank you, Elaine, for coming. The Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law, Dan Hamilton. Also Southwestern School of Law Dean Debbie Leathers. Debbie? Okay. We have Southwestern School of Law Dean Catherine Carpenter. Also, I think is Rabbi Mel Hecht, too, here as well. Rabbi, thank you for being here. And we also have Rabbi Malcolm Cohen. And, of course, we have previously introduced Rabbi Akselrad; and thank Rabbi Akselrad for doing the invocation at the beginning of the proceedings, and then like that. Okay, I will take one more glance here. If I missed anything, again my apologies. Did I miss any elected officials here? Anybody? Oh, thank you. And also we have our new United States Attorney Nick

Trutanich. Nick, I was told you were here, our newly appointed—thank you, Nick, thank you for coming today. Did I miss somebody? Oh, yes, Assemblywoman—thank you, Assemblywoman, for being here. Thank you. United States Marshal Gary Silver. Is Gary here? Schofield, Gary Schofield. Thank you. Gary, are you here? Thank you for coming.

As you can imagine, this is probably the largest list of dignitaries we've ever had for one of our judicial events, so it's certainly a tribute to Justice Silver and Justice Cadish for all of you coming, and we really very much appreciate it. We will go next—and excuse me for a second here—okay, at this time here, before we proceed with the investiture of, we'll start first with Justice Silver, we have several videos from dignitaries that have been submitted to us, which we would like to play. Ask our IT staff if they could go ahead and play those videos for us, please.

SENATOR CORTEZ MASTO (via video):

Hello, everyone. I want to congratulate our newly sworn-in Nevada Supreme Court Justices on this great achievement and honor. The people of the Silver State have chosen wisely and bestowed our newly inaugurated justices with their faith and hope for the future of the great State of Nevada.

I'm especially proud of my dear friend Abbi Silver on her investiture today. Many people don't know this. I've known Abbi since high school. We both went to Clark High School together, and I can't tell you how proud I am watching her over the years: her commitment, her passion, her believing in what she was doing, fighting for others, and she continues to this day.

And if you've ever spent any time with Abbi, you know that you can't deny her when she asks for something or she starts down a path and is committed to making that change. That's why I'm so proud. And I'm sorry I couldn't be there, Abbi, with you to celebrate, but I will tell you this, not only from our friends at Clark High School, but all the people of southern Nevada, so, so proud of you. And I know you will do a fantastic job on the state's highest court. I look forward to working with you in the future, and I hope you have a wonderful day.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you. And I'm sure everybody recognized our Senior United States Senator Catherine Masto. Okay, the next video, please.

CONGRESSWOMAN LEE (via video):

It is my greatest honor to congratulate my dear friend Abbi Silver as our next justice to our supreme court. I also want to congratulate her husband Kirk, her beautiful daughters Jayden and Jaymie, and of course, her proud, proud father Frank.

You know, Abbi hails from Nevada's Third Congressional District, having grown up in Boulder City. But more importantly than that, she has dedicated her entire career to our criminal justice system here in Nevada, starting out as a prosecutor, taking on the tough cases of domestic violence and stalking, and being instrumental in writing many laws that have helped victims of crime in our state. Not only that, she is the only Nevadan in history to have served at every level of our court system here in our state, and also the first woman appointed to our state court of appeals. More importantly than that, Abbi comes to this with dedication and hard work and commitment, and most of all compassion and making sure that she will do the best job every step of the way, as she has done throughout her career. So I can't think of anyone better to serve our state on the Nevada Supreme Court. I also want to congratulate my other dear friend Elissa Cadish, who will be an equally strong fighter for justice in our state.

So good luck, both of you, and thank you for all that you do for our state. And I'm so proud that not only do we have a woman majority in our state legislature and in our delegation to the U.S. Congress, but we also now have a woman majority in our supreme court here in our state. So go get 'em, girls.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

And of course, ladies and gentlemen, that's one of our newly elected congresswomen, Susie Lee. Okay, I think we have one more video now.

CONGRESSWOMAN TITUS (via video):

Hello, I'm Dina Titus, and I want to add my voice to the many of congratulations that you are receiving today on becoming members of the supreme court.

Abbi Silver, I have known you since you were a little girl. You were a wonderful student. I was pleased when you went to law school, and you have certainly distinguished yourself. I can't think of anybody better to serve on our supreme court. And Elissa Cadish, we have seen each other on the campaign trail and gotten to know each other and be friends.

I'm just so proud that this court will have a majority of women, and such outstanding women. Congratulations. You make us very proud.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

And that, of course, is Congresswoman Dina Titus. Okay, with that said, we're going to go ahead and proceed.

First of all, accompanying Justice Silver today for the investiture proceedings are her husband Kirk Jaster—Kirk—and together with

her daughters Jayden and Jaymie Jaster, and her father Dr. Frank Silver is accompanied by Jody Cuomo.

Accompanying Justice Cadish here today is her husband Howard Beckerman, her daughters Shayna Beckerman and Jennifer Cadish, Matthew Cadish, and her father Robert Geteles.

Okay, at this time, ladies and gentlemen, we will go ahead and proceed with the investiture of Justice Silver. At this time, I would call upon the first speaker for Justice Silver, and that will be attorney Gary Guymon. Gary.

MR. GUYMON:

Clearly, I wasn't important enough to be able to do this by video. I wished that were true.

You know, one of my favorite judges, Judge Bonaventure, had a plaque on his plate right there where he sat, and it said: "The truth takes few words." And so in a few words, I would like to speak some truth about my dear friend Justice Silver.

As you've heard, she was born in Philadelphia to two proud parents, Frank and Elaine. She grew up here in Boulder City. She's the product really of our great state, the State of Nevada.

She was educated here at Clark County at Clark High School, as we just heard. She graduated from Clark High School. She immediately went to law school—or excuse me—to UNLV as an undergraduate; got her bachelor's degree in arts—political science, so she almost had to become a lawyer, because what are you going to do with that degree? And she graduated in, it was 19—I guess it was '86. And during three of those years, she was a cheerleader—she wanted to make sure I added this to that, my little endeavors here—for the Jazz, the Utah Jazz, from 1984 to 1985.

She immediately then went to the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, where she earned her JD degree in 1989. She immediately took and passed the Nevada State Bar, and thereafter, unlike many of us, she took a second bar and passed it. She became also licensed in the great State of California.

She began her career in 1990—excuse me—1989, working as a judicial law clerk for Judge Earl White, Jr. After one year of serving diligently for Judge Earl White, she then took a job with the Clark County District Attorney's Office, where Rex Bell hired her as a prosecutor for the Clark County District Attorney's Office.

