

INVESTITURE OF

JUSTICE LIDIA S. STIGLICH

Thursday, March 9, 2017
3 p.m.

Nevada State Library and Archives Building
Carson City, Nevada



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

CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL A. CHERRY

JUSTICE MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS

JUSTICE MARK GIBBONS

JUSTICE KRISTINA PICKERING

JUSTICE JAMES W. HARDESTY

JUSTICE RON D. PARRAGUIRRE

CHIEF JUDGE ABBI SILVER

JUDGE JEROME T. TAO

JUDGE MICHAEL P. GIBBONS

BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF NEVADA

INVESTITURE OF LIDIA S. STIGLICH

CHIEF JUDGE PATRICK FLANAGAN

THE HONORABLE RICHARD BRYAN

GOVERNOR BRIAN SANDOVAL

INDEX OF CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Invocation, Zelalem Bogale | 945 |
| Pledge of Allegiance, Jake McGoff and Garrett McGoff | 946 |
| Opening Remarks, Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry | 946 |
| <i>Investiture of Justice Lidia S. Stiglich</i> | |
| Remarks, Chief Judge Patrick Flanagan | 947 |
| Remarks, The Honorable Richard Bryan | 950 |
| Remarks, Governor Brian Sandoval | 952 |
| Administration of Oath to Justice Lidia S. Stiglich, Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry | 955 |
| Acceptance, Justice Lidia S. Stiglich | 955 |
| Closing Remarks, Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry | 957 |
| Benediction, S. Timothy Summers | 957 |

INVESTITURE PROCEEDING

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

I didn't know Lidia had this many friends. Good afternoon, everybody. The Nevada Supreme Court is now in special session to conduct the investiture of Justice Lidia S. Stiglich. We will proceed with the invocation, the presentation of colors, and the pledge of allegiance. Please remain standing for the invocation to be given by Zelalem Bogale. Zel?

ZELALEM BOGALE:

Our Governor, Brian Sandoval, Lieutenant Governor Hutchison, Senator Bryan, Chief Justice Cherry, justices of the Nevada Supreme Court, judges, distinguished guests, family and friends, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here today on such a special and historic occasion. And to the Supreme Court of Nevada's newest justice, Lidia Stiglich, I offer my gratitude and deep appreciation for allowing me to be a part of this ceremony, and I want to say thank you very much.

"Paideia," the Greek word for deep education, compels us to direct our attention from the superficial to the substantial—from the frivolous to the serious. It speaks to a cultivation of ourselves, of each other, of Nevadans, and, indeed, of Americans, where we come to terms with history and memory, reality and mortality. With respect to the opinions of humankind, it calls upon us to honor our unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and it mandates a maturation of the soul that allows us the courage to forge a sense of decency and compassion in the face of our many, many challenges. Let us pray.

Lord, we welcome Your presence here. Like our world, our great State of Nevada is changing, refreshing, and renewing. But You, our God, are ever constant in Your mercy and wisdom. Persist, oh Lord, as Justice Stiglich undertakes her duties and obligations on Nevada's high court. Give her the fortitude to be maladjusted to injustice. Give her the wisdom and patience required of one in such a special position of trust and responsibility. Give her the independence of thought rooted in the laws of nature, in the laws of our great republic, to carry out the people's work with integrity and principle. But in so doing, never let her lose sight of her daily reliance upon You, the eternal, supreme, and final judge. As Matthew instructs, "Let her shine, but not so others can see her, let her shine so that, through her, the others can see You." We ask this of You, our God, for Justice Stiglich, and for all of our judges, public officials, and citizens of our great State. Amen.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

Thank you. Please remain standing for the presentation of colors by the Carson City Combined Honor Guard, and the Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Jake and Garrett McGoff.

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 CHERRY:

Please be seated. Again, good afternoon. Could we have a round of applause for the color guard and for our young men?

Good afternoon. I'm so excited to be able to preside over this investiture of my good friend now, Lidia Stiglich. I was lucky enough to be the Chief Justice when she was invested in the Second Judicial District as a district court judge, so I guess one of us is really lucky, Lidia. I don't know. I guess I feel real lucky to have you here. Let me introduce my colleagues who are sitting up here with me. Let's start with my Associate Chief Justice, Michael Douglas; to my far right, Justice Ron Parraguirre; joining Lidia on the court is Justice Kris Pickering; and to my far left, where I usually sit, the far left, Justice James Hardesty.

