



NUNC PRO TUNC



Inside This Issue:

Donald A. Robinson - **The Chief** 1

Winner of the First Annual Chambers Essay Contest: **A Building/ A Courthouse/ An Employee** 1

Winner of the First Annual Clerk's Office Essay Contest: **The Eagle Has Landed . . . Maybe?** 2

First Annual Admission: The Supreme Court of the United States 6

Donald A. Robinson: Unofficial "Chief" Of The Court

By: Alan S. Naar, Esq.; Jemi M. Goulian, Esq.; and Jamie A. Yonks, Esq.

Donald A. Robinson is a living legend among members of the federal bar. He was not only an eyewitness to the growth and transformation of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey during the last many decades, but was and remains a vital participant in that process.

Robinson, a native of New Jersey, grew up in Palmyra and Riverton and graduated from Palmyra

High School. After high school, Robinson joined the Army for two and a half years and then attended and graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Upon graduating from Dickinson, Robinson sought to continue his education and found that law school was the "natural" option. Robinson thereafter attended and graduated from Columbia Law School.

After law school, Robinson was first introduced to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey when he became a law clerk for the Honorable Alfred Modarelli, United States District Judge, and served in that capacity for three years. However, the United States



District Court of Robinson's clerkship was very different from the current Court. For example, there were seven male District

Court judges and minimal interaction among the judges in Newark, Trenton, and Camden. There were also no lawyer associations to bring the three vicinages together. Furthermore, there were only one or two local rules, and no arbitration or mediation program. There were no magistrate judges or bankruptcy judges -- only bankruptcy referees.

After his three-year (See **THE CHIEF**, Page 2)

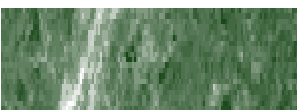
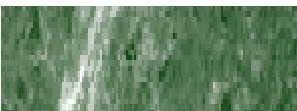
A Building/ A Courthouse/ An Employee

By: Mary Gaskill

It was the hottest July on record to date. Temperatures sizzled at 102 degrees in downtown Trenton. It was 1966. The Federal Building housing the U.S. Post Office, U.S. Courts and most of the Federal Agencies stood as a cool, stone outpost in the extraordinary heat. I was 18 and had just transferred

from the Department of Defense in Camden to Selective Service Headquarters in Trenton to work in the secretary "pool." Most of the Federal employees walked from parking lots several blocks away or some days got off the bus in front of the building because the one family car was usually shared. Buses ran every 15 minutes to all parts of the surrounding areas and were in most instances filled to capacity. Only the Judges and military Colonels had parking spaces next to the building.

They were all very distinguished-looking men who would give us a wave or brief greeting. Government employees filed in through the side entrance of the building, saying a quick hello to the nurse who stood by her first floor corner office. Inside was a small cot and a gray metal cabinet with a few aspirin and band-aids. The U.S. Post Office occupied most of the remaining first floor space. Its employees were friendly and we all knew each other by first name. Baked goods were some- (See **A CAREER**, Page 3)



THE CHIEF*(Continued from Page 1)*

clerkship, Robinson entered private practice where he remains today. Robinson joined the law firm of Shanley & Fisher (now Drinker Biddle) shortly after graduating law school, earning \$5,000 a year. At the time, Shanley & Fisher had eight lawyers. There, Robinson eventually rose to the head of the litigation department. In 1971, Robinson formed his own firm in Newark with six attorneys, which focused on state and federal litigation. The firm has evolved into the present firm of Robinson & Livelli. However, his involvement with the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey has never ended.

In addition to his active litigation practice, Robinson has served on numerous statutory Merit Selection Committees for the selection of Federal Magistrate Judges, chaired a committee that extensively revised the Local Rules of the Court for the District of New Jersey, and chaired the Federal Court's Lawyers Advisory Committee for 14 years. He is now a permanent member of the Advisory Committee.