At the District Attorney's Office, she worked for 14 years. I know a little bit about this, and I'm going to talk about that once I get through some of her accomplishments. For 14 years, she tried well over 100 cases. She became a chief prosecutor heading the office, had the designation of the team chief of the Special Victims Unit, where she sustained a number of convictions. A couple of the convictions that come to my mind are the conviction of John Wayne Bobbitt and the Connor brothers. Floyd Mayweather, Jr., was another conviction

she sustained or gathered as a prosecutor. She gathered an expertise in stalking cases. She prosecuted stalkers of our Senator Harry Reid, Senator John Ensign, entertainer Jerry Lewis, former Sheriff Jerry Keller, and casino mogul Steve Wynn.

In 2003, she was elected to the municipal court bench and served there as a municipal court judge. While on the bench there, she had her first beautiful daughter, who is now age 14, and with us today, she was involved in the Pledge of Allegiance, Jayden. In 2006, she was elected to the justice court bench and had her second beautiful daughter, who was also involved today in the Pledge of Allegiance, Jaymie, at age 11. And in 2008, she was elected to the district court bench, and again in 2014.

In 2014, she was appointed to the court of appeals by our governor, or then-Governor Brian Sandoval. And in 2018, she was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. She has practiced law for 30 years, and she's done a damn good job. She's been a judge for 16 of those years, and as we heard from Susie Lee, she was the only judge in the history of Nevada to serve at every level of our bench—to municipal court, to justice court, to district court, to the court of appeals, and now to the supreme court—and that is quite an accomplishment.

In short, she's been elected by the citizens of our great state six times. And I ask myself, and you ask yourself, well, why am I the guy that's standing here now today? And I'll tell you what happened. On the evening that the election closed at about 12 o'clock, maybe even midnight, well, maybe even 1 o'clock, I got a text from my dear friend Abbi Silver. It's what I might call a drunk-dial. I don't get those kind of texts anymore; haven't got them for decades. And it was Abbi, and she said, "Well, you want the good news or the bad news? The good news is, I'm unopposed; I just won." And I thought, "Well, that's great news."

Well, then came the bad news. The bad news is you're going to speak at my investiture. And I thought, "The hell I am." And I certainly thought she would forget about it. I thought she would find someone far more important, far more dignified than a guy like me to do this. And I actually prayed that I wouldn't be the one to do this. And months passed by, and she didn't say a word, and I thought, "You know what? I lucked out. She's forgotten." And then within the last month, she's reminded me again and again and again and again that I was to do this. And again, I wondered why. And it dawned on me that I've had a front row seat to a really great show, to a really great career. I have had the honor to start my career when she did, in 1989. We took the bar together. We weren't friends prior to that, and we didn't even know each other, but I had the honor to take the bar and pass the bar when she did.

I had the honor to work for Judge Jack Lehman as a law clerk when she had the honor to work for Judge Earl White. I had the honor although I didn't think it was an honor then—to start at the

DA's office at the same time that she did, because I thought how can I possibly compete with Abbi Silver? She was beautiful, and I was just me. And I think we fueled one another's careers. We competed for the attention of the big shots in the office at that point in time: John Lukens, for who could try a case with John? Who could try a case with a Mel Harmon? Who could try a case with Dan Seaton? Who could try a case with Debbie Lippis, Tom Moreo; with those kind of lawyers?—because I think we both wanted to be that kind of lawyer. I think she got more opportunity than I did.

I knew Abbi to be ferociously competitive. I knew that she was very diligent, disciplined, hard working. You know, the only person that stayed later, I thought, was Abbi, and I would make sure I tried to outstay her, and that she outstayed me, and that everybody knew that we were both trying to outstay each other because we wanted to get the next case. We got to be team chiefs together there in the office.

And in one of the few defeats in her lifetime, at the time that she did not win the district attorney's race, she and I were on a bike ride together. We frequently rode bikes; neither one of us ride often enough now, I'm sure. But nonetheless, while riding bikes, I said, "You know, Abbi, I just don't know why you wouldn't run for municipal court judge. You'd win. You got great name recognition. You got great face recognition. You're going to win that race if you run." And sure enough, I thought she was just placating me, I thought she was pacifying me a little bit, but within days she ran. Now I thought she had already thought of that. Never did I think that I fueled that idea. She now tells me that I did. And I think the bench is better off as a result of that bike ride.

In the process, though, of her becoming a municipal court judge, it wasn't long thereafter that she became a justice court judge, and I got to be the team chief on her track, and so I got to appear in front of Abbi nearly every day, whether she liked it or not. When she went to district court, I got to appear in front of her nearly every day again, whether she liked it or not.

And I got to know her judicial temperament and her demeanor, and how proud I am of the way she has served. I can say resoundingly that she has done a better job at each position she has held than she did when she clerked for Judge Earl White, and I had a real good idea how good a job she did then. I had an even better idea of how good you did, Abbi, when you worked at the DA's office, and you've done a better job on the bench than you did at the DA's office.

We have enjoyed an amazing friendship together, despite the fact that we competed with one another—and we did, we competed with one another. We have enjoyed an amazing friendship, a friendship that involved pickleball, tennis, socializing, lunching, and it's just been a pleasure to be able to call her my friend and to have her guide my career and set a standard of excellence that has helped me

and helped other lawyers. I know Abbi has helped countless lawyers become even better than they would have been without her.

So in conclusion, what I would say is this. She reminds me that I have had the opportunity to see her grow at every level of her career—at the level of being a judicial clerk, a district attorney, a municipal court judge, although I didn't appear in front of her in municipal court, but justice court, district court. I haven't appeared in front of her in the court of appeals, and I don't know if I'll appear in front of her in the supreme court, but I am eminently proud to call her my friend today. I'm eminently proud of the job that she's done and the standard that she's set; that she has raised the standard of the bar, the bench, and has helped the community in countless ways, and for that I am forever grateful for my friendship and for the standard you've set. Our great state is in better hands as you take the bench now as a supreme court judge, and for that I thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Gary, thank you very much for those kind words. Our next speaker on behalf of Judge Silver is Nia Killebrew. Nia.

Ms. KILLEBREW:

Well, that's a very tough act to follow. Thanks, Gary. I'm going to have to read it because I didn't get a year's notice. Okay, just saying, better yet.

Good afternoon, justices, judges, honored guests, family, and friends of Judge Silver and Judge Cadish. So as I've alluded, I must disclose and confess that I, perhaps to the shock and awe of many of you, was not Judge Silver's first choice to speak at this auspicious occasion. I am humbled to further disclose that I was not even her second choice. I was her third choice. And truth be told, along with being her third choice comes a certain right of retribution, and it's called a slide show. Well, given the occasion, and as a slide show is, shall we say, out of the norm for an investiture, I found it appropriate to seek the proper authority to proceed with my plan. So I did what any good lawyer would do, I first sought the approval of Judge Silver.