We have a number of honored guests, and it gives me privilege to introduce the people who have come here to honor you, Lidia. This is really an impressive list. Governor Brian Sandoval. Governor? Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison. Senator Richard Bryan. I was going to introduce him as the first Public Defender of Clark County, and he was. Attorney General Adam Laxalt. Adam? Our Court of Appeals judges that are here: Abbi Silver, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The Inaugural Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Michael Gibbons. Michael? Judge Jerry Tao and Justice Mark Gibbons are in Las Vegas holding down the fort, but they send their regards to you, Lidia, of course. Also, we have members of the Board of Governors from the State Bar of Nevada: Julie Cavanaugh-Bill from Elko. Julie, where are you? There she is. The President of the State Bar of Nevada, Larry Digesti. Larry? We have the Washoe County Public Defender, Jeremy Bosler. The Alternate Public Defender from Washoe County, Jennifer Lunt. Director of Public Safety, James Wright. Washoe County Manager, John Slaughter. Commissioner Bob Lucey. Bob, where are you? One of my senior judges, Judge Steve Kosach. Steve, where are you? We have a federal judge here, a magistrate judge, Honorable William Cobb. And Lidia, we have a few of your colleagues from the state courts. From Clark County, Judge Linda Bell. From Washoe County, Judge Frances Doherty. Chief Judge of Washoe, Patrick Flanagan. Judge from Washoe, Scott Freeman. From Washoe County, David

Humke, Judge David Humke. From Washoe County, Judge Cynthia Lu. From Washoe County, Judge Bridget Robb. From Washoe County, Judge Elliott Sattler. From Washoe County, Judge Lynne Simons. From Washoe County, Judge Connie Steinheimer. From Fallon, Judge Tom Stockard. From Washoe County, Judge Egan Walker. The judge who had to drive the least amount of time, from Carson City, Judge Jim Wilson. Other dignitaries: David Clifton; Gene Drakulich; Richard Glasson; Kevin Higgins; Patricia Lynch; Scott Pearson; Alan Tiras; Camille Vecchiarelli; Tom Armstrong; Tom Perkins; and from Douglas County, Judge Tod Young. Tod? I believe we have some legislators here, too, who came to honor you. Senator Becky Harris. Becky, where are you? Senator John Hambrick. And here in Carson City: Assemblyman Al Kramer, Assemblyman Justin Watkins, Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen. Now comes the magic question that Jim Hardesty taught me to ask. Did I miss any dignitaries? If you just would stand up and say who you are so we can clap for you? I'm Chief Justice Michael Cherry, by the way.

Lidia has asked certain people to speak on her behalf. Our first speaker in honor of Lidia becoming a justice of the Nevada Supreme Court is the Chief Judge from Washoe County, Judge Patrick Flanagan.

CHIEF JUDGE FLANAGAN:

Thank you very much. May it please the court, Senator Bryan, Governor Sandoval, distinguished guests, friends, family, Justice Lidia Stiglich. Justice Stiglich was sworn in to the Second Judicial District Court bench, the best bench in the country, on January 22, 2013. She was introduced by her uncle, a United States Navy SEAL. We should have known something right then—this would be no ordinary judge. In what she called her “opening statement,” Justice Stiglich promised to reach out, work hard, and be a good colleague, and as her tenure on our bench demonstrated, she succeeded in all those aspects. We are all better—the judges, the court, the community because of your contributions.

While on the bench, Justice Stiglich was a dynamic force. She attended every court committee meeting; she listened, studied the issues, and in short order she had a solution on the table. With her colleagues on the bench, she led the Civil Bench/Bar Committee in adopting a uniform pretrial order, an issue that had bedeviled civil practitioners for years. With the Sheriff, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender, she created a special calendar that allowed dangerous defendants to make their court appearances by video, thus saving the Sheriff thousands of dollars in high security transport and enhancing the security of the courthouse and its patrons. While she chaired the Court Automation Project, we adopted mandatory electronic filing in criminal cases, we enhanced the transparency

and accountability of the court, and we expanded electronic access to the filing office. She was the first judge in the state to create a Young Offenders Court, which offered medically assisted treatment to opioid-addicted young adults. She partnered the Northern Nevada HOPES Hospital with the Children's Cabinet to provide behavioral health care and targeted case management to these young adults. She secured a state grant to assist these health care providers with comprehensive social and law enforcement support. And as a result of her efforts, 75 percent of these young adults are employed, 25 percent are looking for work, 68 percent are in stable housing, and 32 percent are in transitional living. Because of her, these young adults are safe, and they are on the road to recovery. With the parole and probation department, she created a pilot program, which reduced the paperwork necessary to put offenders on probation. Working with the District Attorney's Office, she reduced the paperwork and expedited the process that speeded up arrest warrants to law enforcement. When she was assigned to the probate court, she instituted a number of reforms that expedited that process and improved the efficiency of the court. Did I tell you she was appointed in 2013?