Robinson co-founded the Historical Society for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey of which he has been President for fifteen years.

Robinson also served on the Federal Court's Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Advisory Committee

and is a former Chair of the Third Circuit's Lawyers Advisory Committee. Robinson currently serves as an arbitrator, a mediator and Special Master in Federal Court. The list goes on and on.

In addition to Robinson's dedicated service, the sheer number of changes that he witnessed during his fifty-four years of practice also makes him the unofficial historian of record of our District Court. During his legal career, for example, the number of judges has increased dramatically, the local rules and the Federal Rules of Evidence were codified, and alternative dispute resolution programs were created.

Robinson can point to a few specific changes that he believes were the most significant. One such change was the passage of the Magistrate Judge Act, which made the Court more efficient by delegating tasks handled by the district court judges to magistrate judges and increasing the percentage of settlements. In New Jersey, the magistrate system has also served as a training ground for future district court judges.

Another seminal change to practice before the District Court, according to Robinson, was the passage of the Criminal Justice Act in 1964. Prior to the passage of this Act, judges would either ask any attorney who happened to be sitting in the courtroom during the arraignment to represent a defendant or would reserve

the option of calling an attorney and personally asking that attorney to represent the defendant. The lawyers were not even reimbursed for their representation or expenses. Today, there is a formal process in the selection of attorneys to represent the indigent.

Despite numerous changes, Robinson can also attest to aspects of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey that have never changed. For example, the duties of the district court clerk have remained the same although the office has expanded dramatically. In addition, the judicial selection process was historically political, and continues to be so. However, Robinson notes that today merit and diversity are emphasized in the process.

Robinson's accolades are too numerous to list. They include formal awards such as the 2003 Justice William J. Brennan Annual Award from the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey as well as praise by fellow peers such as Robinson's selection as one of New Jersey's Top Lawyers in New Jersey Monthly Magazine. Regardless of the well-deserved accolades, Robinson's true legacy will always be his steadfast dedication and remarkable service to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the significant role he has played in its transformation during the last fifty years.

The Eagle Has Landed . . . Maybe?**By: James P. Murphy,
Chief Deputy**

Every federal court in the United States has something in common. In fact, it's so common, we probably don't pay much attention to it. It's just there. In a way, it's sort of taken for granted. Maybe it shouldn't be.

What's common to every federal court is the official seal. It's displayed in courtrooms and chambers. It greets us everyday as we enter the courthouse. The seal is used to certify documents as true copies, to authenticate the naturalization certificate of each new citizen and to validate all writs and process issued by the Court. It is embossed on the licenses of all attorneys admitted to practice in this Court. The seal adorns letterhead and business cards. It identifies the federal courts. It reminds us of the importance of what we do every day.

The court seal is derived from the Great Seal of the United States. As our young nation was forming in the late 18th century, our forefathers realized that an official emblem or seal was needed to authenticate signatures on treaties and other official documents. They also decided that this seal, or device as it was known, should reflect the values and beliefs of a new nation. Like any good bureaucracy, the Continental Congress formed a commit-

(See THE EAGLE, Page 4)



A CAREER

(Continued from Page 1)

times exchanged as special thanks for assistance and there was always a minute to inquire as to how you and your family were doing. No one behind you grumbled about a two-minute wait in line. Efficiency emanated from those employees.

FBI Agents were coming and going - searching records, posting Most Wanted lists. The sole U.S. Savings Bond office employee was gathering her red, white and blue posters for the next campaign. Her name was Carole Lombard - really! ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms) agents were investigating a huge firearms confiscation - processing, logging and numbering evidence. The Veterans Affairs office had a line of applicants in front of its door which stretched down the hall and around the corner because the Vietnam War was raging. Returning veterans were quietly waiting to fill out forms to apply for education and disability benefits, speaking with that office's only employee, Max Bard. What a wonderful sense of humor Max had. The U.S. Attorney's office and a few employees were situated in the building. The comparatively small Bankruptcy Court was here, as evidenced by the presence of Judge Joseph Fishberg, who had all employees wanting to get a glimpse each day of his choice of suits and ties - impeccably dressed, perfect posture - right out of GQ. A few