As she's been busy lately, I filed the proper paperwork with her chambers. However, in my dismay, in my shock, she denied my petition. But being someone who seldom takes no as an answer, and more importantly, seeing the plain and obvious error of her denial, I was compelled to seek an emergency petition for a review. I went to this lovely man, Justice Cherry. He so kindly entertained my petition, and seeing the incredible amount of work and brilliant legal research, he granted it. Thank you, Justice Cherry. He saw that Justice Silver deserved the investiture and the slide show, and therefore, we have this today.

While we are gathering at the quadrennial investiture and I did have to look up the word “quadrennial”—of Justice Silver, as we do every four years or so to honor my dearest and best friend, the Honorable Abbi Silver, it is truly my humbled privilege to speak at Abbi’s sixth investiture, which is not only a record, as far as I’m aware, but for which I am sure qualifies her in Nevada history as being the first female and first judicial officer to have served as a judge, and now a justice, at every level of the judiciary—I can’t even speak today—in the State of Nevada.

In review, Abbi was first sworn in as a municipal court judge in 2003; then in 2006 as a justice court judge; in 2008 as a judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court; and in 2014 Abbi was appointed by then-Governor Sandoval as one of the first of three judges to serve on the first court of appeals in the State of Nevada. Notably, she was the first female judge on the newly created court of appeals, and leaves the court of appeals as serving as its first female chief judge.

Now if we go back, what’s really impressive—and I noted this—is that Abbi is not an outfit repeater. Well, let’s look back at where it all started. It all began in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 3, 1964, when Dr. Frank and Elaine Silver gave birth to their beautiful baby girl, Abbi Silver. From birth, it was evident what destiny had in store for Abbi.

Abbi lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, until the age of 7, when the Silver family moved to Boulder City, Nevada, and her father began his medical practice. Abbi attended Boulder City Elementary School. What might be to the shock of many is that Abbi was a shy child. What is not a shock to any of us now who know her is that she grew out of her shyness.

Abbi started her community service at a young age as a Brownie. What will also not shock anybody who knows her is that she’s an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan, and has been known to don her Eagles swag, and yell “caw caw” to anyone in or out of earshot. As I stated, Abbi grew out of her shyness, and all you have to do is get trapped in an elevator with her, be seated at a table with her at a banquet, or in close proximity on a plane, or perhaps just attend a mixer, and inevitably one of the following will occur. Yes, you will be told she was a Utah Jazz cheerleader. Okay, then you will start—she will start taking these snapshot selfies, and when you try to escape, she will say, “Just wait, this is funny.” But then she will generously offer to help guide your children in their careers, if they’re interested in the law, by welcoming them for a tour of the courthouse, and perhaps offering them one of her famous 25 intern positions. But in all seriousness, there are many, many young lawyers that will say that Abbi was very generous in guiding them and mentoring them in their positions and in support of them in becoming young lawyers.

But most importantly, she’ll tell you how proud she is and how much she loves her family: her late mother Elaine—just give me a

second—who we all have such fond memories of; her father Frank, who is an incredibly—sorry, now I’m getting emotional, I don’t know why—a well-respected physician in Las Vegas and who Abbi never misses watching an Eagles game with; her loving husband Kirk, with whom she shares two beautiful daughters, Jayden and Jaymie, the most amazing young ladies—smart, beautiful, and talented flyer cheerleaders in their own right, who are truly MiniMes of Abbi. And I just thought it was pretty special that Jayden Jaster, just like her mother, posted this: “OMG. My mom is on the Supreme Court. I’m so proud of her.” I thought that was special.

Abbi is a very proud Nevadan. While attending Clark High School, Abbi started what was somewhat of a second career. She was a songleader. She graduated from Clark High School in 1982.

After high school, she attended UNLV with a major in political science, as Gary indicated. While attending UNLV, she continued to hone her cheerleading skills, and as we all know—we’ll hear it again, because once is not enough. I’m sorry, there is her graduation picture; once is not enough—she was an NBA cheerleader for the Utah Jazz. However, there came a time when Abbi had to make a very, very tough choice. She had to lay down her pom poms. It’s a sad day in Nevada history, but it happened. Abbi decided to attend law school, and that’s when her true dream came true, her dream of when there’s her grad picture—she met her very best friend, me.

In 1986, when Abbi first attended law school, there was no law school in Nevada, so she chose to attend law school at Southwestern University in Los Angeles. She chose that because it was close to Las Vegas, so she could come back as often as she could to be with her family. And for those of you who know and who went to law school, you’ll remember the old adage: Look to your left, look to your right; one of you won’t be here at the end of the day. Well, I’m going to tell you, many of our colleagues looked at Abbi and me and thought it was going to be us. There was good reason for that. One of the reasons was me. Now I walked into law school with no paper, no pen, no books, and I didn’t know, but there were apparently some assignments that you were to read a thousand pages from each of our core classes. I didn’t even know there were books. Or maybe it was the fact that both Abbi and I had this matching mile-high hairdo, or maybe it was that we were hanging out with this guy. It could be. But they thought it was us. But I’ll tell you what, three years later, they were wrong, and we did it. Abbi obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1989 from Southwestern University School of Law and proceeded to successfully pass both her Nevada and California bar exams, very difficult bar exams, the very same year.

I would like to recognize, and I believe Dean Carpenter and Dean Leathers were both acknowledged earlier, but I would like to do a special shout-out to them today. They were pretty special to us in law

school—and in fact, there is a picture of Dean Carpenter—yes, and recognize them specifically.

I will tell you that from the point that Abbi and I first met, it was Us versus Them, which you can't see in the picture to the left—aren't those pretty girls—is that there is a cake on that table, and on the cake it says "Us versus Them." We were bound and determined to prove them wrong and not be gone, and we sure did.

After graduation, Abbi returned to her beloved Nevada, and while waiting for the bar results, she clerked for Judge Earl White of the Eighth Judicial District Court. In fact, she was sworn in by Judge Earl upon passing the Nevada bar.

And as Gary had indicated, upon passing the bar, Abbi began work at the district attorney's office. Here's some familiar faces. For 14 years, she worked hard as a prosecutor, working with the likes of great lawyers who went on to illustrious careers, such as Gary Guymon, Drew Christensen, Judge Mary Kay Holthus, Teresa Lowry, Judge Valerie Adair, Judge Bill Kephart, Judge Doug Smith, Judge Jennifer Togliatti, Judge Doug Herndon, Judge Dave Barker, and Judge Nancy Oesterle, to name a few. Now, they weren't in alphabetical order, and I didn't try to favor anybody; I tried to just—so please excuse me if I didn't put everybody in a certain order, but I did my best.