A district court is a busy place, and it is not uncommon for our court calendars to overflow, requiring a judge to reach out for assistance in handling a jury trial, settlement conference, a criminal calendar, or a contested emergency hearing. Justice Stiglich was always the first to respond to a request for assistance. She was known as someone who could reliably handle any assignment with a secure knowledge of the law and a commanding presence on the bench. Our chambers were adjacent to each other. The most insightful for me were the times we spent talking about our cares, our concerns, and our thoughts about cases that challenged us. Our discussions would often range from the theoretical to the historical, to complex legal concepts, to the practical consequences our decisions would have on the litigants and the law. It was in our private discussions that I came to appreciate the deep scholastic and pragmatic approach to the law that Judge Stiglich has and will bring to the Nevada Supreme Court.

But, if there is a deeper aspect to her character, it is in her quiet faith. Ask Judge Stiglich to show you the photograph of her and Michon meeting Pope Francis and watch her light up; watch her work with Bishop Calvo and the lawyers of the St. Thomas Moore Society in organizing the annual Red Mass celebration, and you will witness what C.S. Lewis calls the "most necessary virtue": faith; faith in action. Now, admittedly, a strong belief in God, a reverence for the Almighty, a reliance on divine intercessions are not necessary requisites for this job; it doesn't hurt either.

Based upon this evidence, you can only draw one conclusion, and that is Justice Stiglich will be an outstanding justice of the State of Nevada. Not only will she now have a statewide platform to con-

tinue her efforts to improve the lives of all Nevadans through her innovative programs and initiatives, but now with her new judicial colleagues, she will make important contributions to that which Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., called “the witness and external deposit of our moral life,” that is, the law.

Now, to the lawyers of the State of Nevada, I have two words: Stand up. The public often does not understand the hard work of these justices or the importance of the Nevada Supreme Court in their lives. But, you know that the easy cases are settled before they get to court, and you know the district court resolves most of those remaining cases, and you know that means the difficult cases land in this court. The Nevada Supreme Court is often called upon to resolve disputes that excite deep passions in the public square. They are often called upon to issue decisions that are unpopular to powerful private or public interests. But you know that these justices have reached their collective judgment only after listening to all sides of the dispute, engaging in deep deliberation, and issuing a decision in accordance with the rule of law. So, when benighted criticism is unfairly directed towards this court, or these justices: Stand up.

To Governor Sandoval, I have two words: Great choice. The selection of the men and women who sit on the bench of the state courts of Nevada is one of the most consequential decisions made by every occupant of the executive mansion. The judgment of these jurists touch the very lives, fortunes, and future of all those that come before them. Those jurists are the threads that bind together the fabric of our society. And because the Nevada Supreme Court is the final arbiter of the law in this state, the selection of a supreme court justice is all the more important. This requires the Governor to exercise sound judgment, longitudinal foresight, and a keen appreciation of the candidate’s judicial temperament, legal skills, and life experiences. Governor, with your selection of Justice Stiglich, you have touched upon all those values, and you have made an important contribution to the administration of justice in Nevada for years to come. Great choice!

To Justice Lidia Stiglich, I have two words: Thank you. Thank you for your hard work and your contributions, and congratulations on your investiture as Supreme Court Justice. This is a richly deserved personal and professional honor. And, while we recognize that your talents will now serve all who seek justice in Nevada, nevertheless, for our bench, it is a bittersweet moment. In his poem, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, Ireland’s first Nobel Laureate, William Butler Yeats, wrote these wistful words: “I will arise and go now, for always night and day I hear the lake water lapping by low sounds upon the shore; While I stand beside the roadway, or upon the pavement grey, I hear the lake water lapping deep within my heart’s own core.” Justice Stiglich, Lidia, you will remain in our heart’s core.