years later, Judge Amel Stark joined us in the building. It was not long before he was known for his warmth, extreme generosity, kindness to each employee (everyone enjoyed his wife's culinary skills), and what some would say was his peculiar habit of picking up and opening all of the bankruptcy court's mail at 7:30 a.m. each morning, so he could "get a jump on things." He paneled the walls of his own office at personal expense to save budget dollars.

The U.S. District Court Clerk's Office was on the third floor. As you walked in it was easily seen that the female employees - Margaret Ripley, Susan Wilson, Patricia Macheda - in their varied positions of secretary, magistrate judge's deputy clerk, financial assistant, were lined up at the desks on the left and the male employees - courtroom deputies/docket clerks, were on the right. Among them: Ronald Nau, Richard Morris, Kent Marshall, to name just a few. Later, Jack O'Brien signed on. It was a highly efficient office with its unwritten motto which still lives today - "work hard, play hard." Employees and their families were friends both in and out of the office environment. It was the beginning of the Court Family.

On the fourth floor was the Selective Service System Headquarters. Selective Service was a combination of top military brass and civilian employees. Draft quotas were mathematically calculated

here and sent out to each county local board in New Jersey. Visitors such as Muhammad Ali, Skitch Henderson and Willie Shoemaker came in to ask questions about the newly instituted "lottery" system of draft. I worked as liaison with General Counsel in Washington, with General Lewis B. Hershey, and the New Jersey U.S. Attorneys: David M. Satz, Jr., Frederick B. Lacey, Herbert J. Stern, Jonathan Goldstein. The "Father Doyle - Camden 28 Trial" caused a 100% increase in the workload for everyone at Headquarters. Riots in the late '60s ensued. The Courthouse was closed for a few days, but some of us were picked up by the National Guard and brought to the office to process the draft calls. Looking out the ten-foot windows onto State Street, usually catching a majestic view of the city, you could now see barricades surrounding the building and uniformed soldiers with rifles stationed completely around it. The war ended, the draft was abolished and at least one employee was looking for work.

The Court Family intervened and I was advised of a vacancy in the office of Magistrate Judge John W. Devine. It was 1975. I remained employed in the Courthouse. I was about to learn at the knee of one of my most wonderful mentors. District Judges Barlow and Fisher were constant visitors. The camaraderie, mixing business and friendship, was always evident. Third Cir-

cuit Judge Phillip Forman was our neighbor, as was AUSA (and later U.S. District Judge) Jerome B. Simandle.

Judge Devine, without a law clerk - there was no staffing provision for one - prepared decisions in every habeas (including a myriad of applications from Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and Thomas Trantino) and social security case assigned to the Trenton vicinage, in addition to all civil pre-trial work, various criminal work and some miscellaneous trials. He heard one emergent "Letters Rogatory" case with a suspected Nazi war criminal.

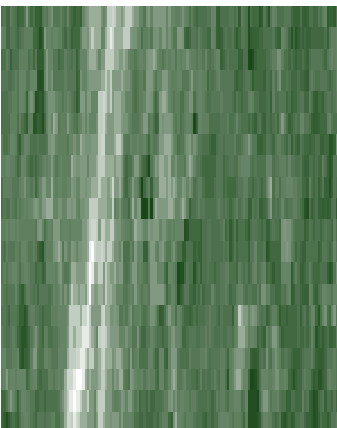
In 1979, U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson was appointed to the bench. She walked into the Court leaving her former position of Mercer County Prosecutor behind. Gratefully, I was permitted to walk with her, remaining in this place of talking walls. Everyone in the Trenton area, especially, knows and admires her. She is rich with Trenton's history. The next 26 years were filled with advanced technology changes in all areas of the Court. Judge Thompson educated everyone daily, teaching us to learn from the past and be hopeful of the future. She became my inspiration. This building, our Courthouse, remains for the next generation and will help that generation to reflect on the ones that came before it.