While at the DA's office, Abbi was assigned to the Special Victims Unit from 1994 to 2003, becoming chief of that unit, specializing in crimes involving domestic and child homicides, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, elder abuse, aggravated stalking, and domestic violence. Abbi was a tireless advocate for the victims of crime and honed her skills as one of the best prosecutors and trial lawyers at the district attorney's office. Her record bears that out. Abbi tried over 100 cases, losing only one case, which is an incredible record for any trial lawyer. She tried cases on behalf of victims with equal zealotness, whether it was fighting on behalf of a struggling single mother whose son was killed by friends—people posing as friends—or whether it was seeking the convictions of stalkers of Nevada Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign and celebrity Jerry Lewis. Abbi gave them all equal measure of her passion, hard work, and dedication until justice was done.

A little known fact is that while Abbi was a district attorney, she was instrumental in drafting two pieces of legislation: one anti-stalking legislation, and another relating to enhanced penalties for violations of protective orders. Abbi was also responsible for the convictions of some landmark murder cases, which placed her in the national spotlight, and garnered her need-attention on shows like—sorry—attention on shows, that kept me out of the dating pool and single for years, for things like *Dates From Hell*, *Cyber Psycho*, and *Web of Lies*, and everyone's favorite, *America's Most Wanted*. Abbi even has her own IMDb page.

Well, I could go on and on about all of Abbi's accomplishments—and there are many—but perhaps the most important quality, aside from being an incredible daughter, wife, and mother, is that of friend. Abbi is an incredible friend to many and has forged friendships that have endured decades. You can't go anywhere out with her without her running into someone she knows, and if she doesn't know them, it won't be long before she does, whether they want to know her or not.

My mother always told me, at the end of the day if you can count your true friends on one hand, you will consider yourself lucky with the gift of true friendship. Abbi Silver has been my true friend that I've counted on my finger of my one hand, and she has never left her place there for the last 33 years. The good news is she's never moved to the bad finger position on that hand.

I am truly humbled and so proud to call this incredible, smart, hard-working, beautiful woman my dearest and best and truest friend. I share her with you all now, in the highest court of Nevada, and know she will carry the responsibility and integrity of her position with humility, dedication, and hard work, as she has in every endeavor she has undertaken. I thank her for allowing me the privilege to speak today. Congratulations to you, Justice Silver, and to you, Justice Cadish. Godspeed.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you very much, Nia.

INVESTITURE OF JUSTICE ABBI SILVER

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

At this time, Justice Cherry, if you could come down, please, to the podium. Justice Cherry, if you would please proceed with administering the oath to Justice Silver.

JUSTICE SILVER:

I think you're in the wrong spot. Can I put you over here? Can you move over here so we can take pictures?

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

And we would note Justice Cherry is now retired, and Justice Silver is on the supreme court.

JUSTICE CHERRY:

Just to show you about the judiciary, could the women judges and justices please stand up for a second, and give them a round of applause. Stand up. Is Michele, did Michele leave, Michele

Fiore? She was here. Stand up. Barbara Cegavske, our Secretary of State, stand up. I don't know what I'm going to do for Cadish now, although I got some stuff to do for Cadish.

While she's doing this, I want you to know that she's taken the oath as a municipal—well, she took an oath as a DA, she took an oath as a municipal court judge, she took an oath as a justice of the peace, she took an oath as a district court judge, she took an oath as a court of appeals judge, I made her chief judge when I was chief justice, and now she's taking the oath as a supreme court justice. So God only knows what's next for Abbi.

But it gives me great pleasure and honor to do this. I've known her family and her for a long time, and it's a thrill for me to be able to administer the oath to my good friend Justice Abbi Silver.

Would you please raise your right hand. (*Justice Cherry administered the oath of office to Justice Silver.*)

Welcome to the supreme court, Justice Abbi Silver. The robe. We now do the robing. Okay, and now our Supreme Court Clerk Elizabeth Brown has handed Justice Silver's robe to her husband Kirk and her father Frank, and so we have the robing completed. And I think they want a picture.

JUSTICE SILVER:

Okay.

JUSTICE CHERRY:

Here's your microphone, and you're on.

JUSTICE SILVER:

Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, it's now my pleasure to introduce you to Justice Abbi Silver. Justice.

JUSTICE SILVER:

Chief Justice Gibbons, justices, judges, distinguished guests, family, and friends. "Equal Justice Under Law." I was 24 years old and fresh out of law school in 1989 when a friend took a picture of me pointing to that indelible inscription on the building of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Now I've always kept that picture of me pointing to that inscription on my desk at home. Not surprising to those who know me, and now that you've seen the slide show—I was wearing florescent neon pink shorts, chartreuse or fluorescent green T-shirt, and of course, I had that really big '80s hair in the picture—but despite how ridiculous I look in that picture, the inscription still means so much to me; perhaps today more than

ever. Little did I know then how that inscription would direct the path of my legal career.

In 1985, I was a student at UNLV. I was in my third year as an undergraduate, and my professor told the class that a lawyer and a newscaster would be joining our class to speak with us regarding their respective careers. A man walked in in a dark-colored suit. He was introduced, and then this beautiful woman in her 20s, in a sparkling cobalt blue suit and big, blond, big '80s hair, was introduced. And just like most people, I assumed that the man was the attorney and that the newscaster was the blond. Boy, was I wrong. This dynamic woman was none other than Deputy District Attorney Nancy Oesterle. When she got done speaking, I said, "I want to be just like her." And you know, I spoke with her after that class, and she became one of my greatest mentors of my life. And ironically, by 1990, I was working alongside of her at the Clark County District Attorney's Office, and she even helped me write my first closing argument in a rape case.

Nancy and I were only a handful of, maybe five, women in what was otherwise a sea of men in the district attorney's office. Sorry, Gary. I would walk into the courtroom, and a male attorney would ask me if I was the court reporter. The judges would call me by my first name, Abbi, while addressing opposing counsel as the distinguished Mr. So and So.

Every time I would confide in Nancy and tell her and give her a story about how somebody treated me differently or poorly because I was a female attorney, she would sit me down and tell me a story even worse than what I had told her, and somehow that made me feel really good. Because we were women in the office, we were the ones assigned to those pesky rape cases. Most of the male attorneys, most, gravitated towards the murder, robbery, and gang cases. So my first case as a deputy district attorney of four months was a rape trial, and none of the guys in the office wanted to do it. I got handed the file on a Friday to try it on a Monday. And they gave it to me because it was a dog case, and they told me I was to go walk the dog. And because it was an acquaintance-type of rape versus a stranger rape, it was a little more difficult.

From my first closing argument to my last as a prosecutor in over 100 jury trials, I always reminded juries of that inscription, "Equal Justice Under Law," while telling them about the picture that I kept on my desk at home. In any event, after that very first guilty verdict, I stood up to leave the courtroom, and when I did, the only person still sitting there in that courtroom was the victim of that crime, the rape. She was only 18 years old, and shaking like a leaf, she came up to me. She hugged me, and as she was shaking, she whispered to me, "Thank you. Thank you." And despite the fact that I had every intention of becoming a corporate attorney after leaving the DA's

office, I realized at that moment what my calling was as an attorney, and that was to give back justice to victims of crime: women, children, elderly, infants.