Finally, to the Nevada Supreme Court, I have two words: Buckle up. Thank you very much.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

Thank you, Judge Flanagan. We only know two words in the supreme court: “affirmed” and “reversed.” Lidia, our next speaker has quite a history here in the State of Nevada. I have known him since 1970 when I first came to Las Vegas. In fact, he interviewed me when I took the bar. He was like character and fitness. In those days, they had lawyers interview you, and he gave me the go ahead. Also, when I ran for office, he was a great adviser. He was in Washington, D.C., in the Senate, but he’d come back, and he gave me two tips that I’m going to give you. The only way you run for office in Nevada is either scared or unopposed. And, also, if two or more people meet on the street, you’ve always got to wonder why you’re not invited to be with them. This man was an attorney general, like Adam, and like the Governor. He was a United States senator, and now he is here to honor you, Lidia. The Honorable Richard Bryan. Richard.

HONORABLE RICHARD BRYAN:

Chief Justice Cherry and members of the supreme court, other members of the bench, the bar gathered here, the constitutional officers, especially His Excellency, the Governor of our great state, friends and family of our distinguished honoree. If I might be permitted to make a personal aside, seeing a crowd like this brought a tear to my eye. As Justice Cherry has indicated, I once held public office, but I never had a gathering this large. And I must say to the court that put me in the unenviable position of following Judge Flanagan, that is as funny a presentation as I’ve seen, and I’ve actually seen part of two centuries.

I first heard of Justice Stiglich through my daughter who has practiced in the Second Judicial District for some 20 years, and she indicated to me, “This Judge Stiglich is really something. She’s going to go places.” Well, I don’t always agree with my daughter’s analysis, but she was absolutely spot-on. And indeed, with a 96.6 approval rating by members of the bench and bar, that is an extraordinary accomplishment. I say that because, although those of us as lawyers, we think of ourselves as warm and cuddly and easy to get along with—I think that’s the way most of you think of us—but in fact we are part of the greatest system of justice ever conceived by the mind of man, and that is the adversarial system: the most efficacious system ever devised to ascertain truth. And that puts lawyers oftentimes in conflict in the courtroom. It is easier for temptation sometimes when a case does not go well to say, “You know, the judge didn’t read my brief. The judge really didn’t understand the law.” And to get a 96-percent rating like this is extraordinary.

My father was a lawyer in Las Vegas many years ago, and I didn’t fully understand the disagreeable side of a lawyer. It was a judge and later a member of the Clark County Bar, Elmo Hawkins, and my father would come home some evenings after a long day of court and

trial and say, "You know, that Elmo Hawkins, he wouldn't stipulate that the sun rose in the east and set in the west." I understood in a later life what that meant. So, Justice Stiglich, not since Joseph Stalin was in the Kremlin has there been a 96-percent approval rating. That is truly remarkable. I am grateful to the Governor for his decision.

But on a personal note, particularly pleased that he selected you as a Hastings graduate, joining your colleague who also, Justice Douglas, is a Hastings graduate. When I embarked upon my law school experience some 57 years ago, Hastings was a different institution. There were only two requirements for admission. One was a room temperature I.Q. and the other, a pulse. And Dean Snodgrass—I didn't much care for him—but he said "Bryan, we waived one of those so you could be admitted." He never indicated what that one was.

I take time to touch upon that, but we invest an enormous responsibility in our judges, in our system. They have the ability to deprive us of our liberty, to divest us of our property, to sever the most personal relations. I've always thought of the law as a living organism. So our system does not simply allow for the mechanistic application of legal principles to a particular fact pattern. If that's what it was all about, we could program a computer and get the result that we seek. But a judge has to have character and understanding of the community and the circumstances in which the decisions that he or she is presented with arise. The Lord Chancellor of Britain once said, "I wrote in terms of who I want as a judge someone who has character," and then he went on to say "and so much the better if he or she knows a little law."

Justice Stiglich has character, and she knows the law. She has been involved in our community. Judge Flanagan has told you about her professional work on behalf of the Second Judicial District. She serves as a faculty member of the National Judicial College. She serves as an instructor at the University of Nevada. She's involved in service clubs. She knows our community. And her family who are here to celebrate her elevation to the supreme court I've known a long time. Michon Martin guided the Governor in his first term. Michon, your mother, Sharon, was extraordinarily helpful to an obscure governor of a previous century, long since gone—I have difficulty remembering his name. And, of course, the new generation Sophia here who is a student in Washoe County. Congratulations to your family as well.