To preserve that rich history, in May 2000, I
(See A CAREER, Page 4)

A CAREER

(Continued from Page 3)

prepared the attached memorandum, seeking assistance to initiate an Historical Exhibit in the foyer of our Courthouse. The brightly painted but empty entrance into this wonderful structure needed a window into its dramatic past which could be viewed by all who entered. Judge Bissell's attached response and the exuberance of Magistrate Judge John Hughes and The Trenton Historical Exhibit Committee which also included Trenton historians, on which I was honored to serve, made this dream a reality. Albert Einstein was here. Judges were here. Many distinguished citizens and employees were here. And I, Mary Gaskill, was here also, but for just a small time, 40 years!



THE EAGLE

(Continued from Page 2)

tee on July 4, 1776 and assigned it the task of developing a seal.

Actually, it wasn't just one committee that was charged with creating a national seal. Between 1776 and 1782, this was the work of three different committees. Arriving at an acceptable creation was an evolutionary process.

The First Committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Their specific mission was "to bring in a device for a seal for the United States of America." They considered various biblical and classical themes. Heraldry was not something unfamiliar to Franklin, Jefferson and Adams so they went out and found themselves an expert. His name was Pierre Eugene DuSimitiere. Mr. DuSimitiere was skilled in portraiture and heraldry.

This First Committee met for more than a month considering different ideas for a national seal. Franklin suggested Moses crossing the Red Sea with Pharaoh close behind. It included the motto: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." The Congress rejected both the design and the motto. John Adams' idea was the allegorical picture known as the *Judgment of Hercules* with Vice and Virtue appealing to the young Hercules. The Congress wasn't moved by this proposal either. A seal with an allegorical scene was preferred by Jefferson too. In his opinion, the front or obverse side of the seal should depict the children

of Israel in the wilderness. The reverse would be two legendary Anglo-Saxon settlers in Britain.

Franklin and Adams thought Jefferson's proposal merited further development so they asked Mr. Du Simitiere to prepare a sketch. He did. His design consisted of a shield with "...six quarters." Each one contained a symbol for each of the six countries (England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany and Holland) "... from which these States have been peopled." The shield itself was bordered by the initials of the thirteen colonies and flanked by the Goddess of Liberty and the Goddess of Justice. The motto in this first attempt at a national seal was *E Pluribus Unum*.

Four years after receiving their assignment, the First Committee presented their artwork for a national seal to the Continental Congress on August 20, 1776. Congress ordered it "to lie on the table." In other words, it was rejected. The project was turned over to a new committee.

On March 25, 1780, the Second Committee was formed. James Lovell of Massachusetts was named Chairman. He was joined by John Morin Scott of New York and William Churchill Houston of New Jersey. Lovell, Scott and Houston didn't put much effort into developing a national seal. Perhaps the April 12, 1780 attack by the British on Charleston Harbor diverted their attention. American forces were defeated in that battle and it's possible Messrs. Scott, Lovell and Houston left

Philadelphia to return to their homes.

With not much progress being made, the Second Committee enlisted the assistance of Francis Hopkinson, a prominent Philadelphian. His addition to the Committee made sense. After all, he designed the new American flag that Congress adopted on June 14, 1777. He also crafted the seal for the State of New Jersey. Hopkinson gladly accepted and began sketching immediately. He did most of the work for the Committee and, by early May 1780, he finished.

The proposal of the Second Great Seal Committee was formally submitted to the Continental Congress on May 10, 1780. The obverse side contained a shield with thirteen diagonal red and white stripes. On either side of the shield were two figures. One was a warrior holding a sword. The other was a figure representing peace and bearing an olive branch. The crest was a constellation of thirteen stars. The inscription below the shield was *Bello vel Paci* which means "For war or for peace." On the reverse side, "liberty" is seated in a chair and holding her staff and cap. The motto *Virtute perennis* or "everlasting because of virtue" was placed above "Liberty."