When I became a judge, though, my prosecutor hat came off for good, and I never looked back. I wore my judge hat from that day forward. I pledged to the citizens to be fair and impartial, and I believe that I kept my promise for the last 16 years, and I believe that I've been that judge dispensing equal justice under law, equal to both sides, equal to prosecutors, equal to defendants, equal to civil plaintiff attorneys, equal to civil defense attorneys. This last summer I visited Washington, D.C., again, this time with my husband and my daughters. My daughters took another picture of me standing on the steps of the Supreme Court building, pointing to the inscription: "Equal Justice Under Law." It was a reenactment of the first picture. Now the good news is that I was not wearing florescent clothing, but the bad news is I still have really big '80s hair.

Nevertheless, 30 years later, after taking my first picture under that inscription of that building, I stand before all of you, being sworn in as the seventh female justice in the State Supreme Court of Nevada. Thirty years ago when I became an attorney in Nevada, only older, gray-haired men sat as justices on the Nevada Supreme Court. But now, on this historic day, women are the majority of the Nevada Supreme Court. Indeed, since I entered the practice of law, after 30 years, the faces on this bench have changed. Women have come a long way in dispensing equal justice under law, as both attorneys and as judges. And as a justice on this court, I promise to continue to do my best to dispense justice fairly, impartially, and efficiently, doing equal justice under law.

I want to take a moment to congratulate my colleague, Elissa Cadish, who was also a law clerk with me back in 1989 for the wonderful—and you'll hear from him soon—Federal Judge Philip Pro. And I want to thank you and congratulate you on this momentous occasion as well.

I want to thank all of my friends and family, and all my supporters, for coming here today and sharing this incredible moment with me. If I miss anybody, I'm sorry, but I do want to thank a couple people.

I want to start by thanking Gary Guymon and Nia Killebrew for their eloquent remarks and Nia's entertaining slide show. I'll get her back later for that. And I want to thank all of those who have traveled here today: my cousins Renee, Alex, and Aunt Ann from Philadelphia; my friends from the Illinois Circuit Bench, Susan O'Leary and Dominica Ostenberger, thank you so much for coming out here all the way for this; my high school friend Kellie Grock; and Steve Immerman, my friend and colleague, public defender—we used to be fierce adversaries; he traveled to be here.

I want to thank my professor from UNLV, Dr. Jerry Simich—he's up there, right . . . where is he? He was here. Is he still here? He was

here; he came. And you saw Dina Titus who was also my professor. They wrote my recommendations to get into law school—and also, the deans that traveled here today, Debra Leathers and Catherine Carpenter, thank you so much.

I want to thank the man who gave me my two beautiful children, Dr. Said Daneshmand. He's here today—oh, did you think I was going to say my husband? Well, he did play a role. But Dr. Daneshmand flew here from San Diego, and truly he gave to me—he's a genius; he scientifically engineered medically, through IVF, and created what is truly the two greatest accomplishments of my life: my two daughters, Jaymie and Jayden Jaster. I will be forever, forever grateful, and I love you so much. Thank you for giving me the greatest joys of my life. Thank you so much. And I know he has given other people, probably in this room, too, the same joy, and so thank you.

I also want to say a special thank you to Glenda and Richard Vanlandingham. I know they're here. When I—again in the district attorney's office, early '90s—they walked in, their son was brutally murdered execution-style, and Glenda asked me, she said, "How many murder cases"—because I probably looked like I was 16—"how many murder cases have you done?" And I was so embarrassed and humiliated to say none at the time. None. And, you know, she believed in me, and Richard, and they have supported me for almost 30 years, and she's here again today. And you're very, very special to me. Thank you so much for coming again. I really do appreciate it.

I also want to thank Justice Through Verdicts and Southern Wine and Spirits for helping us with hosting this reception as well. And a special thank you to all the attorneys, and everyone in our office, thank you so much; all the marshals that have attended for us, thank you so much.

I want to thank, too, Mike Slanker is in the audience. And if it wasn't for Mike Slanker, and me winning that first municipal court and justice court race, and showing everybody how it's done as a consultant he's the best—I wouldn't be here today either, and I want to thank him; it's very special that he's here as well. I also want to thank—where is he? Justice Cherry, because he had the faith and belief in me, appointing me the first female chief of the court of appeals.

Dad, I love you. Mom's looking down, and I know she's very proud, and thank you so much for being great parents. I love you more than anything, and you're the best dad in the world. And finally to Kirk, Jayden, and Jaymie, I love you all more than anything. You're my rocks, and you're the best.

In conclusion, you've all seen the statue of Justice. She wears a blindfold around her eyes, a sword in one hand, and scales of justice in the other. Today, she pulls down her blindfold, wipes a tear from

her eye, and takes a moment to look around at this historic Nevada Supreme Court bench, whose faces finally mirror that great inscription, “Equal Justice Under Law.” Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Justice Silver, we don’t want you to get away. I want you to please come up and take your seat next to Justice Cherry here now as a member of the supreme court.

Ladies and gentlemen, we’ll now proceed with the investiture of Justice Elissa Cadish. First, I would like to call upon our Senior United States District Judge Philip Pro, who will speak on behalf of Justice Cadish.

JUDGE PRO:

Well, thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chief Justice. And as I look at the court, it looks pretty balanced. I wore my scales of justice tie that I bought at the United States Supreme Court where Abbi stood—congratulations, Justice Silver—but in a few moments we’re going to tip those scales a bit, frankly, as has been commented on by so many here today.

I received a call from a reporter yesterday, and I think probably the press will be reporting on this tremendous accomplishment, this distinction. It occurs to me, however, coming from the federal court, and now as a retired judge, we now have a majority of female judges on our U.S. District Court, among our active district judges, with Chief Judge Navarro, Judge Du, and Judge Dorsey, and Judge Gordon is the remaining, and Judge Boulware, the remaining male judges on our court. So it’s already been tipped in the federal courts. And I will leave it to Senator Rosen and Senator Masto to see what happens next on our court as well. I happened to remark—and I’m not sure I made it clear to the young reporter I spoke with—but, you know, what I think is really remarkable is, this is a great event in history, but what’s really remarkable is that we’re very close, if we aren’t there yet, to the point where it’s no longer a matter for commentary, there is nothing unusual about it. And I think that means we will have arrived, when we can all say that and look each other in the eye and acknowledge that.

