

Dedication

of the

EDWARD THAXTER GIGNOUX
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

September 19, 1988
Portland, Maine

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

William J. Diamond
Regional Administrator
United States General Services Administration

INVOCATION

Archdeacon Stephen W. Foote
Episcopal Diocese of Maine

GREETINGS

William J. Diamond

REMARKS

Honorable William S. Cohen
United States Senator
Maine

Honorable Joseph E. Brennan
United States Representative
First District of Maine

Honorable Frank M. Coffin
Judge, United States Court of Appeals
for the First Circuit

Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Representative
Second District of Maine

Honorable George J. Mitchell
United States Senator
Maine

**UNVEILING
OF
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE**

RESPONSE

Mrs. Edward T. Gignoux



HONORABLE EDWARD T. GIGNOUX

The Honorable Edward Thaxter Gignoux was appointed U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine on September 23, 1957 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. When he entered on duty as the ninth judge to serve in this District, Judge Gignoux was the nation's youngest federal judge.

Judge Gignoux graduated cum laude from Harvard College in 1937. He attended Harvard Law School where he served as editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated magna cum laude in 1940.

His legal career began with John Lord O'Brian, Esq. in Buffalo, New York, after which he joined the firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. In 1942 he joined the Army, receiving the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. He rose to the rank of Major during his three-year tour with the First Cavalry Division in the Southwest Pacific. In 1946 he returned to Maine and later became a partner in the Portland firm of Verrill, Dana, Walker, Philbrick and Whitehouse.

Throughout his distinguished career, Judge Gignoux has held numerous positions and committee memberships in political, judicial, and civic organizations. He was a past Director and President of the Portland Community Chest and United Fund. He served two three-year terms on the Portland City Council, part of that as Chairman, and is a former Overseer of Harvard College and Trustee of the Maine Medical Center. Judge Gignoux has served on the United States Judicial Conference, and on several Committees of the Conference. He was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Supporting Personnel, 1968-70; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Federal Jurisdiction, 1975-80; and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1980-87. He is a member of the Council and former First Vice President of the American Law Institute. Judge Gignoux has received honorary LL.D. Degrees from Bowdoin College, the University of Maine, Colby College, Nasson College, Bates College, Husson College and St. Joseph College. In 1987 he was the recipient of the prestigious Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice.

Judge Gignoux was born in Portland, Maine on June 28, 1916. He is married to the former Hildegard Schuyler Thaxter. They have two children, Mrs. Marie Andrée Gris  and Edward T. Gignoux, Jr., and five grandsons. Judge and Mrs. Gignoux reside in Cumberland Foreside, Maine.

Proceedings

MR. DIAMOND: Ladies and gentlemen, our Honoree. (applause)

We're just waiting for the rest of the supporting cast.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Circuit Judge Frank M. Coffin and the Maine Congressional Delegation here in its entirety. (applause)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bill Diamond, I'm the Regional Administrator of the United States General Services Administration which is charged with the responsibility of maintaining this magnificent and historic structure.

I will serve today as your master of ceremony.

This is indeed a very important and happy occasion as we dedicate today the Edward Thaxter Gignoux United States Courthouse. This building was named by a unanimous act of Congress bipartisanly, I must say, to honor this distinguished federal judge who has devoted a lifetime of service to his beloved state and nation.

Now, if we may start the program, I would like you to please stand and I would introduce to you Archdeacon Stephen W. Foote of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, an old friend of the family.

REVEREND ARCHDEACON FOOTE: Let us pray.

Called or uncalled, Lord, you are present in all places and with all that we do. By the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, may this place and all who work here be filled with truth and impartiality for the weak as well as the strong—for the poor as well as the rich—for the broken as well as those who are raised up.

Be especially present in our purpose this day, oh Lord, as we name and dedicate this building to honor the name of our friend, Edward Gignoux—may we be inspired by his example of judgment and understanding; of integrity and gracious spirit of hospitality, and by what we do this day, may all who follow in the work of this court find their lives strengthened and their purposes confirmed in the service of justice and human dignity. Amen.

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much, Father. We have a good number, I should say a large number of distinguished people here today. But I would be amiss if I did not take the opportunity

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to introduce and ask him to stand, Governor John R. McKernan. (applause)

And now it gives me great pleasure to introduce the senior senator from the great state of Maine, a literary lion in his own right, the Honorable William S. Cohen. (applause)

SENATOR COHEN: Thank you very much.