It's not clear when the Continental Congress actually considered this second submission. With the British victory in South Carolina fresh on their minds, it's understandable

(See **THE EAGLE**, Page 5)



THE EAGLE

(Continued from Page 4)

that deciding on a national seal was not among their immediate priorities. At some point, though, the Congress did examine Hopkinson's idea. Like the first one, it was rejected.

By 1782, peace talks had begun in Paris with Great Britain. Representing the United States at the negotiating table was Benjamin Franklin. According to Franklin, "The United States would soon need an official sign of sovereignty and coat of arms to complete the evidence of its independence. A national seal would be necessary at the signing of the peace treaty." Realizing that peace may be at hand, the Continental Congress commissioned the Third Great Seal Committee. It was chaired by Arthur Middleton of South Carolina. Other members consisted of John Rutledge, also of South Carolina, and Elias Boudinot of New Jersey. Rutledge's interest didn't last very long and he was soon replaced by Arthur Lee of Virginia.

Middleton, Boudinot and Lee didn't have the expertise to design a national seal, so in keeping with the other two committees, they enlisted the services of someone who did. Thomas Barton was twenty-eight at the time. He was well versed in the science of heraldry and was strongly recommended to the Third Committee. He accepted the assignment and went to work. Within five days, he prepared two iterations.

One was far too complicated. The second one was presented to the Continental Congress on May 9, 1782. The obverse side was a tapestry of symbols, including a star-spangled ribbon and a phoenix in flames. For the reverse side, Barton had a pyramid with an eye above it. The work of the Third Committee didn't pass muster either.

Feeling the pressure of a possible peace treaty and knowing that British forces had evacuated Savannah, Georgia, the Continental Congress asked Charles Thomson, who was then Secretary to the Congress, to step in and prepare a final design. Thomson was fifty-three at the time and well versed in the classics, having served as a Latin master at a school in Philadelphia.

Thomson studied the work of the three committees. There were elements from each that made an impression on him and he was convinced that the idea for a national seal was hidden within these three submissions. For the front or obverse side, he decided that the bald eagle would be the centerpiece. A shield was placed upon the eagle's breast. In the previous three creations, the centerpiece was flanked by traditional figures. Thomson wasn't wedded to that idea. He felt that the eagle should not be supported. What he did add was some heraldic symbols in the talons. In one, there was an olive branch. In the other was a bundle of arrows. Thom-

son added a scroll in the eagle's beak. He liked the motto that Franklin, Jefferson and Adams had incorporated into their design so he placed *E Pluribus Unum* on the scroll. Above the eagle's head, he added a radiant constellation of thirteen stars, breaking through a cloud and symbolizing the emergence of a new nation. Thomson extracted this artwork from the Second Committee's submission.

The reverse side of Thomson's proposal was an amalgam of details from the First and Third committees. From the First, he added the eye of providence in a radiant triangle. From the Third, he used the pyramid and eye. He also created two new mottos: *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, meaning a new order of the ages and *Annuit Coeptis*, meaning providence has favored our undertakings. Pleased with his work, Thomson submitted his design to the Continental Congress on June 20, 1782. In his remarks before the Congress, Thomson stated that:

"The colours of the pales (perpendicular bands) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valour, and Blue, the colour of the Chief signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice."

It was approved the same day.

With Thomson being the Secretary to the

Continental Congress at the time, he was asked by that body to create a die for the Great Seal. Thomson approached a fellow Philadelphian by the name of Robert Scot. Scot was an engraver and someone who had access a press. Thomson provided a drawing of the Great Seal to Scot and the first die was cut out of brass sometime between June and September in 1782.