And so, I guess as a point of conclusion, Governor Sandoval had an extremely difficult decision three extraordinarily gifted candidates. We all agree. Judge Flanagan—once again, two words, "great choice"—I think we all agree. But, Governor, I would like to say that you in effect won the trifecta when you appointed Justice Stiglich. She is knowledgeable in the law, she understands our community she's been involved in our community, and she shares

our Nevada values. That makes her a perfect choice. Thank you on behalf of all of us in the State of Nevada for making the selection of Justice Stiglich, and congratulations to you, Lidia.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

Lidia, I met your next speaker when he was campaigning for Attorney General in Las Vegas, and I heard him speak, and I was very, very impressed. And he won the election, and was Attorney General, and then he was appointed to the federal bench, and then he decided that he would like to run for Governor, and he's been successful doing that. I got to know him when I was Chief Justice. He invited me over to the mansion to have breakfast. And I never had a governor serve me a sweet roll—I mean, it was really great. But we are so blessed to have this man as our Governor, and I think over the years, we've become good friends. I'm so proud that he's here to speak on your behalf. I love this guy, our Governor, Brian Sandoval.

GOVERNOR SANDOVAL:

Thank you, Chief Justice Cherry. I don't know if any of you had an opportunity to watch his State of the Court speech yesterday; you crushed it. Members of the Nevada Supreme Court, and I'm still an active member of the bar, so I have a sign on my back that says, "Forgive me for having my back to the supreme court!" But thank you very much. It's a privilege to be here. Senator Bryan, always a privilege and honor to be with you. Judge Flanagan, who happens to be my—our neighbor as well, just incredible, incredible remarks. Our constitutional officers that are here today, our legislators, our members of the bench, distinguished guests, Justice Stiglich, her family, friends, it really is an honor to be with you all on this important day.

Investiture ceremonies are unlike almost any other initiation into public office. Here, we invest our judges with both the authority and the symbols of their high office. Now I know, Justice Stiglich, you have already undertaken a solemn oath to protect and defend the Constitution and laws of our great state and our great nation. Today is a day you will never forget, a milestone in your personal and your professional life. Thank you for your lifelong commitment to justice, public service, and your continued dedication to our great state. I know it is not your first investiture ceremony, but this is still a one-of-a-kind event, and it just you know I agree with everyone that to be able to look out and see all these family and friends and how much appreciation and respect the people in this state have for you. After today, you are vested with the authority of Nevada's pre-eminent court, an honor that few judges and attorneys have ever, or will ever, receive. And we are truly fortunate to have someone of your caliber on our state's highest court.

I mean this, appointing you to the Nevada Supreme Court is one of the highlights of my service as Governor. My job comes with

many constitutional responsibilities. But one of my most important duties is filling judicial vacancies. It is not a task that I take lightly. And in all of my judicial appointments, I have looked for those qualities that I believe form the core of Nevada's greatest judges, past and present, state and federal, trial court and appellate court. Good judges work hard. They are honest, fair, and have the fortitude to carry a heavy burden in dispensing justice to the citizens whose rights are in their hands. They are confident in their decisions, but unassuming in their responsibilities. They ask the right questions and are persuaded by the right answers. And though there may be no secret ingredient to good judging, there are no shortcuts either.

It is tempting to feel isolated as a judge, especially on the appellate court. But good judges know that their role is collaborative. You engage with and rely on the counsel who appear before you and the staff and colleagues that stand beside you. You work upon a firm foundation of jurisprudence crafted by many brilliant jurists through the ages. You are a part of a process that finds answers both in the wisdom of your predecessors and the issues of the moment. I'm going to quote from Chief Justice Roberts. He recognized, "Judges have to have the humility to recognize that they operate within a system of precedent, shaped by other judges equally striving to live up to the judicial oath."

Now each new judicial vacancy has given me the chance to know some of Nevada's finest lawyers and judges. It is a regular reminder of the strength of Nevada's small but mighty legal community. And I've had the privilege of appointing 18 district court judges, 3 of our appellate judges, and for the very first time called upon to fill a vacancy on the Nevada Supreme Court. I promise you, it was a very humbling experience, made all the more challenging by the big shoes that I was asked to fill—Justice Saitta, who had served the State of Nevada with distinction and dignity. It was no simple task to measure her possible replacements by the standards that she has set. Fortunately, the judicial selection committee provided the names, as one of the previous speakers said, of three of Nevada's most impressive district court judges, any one of whom would have been a very strong addition to this court. But, after days of difficult deliberation, I concluded that Judge Stiglich was the best of the best. I want to share with you some of the high praise that she received by those who have worked with her. These are direct quotes, and I ask permission to be able to share these with you all . . .