Judge Gignoux, Mrs. Gignoux and family, Judge Coffin, Judge Cyr, Judge Carter, Justice McKusick, Congresswoman Snowe, Congressman Brennan, my colleague, another literary lion, Senator Mitchell, and Father Foote.

Justice Benjamin Cardozo once wrote to his colleague, Oliver Wendell Holmes, he said:

How do I praise Thee and not overpraise yet mar thy grace by stint thereof?

Cardozo's dilemma is precisely the one we face today: How to pay tribute to a remarkable individual who has touched the lives of so many in such a profound and lasting way. There is a temptation on such an occasion to provide a very long catalogue of the Honoree's accomplishment. I will spare you that ordeal today because it would be superfluous.

Number one, everyone here knows the record and accomplishments of our honored guest. And number two, for those of you who just happened to stop by in the courtroom on your way to work, I think it's printed in the program.

A courthouse occupies a very special place in any community. Architecturally, it often resembles a temple. And that's because it in fact is a place of worship where citizens rich and poor alike may enter and seek the very things which we value as much as life itself: Truth and Justice.

And those who help us conduct this search, who guide us along this labyrinthian path, occupy a very special place in the hierarchy of our society. The judges, especially trial judges, must possess a muscular mind and a firm hand so as to restrain the frustrations and the aggressions and the conflicts that accompany the human experience.

I remember reading, as a law student, the book entitled *The Nature of the Judicial Process*. I came across the footnote that said: "In the long run there is no guarantee of justice but the personality of the judge". And I thought, what a matter of heresy this statement was, for surely the last thing that should influence or tip the scales of justice is the personality of the judge.

But Cardozo was right, as usual. Rules and laws are written by mortal men and women and those laws are administered not by

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blind oracles untouched by fallibilities—sitting like mystic dark ravens above the fray—but by real people who carry with them not only the knowledge of complex procedures and arcane laws, but also a sense of proportion, of propriety, of fairness, of compassion, of generosity and of humility who must always remain impartial but never indifferent, who understand the complexities of life cannot be reduced to or ruled by unreal simplicities.

Now, the first time that I met Judge Gignoux in 1966, I will confess to you I was totally intimidated. He looked as if he had just stepped out of a Hollywood set. He was a combination of Jimmy Stewart and Spencer Tracy. He stood tall and true as a pine tree. He had an Olympian (if I won't pre-empt the remarks of my colleague) he had an Olympian presence about him, and a voice—that voice, that was as deep and rich and resonant as a church organ. And I thought surely, it had to be electronically amplified or possibly even extra-terrestrial. As a matter of fact my partner and I, Errol Payne, out of your earshot, always referred to you as E.T.—E.T. Gignoux that is.

On the occasion of my first trial, I was nervous and he knew that I was nervous, and he called me into his chambers and told me the story of a juror who was in a mild state of panic because his wife was about to give birth to their very first child. But the juror blurted out in his request to be excused, he said, your Honor, my wife is about to become pregnant and I want to be there when it happens.

Now, just imagine what the National Press Corps would have done to that poor man if he were an aspiring presidential candidate.

But as was his custom, Judge Gignoux simply excused him!

Ladies and gentlemen, for nearly 30 years Judge Gignoux has set a standard of excellence that has reached well beyond the borders of Maine.

In 1980 the *American Lawyer* magazine cited him as one of the nation's best judges and to illustrate its case the magazine noted that when Chief Justice Burger was looking for a judge to handle the Chicago Seven Retrial, "he needed someone who would exude integrity and honor, and maintain control."

His selection in 1972 confirmed nationally what Maine lawyers had known for more than a decade, that Judge Gignoux had a reputation for fairness and integrity that extends well beyond the confines of his quiet district.

A *Chicago Tribune* columnist later observed about his performance, "Heads were held a little higher because a judge from Maine left everyone with some very classy memories of justice."

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Holmes once speculated that he could imagine Napoleon must have dreamed of waging battles all across the continents of the globe. And that Shakespeare had dreams of stringing sonnets like so many pearls on an endless strand. But alas, he said, we cannot live our dreams. It's enough if we can give a sample of our best and know in our hearts its been nobly done.