But it is a wonderful day and a wonderful event, and I’m so deeply honored to be asked by Justice Cadish to say a few words, maybe a few too many words, at her investiture. I’m not as funny as Gary or Nia in their comments, and I didn’t bring any photographs of Elissa. I must say, I prefer to keep with the memories and leave it at that. I think I know why I was asked to say a few words at Elissa’s investiture, and it’s probably because, other than her father, Robert Geteles who is here—and delighted to have him here; and I’m not sure about any other family members in the back—but I probably have known Elissa longer than anybody else in the State of Nevada,

unless Anita Alexander walked in, my former judicial secretary—Justice Pickering—she did not. Well, I thought she was going to be here because she would have met Elissa at the door.

Thirty years ago, I met a very bright and eager young law student, just graduated from the University of Virginia Law School, who had applied to serve as a law clerk in my chambers. Now that was 1988, she applied, and I talked to her on the phone. In 1989, she started. I received, in those days, probably 200 applications for every law clerk position that we had; still do. Probably the judges in our court now receive 3 or 400 with the electronic age that we have. It was a daunting task to winnow those down to a very few well-qualified candidates to interview to join our court.

But in the case of Elissa, it was no difficulty at all. Her academic record, both at the University of Pennsylvania as an undergraduate and at the University of Virginia School of Law, was remarkable. It was just exemplary. Her writing sample was outstanding. But it was the letters of two of her professors that caught my eye, and I still have the letters.

The first was one from Professor Stanley Henderson, who wrote:

That beyond the usual intelligence and self-confidence seen in outstanding law students, he observed in Elissa quiet seriousness of purpose and honesty of intention; a person of lively and engaging personality, and a warm sense of humor, who does not take herself too seriously, and yet is a person of real depth.

Professor Thomas Bergin wrote: “That Elissa was one who cared about being a lawyer, and was profoundly committed to spending her professional life improving the law.” Now these letters were from two professors who had lived and spent time with Elissa during three years at the University of Virginia Law School, a very pressure-packed three years for her, and those were their observations.

And when I interviewed Elissa, I knew immediately they were dead on. She was all of that and more. She was an honest and intelligent person, with a quiet seriousness of purpose, who truly cared about being a lawyer, and who was profoundly committed to spending her professional life improving the law. She was in 1988 and 1989, and she is all of that and more today. What more could a judge seek in a law clerk in their chambers? And what more could any of us seek in the newest justice joining the Nevada Supreme Court?

Now I made a lot of decisions in my 35 years on the bench—some of them good, perhaps several of them not so good, I would expect—but the decision to hire Elissa was one of my very best, and one of my easiest, I got to tell you. I knew when she started working in my chambers for that two-year clerkship, I had to keep this young lawyer in Nevada. I mean, she needed to be here. She had options. She had job offers in Washington, D.C., and Cleveland, and I believe in New York as well; she could have gone just about anywhere to

practice in the United States. And she grew up in the East in New Jersey, and she had no connections to Nevada. But she, like so many of us who decided to make Nevada our homes, realized that there were professional and personal opportunities in this great state that may not always be available, and an opportunity to make an impact on her community and on her state and on her profession. And thankfully for all of us Elissa seized that opportunity.

Still, I wasn't at all confident she would stay, until she met a fine, wonderful gentleman by the name of Dave Cadish. Now Dave had just started a printing company. He was active in the Las Vegas Jaycees, and Elissa was, too, and she's never stopped contributing to the community. But her late husband Dave was such a supporter for her, and he was the real reason that she stayed in Nevada. And their wonderful children are here today in Matthew and Jennifer, and also her wonderful husband, Howard Beckerman, is here, loving and supportive, with their daughter Shayna, and I'm just delighted to see the family arrayed here in the front row enjoying today's ceremony.

She stands before us today ready to assume this important position on the court. As a new judge—a new justice, I should say—she brings a record of nearly 20 years of distinguished service as a practicing lawyer; 12 years, a little more than 12 years as a judge on the Eighth Judicial District Court, where she has served with such distinction, and earned a reputation as a thoughtful, fair, prepared, ethical jurist; and she now fills the very large shoes of Justice Michael Cherry in seat number 3 on the Nevada Supreme Court. And that's a tall order for anybody. But Justice Cherry leaves more than large shoes. He's also left a fully furnished home in Carson City, filled with clean linens and a fully equipped kitchen, and he's leased that home to Justice Cadish for the unheard of rate, I understand, Mike, it's a dollar a month? Congratulations, Mike.

I can tell all of you with the greatest confidence that Elissa Cadish is up to the challenge of filling the shoes of Justice Cherry and joining her really outstanding colleagues on an outstanding court. Boy, it is a different array of people. When I first appeared before the Nevada Supreme Court in 1972 or 1973, I think it was David Zenoff was the Chief Justice, Justice Cameron Batjer, Gordon Thompson, John Mowbray, and a new justice, Al Gunderson, were on the court. That was a much different court; good, good people, wonderful people and justices, but it was different. And today I think we all should be very appreciative of the quality, the wonderful, excellent quality of justices that we have on our supreme court. And Elissa, believe me, she fits right in with the people that are seated behind me.

The citizens of Nevada should be proud to have elected a justice that will uphold the integrity and the independence of the judiciary, who will perform the duties of the office impartially and diligently and decisively—awfully important, as all of the judges know—decisively; a justice who will work tirelessly to improve the law, the

legal system, and the administration of justice; and a justice who will treat all litigants and all lawyers and all colleagues and all members of the public and all court staff with the kind of respect they and all of us deserve from our system of justice.

Justice Cadish, it's with great pride and a deep honor to me to congratulate you and your proud family on your election to the bench and also to congratulate the citizens of the State of Nevada who elected you and who will so greatly benefit from the years of service that I know you will mark with distinction on the court. My dad used to comment about people's character, and he said a character of a person is like a tree, and their reputation is like a shadow cast by the sun on a beautiful, bright, shiny day. And Justice Cadish, the citizens of Nevada have a firmly planted tree that will stand tall and strong as a guardian of justice for us all. Justice Cadish is the real thing, and she will cast a giant shadow. Congratulations.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you very much, Judge Pro, for those kind words. Our next speaker for Justice Cadish wanted to be here in person today, that's our newly elected United States Senator Jacky Rosen. However, I understand it's something called a government shut-down, or something, and she has to stay in Washington, D.C. So she sends her regrets about not being here in person, but we were able to arrange Senator Rosen to do a video on behalf of Justice Cadish. And Justice Cadish has not seen it yet, so it will be a surprise for all of us, so we'll go ahead and proceed with the video at this time.

SENATOR ROSEN (via video):

Dear Elissa, congratulations. I'm so sorry that I can't be there in person to show my support for you at your swearing-in ceremony. As you know, things in Washington are a little bit busy right now, but I wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on this very special day.

I know how hard you have worked to reach this milestone, and I'm so proud of you and just how much you've accomplished. Your work ethic, your sense of fairness, your love of community, and your passion for the law, all have shaped you into the incredible woman, wife, mother, friend, and judge you are today.