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:
Sure.

GOVERNOR SANDOVAL:

She has "an unwavering view of being fair to all." Most people do not know the "depth of her love for people, her intrinsic and unwavering commitment to public service, and her resolute work

ethic.” She is “patient, deliberate and has an excellent sense of humor”—that I hope we get to hear today—“that is exhibited at appropriate times.” Whatever that means! This one I love: Justice Stiglich “is the smartest person—attorney, judge, or otherwise—that I have ever met.” And finally, the wise counsel of Justice Saitta herself, and I asked her permission as well: “While many are qualified in some ways for this position, Judge Stiglich is qualified in every way. She is an independent thinker who has a reputation as a careful and thoughtful judge. Her judicial temperament is precisely the type our court needs.” High praise indeed.

Now as the person who first appointed Justice Stiglich to the district court, I cannot tell you how satisfying and proud it has made me to watch you as you have been a judge. Now Senator Bryan said that she was indeed the highest rated judge on the Second Judicial District Court, with a 96 percent, and you gave one statistic, and I was thinking to myself, “The last time I got a 96 was in 7th grade math.” That’s really good! But, in all seriousness, Justice Stiglich brings to the Nevada Supreme Court those same attributes that made her an outstanding district court judge. And again, as has been shared, I know that her commitment to improve legal writing through her teaching experience at the National Judicial College, her experiences of creating new avenues for justice, like the Youth Offender Court, have been an asset to both the bench and the bar, but particularly those individuals that come before your court. I also know that she will stand firm and reach decisions she believes are right, regardless of the added public scrutiny or criticism. Former Chief Justice Burger may have said it best: “Judges rule on the basis of law, not public opinion, and they should be totally indifferent to the pressures of the times.” Justice Stiglich, you have a weighty task before you. But I have no doubt, no doubt, that you are up to the challenges and the opportunities, and I can’t be more excited about the job I know that you will do.

Now this little bit of surprise for you in closing, I am going to repeat the words of somebody that you’re going to hear a lot about in the future, and they are your words—your own words, and they come from your personal statement in your application to be a member of this court. “My years of experience sitting in general jurisdiction court in the Second Judicial District have profoundly deepened my commitment to ensuring the tenets of our constitutionally created system of law are protected, equally accessed and delivered in a fair and unbiased manner. Litigants who access our courts on a daily basis are entitled to no less, with or without the assistance of counsel.” And I thought to myself, “Amen.”

So, Lidia, thank you for the privilege and absolute humbling opportunity to be a part of this day. It almost brings tears to my eyes to see everybody out here and how proud they are of you, and from the bottom of my heart, how proud I am of you. So God bless you,

God bless your family, God bless our great state, and God bless this country. Thank you.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

I was watching the door. I know I introduced this person before, but I just saw her, and I want to make sure that she is recognized. One of my favorite senators. Becky Harris. Becky? Justice Stiglich, are you ready? Sophia, are you ready? Let's do it. (*Chief Justice Cherry administered the oath of office to Justice Stiglich.*)

Congratulations, Justice Stiglich. Justice Stiglich, you have been duly installed, and now you will be robed. Here comes Elizabeth Brown, the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you Justice Lidia Stiglich.

JUSTICE STIGLICH:

This is going to be tough. I came upon a quote when I was preparing for this day by Sandra Day O'Connor. She said, "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone . . . and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something." Today, I look out and I see so many of the threads of my life. Michon and Sophia, my beautiful perfect girls, you are the best part of me. Thank you. I hesitate to call out others by name, lest I exclude any. But I thank you all, I love you all, my family, and my friends. And to know me is to know that my friends are my family and my family are my friends.

I would be remiss not to recognize Justice Saitta, in whose seat I serve, but whom I cannot replace. Who would have thought that such little feet would have such big shoes? She was not able to join us today, but I want to thank her for her support and her extraordinary service to the State of Nevada.

To my speakers today—and before I get there, many of you who have known me my whole life, you've never seen me cry—it's a big day for you too. So I want to thank my speakers for your generous words and your kind thoughts. You inspire me to work harder, reach higher, and serve most humbly in order to live up to your faith in me. I have learned much from each of you, personally and professionally, and each of you is part of my fabric. You set an example of service, dignity, and grace that will enhance the people of our great state for years to come.