Judge Gignoux, for nearly three decades you have given the people of this state and this nation more than just a sample of your best. You have given every person appearing before you a full measure of justice, and each one of us here in this room today knows in our hearts it was nobly done.

And there can be no more appropriate expression of our honor, of what you have given us than to give your name to the temple of justice where you presided with such intelligence, integrity and grace. (applause)

On behalf of the entire Maine delegation I want to present to you the bill that was signed into law with a copy of the letter actually signed by President Reagan and a pen that it was signed into law with. (applause)

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much, Senator Cohen, for those moving words. At this time I would like to introduce a native of Portland who has practiced law right in this courtroom and who represents this district. United States representative for the First District of Maine, the Honorable Joseph E. Brennan. (applause)

CONGRESSMAN BRENNAN: Thank you Mr. Diamond.

Judge Gignoux, Governor McKernan, my colleagues in the delegation, Judge Coffin, other distinguished members of the judiciary, the legal fraternity, citizens of Maine and friends.

I am truly honored to have been invited to participate in this dedication ceremony to name this the Edward Thaxter Gignoux Courthouse. I am pleased that the Maine delegation has joined together in sponsoring legislation to honor the outstanding career of Judge Gignoux.

Judge Gignoux has served the people of Maine with great distinction for over 30 years. He is truly held in the highest esteem by other judges, by the legal profession and, frankly, far more importantly, by all of the people of the State of Maine.

Although his primary service has been in Maine, he has frequently been called to preside over trials in other parts of this nation. For example, Chief Justice Burger asked him to preside over the major trial of the Chicago Seven.

But on a personal note, it is a real honor for me to be here today since as a young attorney I appeared, as Bill Cohen said, somewhat

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intimidated in this courtroom on many, many occasions. And I have to say, even when I was losing I muttered the usual complaints of a losing attorney, but I always felt that I was treated fairly, with dignity, with respect for my client and for the judicial process.

And I often thought, after a trial in this courtroom, this is how a court should be run. This should be the standard in every courtroom across this nation, the standard set by Judge Gignoux.

To me, to be a good judge it takes intellect, integrity, great learning in the law, and more humble qualities like diligence and capacity to make a decision. But to be a great judge, it takes all of that and more, it takes courage. It takes compassion, and it takes the courage to be compassionate.

Judge Gignoux is truly a great judge.

In this very courtroom nearly 20 years ago in a celebrated case, I as a lawyer was witness to Judge Gignoux's great courage to be compassionate to another human being. Judge Gignoux on that day rendered a sentence that went against the great tide of public opinion in this community and indeed incurred the public wrath.

And in this very courageous act of compassion against the overwhelming public view, Judge Gignoux recognized that there would be a strong public outcry and he said, so very pointedly from this very bench: Let it be said that if this Court has erred, it has erred on the side of mercy.

Yes, today's dedication is fitting to honor a courageous and compassionate man, truly a great judge, a judge's judge. Really a great American, Edward T. Gignoux. Thank you. (applause)

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much, Congressman Brennan.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you a former Chief Judge of the First Circuit, a former Congressman, a respected jurist and a long time colleague and friend of Judge Gignoux in this very building, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, The Honorable Frank M. Coffin. (applause)

JUDGE COFFIN: Thank you Mr. Diamond.

Reverend Foote, Governor McKernan, Chief Justice McKusick, Senators, Representatives, Judge Gignoux, members of the Gignoux family, former clerks of Judge Gignoux, lawyers and friends.

It is a signal honor for me to join with our Maine delegation whose considerable legislative achievement has made it possible to have this ceremony today. But it is also awesome to attempt to represent Chief Judge Cyr, Judge Carter, and all of the court employees in this District of Maine, not only represent them but

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indeed the entire federal judiciary. But in this task, I have the help of three messages, which I will read to you.

The first is from the Chief Judge of this Circuit, Levin H. Campbell, and he writes:

"The First Circuit is enormously proud of Judge Edward Thaxter Gignoux. We regard the naming of the courthouse in Portland as not only an honor for Judge Gignoux and his family, but for all in this Federal Circuit in which he has sat and served with such distinction as to achieve a national reputation.

"On behalf of the Judges of the First Circuit, I send our warmest wishes to Judge and Mrs. Gignoux and to all of you who will be participating in this historic dedication ceremony. There can be very few public buildings bearing the name any more deserving of enshrinement in the hearts and minds of all of us."