I have loved watching you grow in your career over the years, always staying honest, always striving to ensure justice for all. You know, we go back so many years, and we've stood by each other's side. We met when our kids were young. We planned carnivals and class projects, we visited zoos, celebrated birthdays, graduations, and so much more. We raised each other up when times were tough. We stood by each other in times of great sorrow. And luckily, we celebrate together during times of great joy.

Today is another one of those amazing days to celebrate with you, my friend, and of course, it is not an exaggeration to say that I wouldn't be here without you. Your friendship and belief in me is so important. I truly cherish our friendship, and I'm thrilled to see so many Nevada women like you stepping up to lead. I know you'll serve our state with dignity and integrity. Congratulations, my friend. We're all so proud to call you our Nevada State Supreme Court Justice. Congratulations.

INVESTITURE OF JUSTICE ELISSA F. CADISH

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Okay, Justice Cadish, if you could step forward, please, and Justice Cherry will administer the oath to you. And with Justice Cadish are daughters Shayna Beckerman, Jennifer Cadish, and son Matthew Cadish, and also her husband Howard Beckerman.

JUSTICE CHERRY:

Well, Justice Cadish, it's been a long road here with the ups and the downs. In 2007 when you were appointed by then-Governor Gibbons, Nancy Saitta and I were at appellate judge's school at NYU, and we got the news that you were appointed, and we were so happy and delighted. You know, I got to meet you when you used to bring all the externs and interns over from—you were working with Steve Peek at that time, and you would bring them over to my court when I was in Department 17, and I got to know you and respect you, and I thought you were great.

Your life has been one of ups and downs. You know, get elected—get appointed to the district court, and then have an opponent run against you when you ran. You won; you beat the person soundly. And then you lose a husband, but you gained Howard. And Harry nominates you for the federal judgeship, and because somebody won't sign a blue slip, it wasn't done. And I do want to quash the rumor: Dean Heller is not going to be her law clerk. He's going to remain unemployed and retired, like Michael Douglas and me. But so you had the ups and downs, and then you've decided to run for the supreme court, and Abbi gets to go without an opponent, like I did twice, and you get four opponents. You win the primary, and you've got one more to beat, and you do it, and here you sit today—stand today—as our newest supreme court justice.

What's really unique, you know, we're all members of a Congregation, Ner Tamid, with Rabbi Akselrad and Jacky Rosen. And I understand Harry Reid even talked to you about running for the Senate, and you said, "Well, what about Jacky Rosen?" And that

worked out pretty good for the Congregation Ner Tamid, and you are here as our newest supreme court justice.

What an honor for me to be able to swear Abbi in, Justice Silver, Justice Cadish, and that's because my mom was a single parent raising two boys and trudged that road for women's rights. She's dead now, passed away in 2014, but she's with us today to say, "Oh my God, my son is the one who is standing there to swear in Justice Silver, Justice Cadish, along with Justice Stiglich, and Justice Pickering, and all the other women that are here. It's just fabulous." So Mom, this is for you, and for the Cadish family. So are you ready?

JUSTICE CADISH:

I'm ready. (*Justice Cherry administered the oath of office to Justice Cadish.*)

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we'll now proceed with the robing of Justice Cadish. Assisting Justice Cadish with the robing is her husband Howard Beckerman and her father Robert Geteles.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's my pleasure to introduce Justice Elissa Cadish.

JUSTICE CADISH:

Thank you so much. Justices, judges, honored guests, friends, and family, thank you so much for honoring me with your presence here today. It means so much to me.

It was recently announced that "justice" was the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* word of the year for 2018. As you know, all year I was running for this position as Nevada Supreme Court Justice with a motto, website, and hashtag of: "Judge Cadish for Justice," so this bit of news caught my attention. Of course, I used it to signify both the position I was running for, supreme court justice, and that if elected I would work to ensure justice for everyone with cases in the Nevada court system. Apparently, with issues that were in the news this year, including criminal justice, social justice, economic justice, investigations by the United States Department of Justice, the confirmation of Justice Kavanaugh, and the health issues and biographical movie regarding Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "justice" was the most searched word in 2018 on *merriam-webster.com*. I was happy to hear that so many people were thinking about the importance of justice this last year. Since I was a little girl growing up in New York and New Jersey, I have always had a strong sense of justice. The Book of Deuteronomy tells us: Justice, justice, shall you pursue. And I have been pursuing justice for my whole life.

I was born in Brooklyn Jewish Hospital to a father who grew up in a Jewish orphanage in Brooklyn and a mother who came from a family of immigrants who left Eastern Europe in the early twentieth

century to escape persecution. By the time I was 10 or 11 years old, I had decided that I wanted to be a lawyer. Looking back, I think this desire came from dinner table conversations about cases in the news and the importance of ensuring that everybody, even those accused of crimes, were afforded their constitutionally protected rights and they had a fair trial. We also had conversations in the family about civil rights, discussing the fact that discrimination was simply not acceptable, and that the First Amendment gave us all the right to express our views.

After graduating from my public high school in New Jersey as the class valedictorian—sorry, I had to mention it—as you heard, I went to college at the University of Pennsylvania where I majored in political science, with a concentration in American government. I was the first one in my immediate family to graduate from college, as my mom had been a stay-at-home mom after getting married young and having children soon after, and my father was working to support his young family and attended college at night for a while, but eventually it was too much and he ultimately wasn't able to finish. My family wasn't wealthy, but we valued the importance of education, and my parents had to take out a second mortgage on the family home to pay for me to go to this prestigious university, a sacrifice I really appreciate now, a lot more than I did when I was 18 years old.

After college, I went on to law school at the University of Virginia, and I remember the first time I visited the school there was a quote carved over the top of the main entrance to the law school, which sticks with me to this day, over 30 years later. It says: "That those alone may be servants of the law who labor with learning, courage, and devotion to preserve liberty and promote justice." The quote was written by law Professor Leslie Buckler in 1932 to be emblazoned on the then-law school building. The quote had such an impact on me that I took a picture of it—this may sound familiar, and Justice Silver and I did not consult—I took a picture and hung that picture on the wall of my room throughout law school, and for years after, to remind me of the important responsibility that I have as a lawyer and a servant of the law.

As I was nearing the end of my law school career—and you heard a little bit about this already, sorry—I wanted a position as a judicial law clerk for after graduation and before I began my law practice. I spotted on the law school's placement board a posting for a position with Judge Pro here in Las Vegas. At the time, I had never been farther west than Chicago in my entire life; and to be honest, I was only in Chicago once for a job interview, so really, the East Coast was all I knew. But his post said that he was willing to do job interviews by telephone, so I wouldn't have to pay to travel to Las Vegas, and I figured, well, I have nothing to lose by applying.