Governor Sandoval, thank you for your confidence and your support. You taught me perhaps the best lesson of true public service: If you just keep your rudder set towards what is right, barriers are just challenges that can be addressed and overcome. What you have accomplished for Nevada—your own beautiful piece of its tapestry, working tirelessly and always striving to do what is right—has been an inspiration. As a Nevadan, I would like to say thank you for all you have done for our state.

And what an honor it is to have Senator Richard Bryan here, a former governor, a distinguished Senator . . . truly a historic Nevada leader. In fact, he is so in demand that we had to delay this investiture for two months just to fit in his schedule. I am so humbled you are here, Senator. And I thank you.

Now, Chief Judge Flanagan, my former court neighbor and friend. You took me under your wing and you helped me grow. You gave me the trust, confidence, and courage to say yes to new challenges and responsibilities and to revere and have a sense of history of the institution in which I serve. By example, when I first became a district court judge and picked a jury, I assured them I'll be a good guardian of your time. I recognized them for their sacrifice in participating and we got to it—we got down to business. But I roamed the hallways afterward, and I watched my colleagues perform *their* duties, so I could see and learn and grow. And I saw Judge Flanagan pick a jury, and he shared with them the history of why we have juries, the Constitution, the privilege to serve, and the privilege to be a part of justice. I could see jurors swell with pride and eagerness to be a part of something bigger than themselves, than ourselves. And I thought to myself, "I'm going to do that." Because that is what we have to do as judges: educate, share, and translate. We speak the language of the law, but the law is not ours; it belongs to the people. Those who pass through Nevada's courthouses, willing or unwilling, pass through *their* courthouses, not ours. Our duty is to help them understand and, when necessary, be understood. Judge Irving Kaufman once said, "The Supreme Court's only armor is the cloak of public trust." We must embrace that cloak, and weave it and nurture it and wear it with pride and an understanding of the great responsibility we bear.

To my colleagues, my new and colorful threads, you have my unwavering commitment to learn from you and to serve respectfully with you. I am privileged to join this court of distinguished Nevadans. I am awed by the responsibility we share to ensure justice, fairness, and equality under the law. Those gracious enough to speak today, thank you, and Justice O'Connor—well, I stole her quote—they come from different backgrounds, different parties, and they have served in a variety of different public offices, but they possess a more important commonality: They brought the needs, hopes, and dreams of those they served—us—to work with them every day. They sought to govern, administrate, or judge with a keen sense of the real implications of their actions on all Nevadans. Fairness, decency, charity, dedication, and truth are deeply embedded in their characters. My goal is to show up every day with the faces of Nevadans in my mind, the pursuit of justice in my heart, and the character of these great Nevada servants in my spirit. Thank you all so very much. May God bless you, and God bless the great State of Nevada.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERRY:

What I was supposed to say is Justice Stiglich, please take your place on the bench. Oh, please be seated. I would like to thank you all for attending. There is going to be a reception at the supreme court immediately following this session, and we have great parties over at the supreme court, so please come. At this time—well, before I call on you, I just wanted to mention something. What better time to have an investiture of a lady from the State of Nevada to the supreme court than International Women’s Day, which was yesterday. So Lidia, you now join Kris Pickering, and on the Court of Appeals, Abbi Silver. So of the ten of us that are on—that are public judges, three of you happen to be ladies, women, females, gals. At this time, I would like to call on S. Timothy Summers to step forward and give our benediction. And would you please rise.

S. TIMOTHY SUMMERS:

Chief Justice Cherry, associate justices, honored and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Justice Stiglich, thank you so much for allowing me to participate in today’s events. For those of you who don’t know, I have had the distinguished honor and privilege of working with Justice Stiglich in organizing the Red Mass. And it has been a profound source of joy and privilege in my life. Thank you.

I invite everybody at this time to please bow your heads to ask for God’s blessing upon Justice Stiglich. Lord God, by Your grace, You have shown us that You are justice, and by Your incarnation, that You are mercy. We humbly pray that You bless our Justice with sound health and wisdom so that she might serve all Nevadans with prudence and grace. And, in both the quiet and the challenging circumstances that arise during her watch, that You might impart upon her courage and acumen to see clearly the proper weight of justice and of mercy so that she might execute the duties of her office in accordance with those ideals. We offer this through the intercession of Your son. Amen.

ANNOUNCER:

This special session of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada is now adjourned.