And then from an old Gignoux friend, the Circuit Justice of this Circuit, Supreme Court Justice William Brennan.

"Dear Ed.

"I think it's compellingly appropriate that the Federal Courthouse in Portland is being dedicated in your name. That dedication will remind the citizens of Maine once again of the extraordinary contributions you have made as a District Court Judge, not only in Maine but in far distant courts throughout the country.

"I congratulate you but I also congratulate those responsible for this recognition of the magnificent contributions of a truly outstanding judge.

"Mary joins me in sending Hilly and you our most affectionate best."

And, finally, a representative of the federal judiciary with truly impeccable credentials, Chief Justice of the United States, William H. Rehnquist.

"Dear Judge Gignoux:

"I am greatly pleased to join all those honoring you today in the naming of the Edward Thaxter Gignoux United States Courthouse. Your nearly 31 years on the district bench, including more than 2 decades as the only federal trial judge in Maine represents a distinguished career of public service.

"The administration of justice has benefitted immeasurably from your tireless efforts to advance the public interest by your participation in so many important tasks.

"As a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, as Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedures, and of the Subcommittees on Supporting Personnel and Federal

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Jurisdiction as an active and valuable member of the Committee on Judicial Ethics, as well as numerous other committees, and as the Judge on the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals, you have consistently contributed to the improvement of the American system of justice and have set a high standard of service.

"Today's ceremony is a celebration of the great esteem in which you are held at both by your colleagues on the bench and by your fellow citizens.

"On behalf of this Court and the entire federal judiciary, I extend to you and your family our deep appreciation for your past work and heartiest congratulations on this very special occasion.

Sincerely,
William H. Rehnquist."

And before I sit down I want to add a word of my own.

Trying to say something appropriate about Judge Gignoux has long been a happy avocation of mine.

It began 31 years ago last month, when at his confirmation hearing in Washington, I, as a young Congressman, said that the job and the man make a perfect fit. This is one of my rare predictions that worked out beyond any possibility of guessing at the time.

Then a few years ago I had the privilege of writing a personal appreciation for Judge Gignoux in the Maine Law Review in which I called this ninth judge of this 200 year old court a "consummate practitioner of the art of judging."

But what I want to say today is simply this, that we are celebrating a perfect marriage of a building and a name. This building, this three story high building is not arrogant in its size, it is of human proportions but it has the durability and integrity of the granite out of which it is constructed. Its corridors, most of the time, radiate a serenity that is rare in these frenetic times, but most important, this splendid courtroom in which we sit, epitomizes the spaciousness of thought and the gracefulness of the justice that has been dispensed here for the last three decades by the man we permanently and lastingly honor today.

Noble building. Noble name. (applause)

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much your Honor. And it is now with great pleasure that I introduce the senior member of the Maine delegation in the United States House of Representatives. The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe. (applause)

CONGRESSWOMAN SNOWE: Thank you very much Bill.

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Judge Gignoux and Mrs. Gignoux, Governor McKernan, members of the judiciary, members of the Maine delegation, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

During the course of my political career I've had the misfortune of following Judge Coffin twice on the program, and since he is always so eloquent I'm beginning to think it's a Democratic ploy.

Looking around this morning, I noticed that I am one of the very few nonlawyers, I would also have to say that probably billable hours in Portland are down by 50 percent this morning.

I am very pleased to be part of this ceremony today, proud to salute an individual who will long stand as one of the finest men in our state's history and in the distinguished annals of American jurisprudence.

We in Maine are hardly alone in holding such high regard for Judge Gignoux. The rapid pace and unanimity in which the Congress passed and the President signed the naming legislation of this courthouse are perfect examples of this shared feeling.

It is almost as remarkable as getting four politicians in the same room together during an election year.

It occurred to me that the naming of this building for Judge Gignoux actually has a twofold purpose.

First, quite appropriately, is to recognize and to honor Judge Gignoux's lifetime of achievement in a tangible, public and lasting manner. We should do no less. It's extraordinary to think of the breadth of his accomplishment from specific decisions to celebrated cases, from the conduct of his courtroom to the clarity of his writings. We all want to believe, in the State of Maine, that we are unusually blessed with outstanding men and women who have lived their lives in a public arena; Edward Gignoux is living proof that that belief is true.

In some respects, the naming of this building in Judge Gignoux's honor almost seems to fall short of the mark. That the respect and the gratitude he has earned over the years surpasses our means of public recognition.