I did a telephone interview with Judge Pro and was offered the two-year position, and I figured, well, I could go anywhere for two years. So I came to Las Vegas in 1989 for that two-year job. Obviously, I stayed a little bit longer. And the decision to take that clerkship proved to be the best decision I ever made, and I decided to stay here, pursue my career, raise my family, and Nevada has certainly been great to me for my entire time here.

After my clerkship, I entered private practice, focusing on commercial litigation and employment law. During my 16 years of practice, I had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of cases and with clients ranging from individuals to local businesses, to national and international companies. I learned the importance of reading and knowing the rules, reading each and every document exchanged in the cases, and ultimately paying attention to details so you know the case better than the other guy. All of these lessons continue to serve me well.

I also had to learn to balance the competing demands—sorry, it’s a lot of paper—of the practice of law and motherhood and family. When I was at work, I would feel guilty because I wasn’t at home with the family. When I was at home, I would feel guilty because I wasn’t at work. I’m sure a lot of people here can relate to those challenges. But it was important to me to prove to myself that I could do both, and do them well, and show others that it could be done. I had read early in my career about the so-called mommy track where often women’s career advancement would be derailed when they had children, and the demands that went along with that, and I was determined not to let that happen to me. I was very proud and satisfied when I became a shareholder at Hale-Lane, now Holland & Hart, in 2000. Of course, I would never tell anybody that it was an easy journey, but it can be done if that is in fact your goal.

However, after working for Judge Pro, I knew that I ultimately would want to be a judge, just like him. I was thrilled to be appointed as a district court judge in 2007, and to get elected and reelected in 2008 and 2014 respectively. I have truly loved my time as a district judge, and I will miss my colleagues on the district court bench who work so hard each and every day under an extremely heavy case load. I promise not to forget the tough job you have in the trenches every day. I’m excited to begin this new chapter in my legal career on the Nevada Supreme Court, the ultimate fulfillment of my inner law geek.

I promise that my sense of justice will always be inside of me and guide my decisions as I continue on this journey. I am even more thrilled to be a part of Nevada’s first-ever female majority on our supreme court, and I hope we will all be role models for the little girls out there who may be contemplating a career in the law, that they should never give up on their dreams, and never let anyone else tell them that there is anything they can’t do.

There are so many people I need to thank for helping me to be here today, so I apologize in advance for the length of this list. First, thanks so much to my friend Senator Jacky Rosen for taking the time to videotape those remarks for today, even though she was unable to be here in person. We have gone through a lot together, commiserating over challenges with raising children, caring for our parents, and organizing functions at our synagogue, and I'm so proud to call her my friend. Thanks also to Judge Pro, who has been such a guiding force in my life for the last 30 years and who has been a role model, mentor, cheerleader, and friend. I'm blessed to have you in my life.

Thanks to Rabbi Akselrad for delivering the invocation today, and for being there with me for the celebrations, as well as the difficult times and losses, for almost 20 years now. Your support is very much appreciated. A special thanks to Senator Harry Reid, who honored me by recommending me to President Obama for a federal judgeship and never wavered in his support for me.

To retired Justice Michael Cherry I don't think he's going to be sitting in a rocking chair somewhere; he's not going anywhere—thank you for your unwavering support and encouraging me to become a judge and eventually to seek this position. And as he mentioned, I not only follow in his footsteps by taking a seat on the court, but also by renting his house in Carson City. And yes, it's not a dollar a month by the way, although I'd accept that offer.

Thank you to my new supreme court colleagues and the supreme court staff who have been so welcoming and willing to help with anything that I've needed during this transition period. And of course, to Justice Silver, it's an honor and a pleasure to be joining the supreme court bench with you, after all these years, as we have marched along together on our parallel tracks in our careers. It's wonderful to be sharing this event with you.

And of course, I also have to thank my district court staff, who have been with me since 2007 over that time, including my long-time JEA, Tim Kelley; my long time recorder, Jessica Kirkpatrick; my newer recorder, De'Awna Takis; my clerk, Keith Reed; my marshal, Anthony Russo; and all of my law clerks who made me look good for the last 12 years. And I'm so happy many of you are here today.

I also need to thank Dave Thomas and his team at Policy Communications for managing my campaign, and thank Tom Letizia for his website management and social media promotion. Apparently, I need a social media manager now.

Thanks to everyone here who supported my campaign all year, whether through financial contributions, walking with me in a parade, posting on social media, or telling your friends and family about my candidacy and, of course, by voting for me. Each and every bit of those efforts helped me, got me across the finish line,

and I'm grateful for all of it. And by the way, please come to the Victory Celebration and Retire the Debt Party on January 22 at 5 p.m. at the Eclipse Theater.

Thank you to my husband Howard for agreeing to come along on this crazy journey with me and being my fiercest supporter and best friend, even in the face of the many sacrifices and costs involved. I love you so much. Thank you to Shayna for being the best parade walker and candy distributor, and for putting up with not having dad and me around so much this year. We will continue to work to make it up to you. And thanks to my daughter Jenny for driving down from Utah to be here—she had to step out for a moment; my son Matt, for your support and for many nights taking care of Shayna when Howard and I were out at events.

Thanks to my dad, who is 81 years old and flew out from New Jersey to be here for this. You've always encouraged me to follow my dreams, and I'm glad I've been able to do so. I'm so sorry that my mom and my grandmother passed away in the last couple years and were unable to be here today, but I know that they're looking down on us and smiling, and as well, my late husband Dave, who passed in August of 2011. It's a shame he couldn't be here to enjoy this occasion, but I know he's always watching with pride. And I'm so grateful that I have remained close with his family members. His sister Marsha is here, and his cousin Harvey and Harvey's daughter Tamarah. Thanks so much for remaining a part of my life.

So I never imagined growing up that this little Jewish girl from Brooklyn could be a Nevada Supreme Court Justice. Thank you all for being along for this ride with me, and thanks to the great State of Nevada for electing me to this important position. I promise I won't let you down. Thanks so much.

CHIEF JUSTICE GIBBONS:

Thank you, Justice Cadish. Please come up to the bench and assume your role as a Nevada Supreme Court Justice, sitting next to Senior Justice Douglas.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the supreme court, we want to thank all of you for coming here today to this wonderful event. For those who have come from out of town, I'm sorry, it's the week of our busiest convention of the year in Las Vegas, so it's hard to get hotel rooms and all, but thank you for coming with that.

And before we close, a lot of times we get emergencies on Friday afternoon in the supreme court, and we did get an emergency call. It's from the Las Vegas Comedy Club. They want Justice Cherry to come down and audition immediately.

With that said, Justice Silver and Justice Cadish would invite all of you to join them for a reception at the rotunda of the Clark County Government Center. If you go out the door, it will be on your left,

just walk that way, and they will greet you down there. Thank you very much.

CLERK OF THE COURT:

All rise. The special session of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada is now adjourned.