Indeed the legacy Judge Gignoux leaves us is, in Lincoln's words, "far above our poor power to add or detract". To rename this building for Judge Gignoux thus must stand and will stand as our best symbol of the admiration of and the appreciation we hold for his service.

There is, as I said, a second purpose for renaming of this courthouse for Judge Gignoux. It is for the rest of us . . . it is for this city and for this state. The Gignoux Federal Courthouse will remain as a reminder to us of the beliefs and the manner in

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which Judge Gignoux has conducted his professional and personal life.

It will remind us that the obedience citizens owe the law is no greater than the respect owed by the law and legal system to those citizens; that the law exists to serve society, and not itself alone; and that adherence to basic virtue—of diligence, of learning, of courtesy, of fairness—will bring a richness and value to one's life immeasurable and unmatched in material terms. It will remind us that public service has attracted and must attract, the most outstanding men and women in this country if our nation is to remain strong.

In Judge Gignoux's career are these tenets embodied; now, on this building will they be symbolized. And our state, each of us, in generations to come, will long be reminded of how Edward Thaxter Gignoux, in Churchill's words, will always march in the ranks of honor. (applause)

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much Congresswoman Snowe.

We are now very fortunate to have with us today a former United States Attorney in this building, a former United States District Judge and colleague of Judge Gignoux in that capacity, the distinguished United States Senator of the State of Maine, the Honorable George J. Mitchell. (applause)

SENATOR MITCHELL: Judge Gignoux and Mrs. Gignoux and members of the family, Judges Coffin, Cyr and Carter, Justice McKusick, Governor McKernan, Senator Cohen, Representatives Snowe and Brennan, distinguished guests and friends.

Nothing can more fittingly enshrine the reputation of Judge Edward Gignoux than a courthouse building dedicated to the pursuit of justice under law.

Judge Gignoux's decades of distinguished service, his well known work in other districts, the fact that for almost three decades he alone was the federal judiciary in Maine—these are among the reasons he is so esteemed by his peers, so honored by his fellow citizens.

But Judge Gignoux's most enduring legacy will be the quality of justice in his court. Nothing expresses that spirit better than his own words.

More than a quarter of a century ago, Judge Gignoux said to a group of law students, "probably the least of the errors a trial judge can commit is to be wrong. There is always a Court of Appeals to correct it. But if the trial Judge is unfair, if he is impatient, if he is peremptory, if he conducts the trial without full

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consideration of the rights of the parties, he has failed in his ultimate obligation.”

Judge Gignoux recognized the scope of his obligation and he did what is far more difficult to do, he lived up to those obligations.

I have been very lucky. I have had more than my share of privilege, but nothing I have ever done was a greater privilege than to serve in this Court before Judge Gignoux and on this bench with Judge Gignoux.

Shortly after I entered the Senate, I was asked how it felt to try to fill Ed Muskie's big shoes. And I answered, believe me, after you've tried to fill Judge Gignoux's shoes everything else in life is easy.

There are simply no words in any language to convey my respect and my admiration for him.

I must admit I didn't always think he was right. When I was U.S. Attorney, trying cases in this court and he ruled against me, as he did from time to time, I'd go downstairs to my office talking about how those intelligent men on the Court of Appeals, Frank Coffin and his colleagues, would be able to understand my arguments, even if Judge Gignoux did not. Then, invariably, after a little reflection and a little more research, I'd always have to concede that Judge Gignoux was right after all, and I'd have to go on to the next case and hope to do better.

Judge Gignoux truly represents the best that democracy has to offer.

With fairness, with integrity, with dignity, with a deep commitment to equal justice under the law for all, with reverence for the Constitution, he brought honor to our state and to our system of justice.

May those who serve in this courthouse for years to come show some of the wisdom and the understanding of the very great man for whom this building is today named. (applause)

MR. DIAMOND: Thank you very much, Senator Mitchell, for those most moving words.

It is now with great pleasure that I invite Judge Gignoux's children, Ted and Andréé, to unveil our plaque.

Would you please come forward.

Ted has come all the way from Atlanta for this occasion. I'm told it was 31 years ago this month that the then 13 year old Edward Junior cloaked his father at Judge Gignoux's induction ceremony in this very courtroom. He will be assisted by sister Andréé, who is with us today from Hartford. We are very sorry, however, that Andréé's husband, Jim, and Ted's wife, Ginny and

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their children could not be with us today. We do have everything on videotape and you will be able to bring that home and show it to your respective families.

All right folks, let's go. (unveiling of the plaque) (applause)

This magnificent plaque will be placed in the lobby entrance to the building so that it will be a permanent memorial of what we have done here today.

For those of you in the back who cannot read it, I will read it. It says, very simply:

"Edward Thaxter Gignoux United States Courthouse,

"United States of America.

"Ronald Reagan President.

"This building is named in honor of Edward T. Gignoux, United States District Judge, District of Maine.

"William S. Cohen, U.S. Senator.

"George J. Mitchell, U.S. Senator.

"Joseph E. Brennan, U.S. Representative, First District.

"Olympia J. Snowe, U.S. Representative, Second District."

And a few of us from GSA.

So, once again, thank you very much. Thank you.

Now, at this point, if we may, we have come to what I should say *la pièce de résistance* of the morning, and that will be a few words on behalf of Judge Gignoux by his bride of more than 50 years, the wonderful Hildegard Gignoux. (applause)

MRS. GIGNOUX: Thank you, Mr. Diamond.

Steve Foote, Judge Coffin, Senator Cohen, Senator Mitchell, Congresswoman Snowe, Congressman Brennan, Governor McKernan, Chief Justice McKusick, distinguished guests and friends.

On behalf of my husband, our family and myself, I want to thank this distinguished Congressional delegation, of whom we are all so proud, for sponsoring the legislation which has made possible this magnificent honor which has been bestowed upon my husband.

And I also express our appreciation for the generous remarks which you and Judge Coffin have made about my husband on this occasion.

And we thank you, Mr. Diamond, for all that you and the General Service Administration have done to make this day such a meaningful occasion.

We are deeply touched by the splendid tribute.

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Edward is very sorry that he is unable himself to speak to you this morning. If he could do so, he would say how honored he is by the presence of Governor McKernan, to whom we are all most appreciative. You have taken the time from an extremely busy schedule to be here with us this morning.

If my husband were speaking, he also would say that he is particularly touched by the presence of his close, personal friend Judge Coffin, with whom he has had such a congenial and happy association, in many capacities, for more than 35 years; of the presence of his colleagues, Chief Judge Cyr and Judge Carter, for whose support and friendship he has been most grateful; of Judge Mazzone, our loyal friend from the Federal District Court in Boston; of Chief Justice McKusick, Justice Hornby, Justice Wernick and former Justice Godfrey of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, with whom he has enjoyed a happy and agreeable association these many years; of the former law clerks and members of the Maine Bar, who have taken time from their active practices in Washington, New York, Boston, Miami and Maine to be with us this morning, and of the presence of the former and present members of the Federal Court family whose loyalty and support have made his 30 years on the Court happy and productive.

Edward would also tell you how especially delighted he is to see in the audience his dear friends, Justice Sidney Wernick, Fred Scribner and Grace Williamson.

We are sorry that Barney Shur could not be with us today.

He would say that there has been no more respected Chief Justice of Maine than the late Robert B. Williamson who was present at his induction 31 years ago, and that he greatly benefitted from Chief Justice Williamson's wise counsel and treasured his friendship.

If my husband were speaking he would say that he shares the honor of this dedication with the 36 law clerks and the dedicated District Court staff currently headed by Bill Brownell, to whom we will be forever grateful.

I understand that there are 30 of the law clerks present. I would like to ask them and their spouses as well as Bill and Elaine Brownell to stand.

Finally, if Edward were speaking, he would tell you that he is particularly honored by the dedication of this courthouse in his name. For this courthouse and especially this beautiful courtroom in which he has been privileged to serve, has been his home for 30 years, and those years have been the happiest and most rewarding of his life.

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This has been a very meaningful and happy day, an occasion which my husband, our family and I, will remember always. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

(applause) (Roses presented to Mrs. Gignoux).

MR. DIAMOND: Folks, what can I say but thank you very much, Mrs. Gignoux, for those words. And Judge Gignoux, thank you for making this such a wonderful day.

Ladies and gentlemen you're all cordially invited to go across the hall for pastries and coffee, and on behalf of the General Services Administration I'd like to thank you for being here today and let you know that these proceedings are concluded.

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