The original die was eventually placed in the custody of the Secretary of State. It was used for almost 60 years. Over time it became worn and a new die was needed. In 1841, John Peter Van Ness Throop of Washington, DC was commissioned to create a new die. The drawings that Thomson gave to Scot for the first die were never found so Throop created his die from an impression of the original. The impression was distorted due to age. Instead of 13 arrows being in the left talon, Throop's eagle had 6. In addition, he failed to cut the reverse side of the seal. Throop's die was commonly known as "the illegal seal" because of its faulty design. Nonetheless, it was used for official purposes and did not affect the legality of the documents on which the seal was affixed.

As the country was about to celebrate its centennial, there was interest in the origins of the Great Seal and its history. A newspaper article pointed out the flaws with the 1841 die. For whatever reason, the State Department was not aware of the public's concern over the

(See **THE EAGLE**, Page 6)

THE EAGLE

(Continued from Page 5)

die. As the Throop die began to fade, arrangements were made to have a new one cut in 1877. This job went to Herman Baumgarten also of Washington, DC. Baumgarten used the Throop die as a model and, in doing so, did not correct the flaws. It was the Baumgarten seal that was in use for the Great Seal's own centennial in 1882.

By 1881, the State Department decided that it was time to respond to the public and correct the errors. A solicitation for an engraver was released and Tiffany & Company in New York was selected. Their lead designer James Horton Whitehouse was asked to develop the artwork. The Tiffany die not only corrected the Throop flaws, its design was more formal and more heraldic. The written description of the 1782 seal was referenced. Using this as a guide, Whitehouse made sure the olive branch had thirteen leaves and thirteen olives on it. As for the arrows, there were now thirteen in the talon. For the first time, the cloud of the crest formed a complete circle.

Whitehouse made significant changes to the eagle too. It was more muscular and more recognizable as an American bald eagle. The feathers on the head and the body were more distinguishable. The manner in which the talons held the olive branch and arrows was changed too. The claws were depicted grasping these from the behind, not from the

front.

After 17 years, the Tiffany die was no longer legible. The impression was no longer crisp. The State Department ordered a new die in 1902. It was awarded to the Philadelphia firm of Bailey Banks & Biddle. Their task was to "furnish a fac-simile" of the Tiffany design and to do so by June 15, 1903. Max Zeitler was the engraver and he created the new die in hard steel. Zeitler made some improvements. The images were sharper and clearer, particularly in the feathering of the eagle. The joints of the talons were shortened too. The Zeitler seal was first used on January 27, 1904. The State Department used it for 26 years until the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made a master die from which the present die and future dies will be cut.

So how is it that the federal court is using the Great Seal? The answer is not so evident. For many Executive Branch Agencies and even the military, there's legislative action pertaining to their seal. The seal for the Department of Justice, for example, was created pursuant to the 1849 Act for Authenticating Certain Records. It allows the "incorporation of the Great Seal." Similar legislation can be found for other Executive Branch Agencies and even branches of the military. Oddly enough, the same can't be said for the judiciary. Sources at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Federal Judicial Center

have no record of any legislation governing the use of the Great Seal by the federal judiciary. The trail also dead-ended at the Library of Congress.

Maybe our authority to use the Great Seal rests exclusively with our Local Rules, which in our case, is Civil Rule 44.1. It states that, "The seal of this Court shall consist of the upward-flying eagle, front presentation, with wings and legs outstretched, and the words, "United States District Court for the District of New Jersey." This language, which is consistent with the 1915 edition of the local rules, describes the obverse side of the Great Seal.

There's probably more to this story than just a local rule. Maybe the Judicial Conference took action on this issue. Maybe Congress did too. We should know and document this. In the interest of the history of this Court and the history of the federal judiciary, this topic should be the subject of further research. Not to do so would be to continue to take the seal of the district courts for granted and that would be a disservice.

First Annual Admission: The Supreme Court of the United States

By: Keith J. Miller, Esq.

Historical Society President-Elect Doug Arpert successfully planned and carried out the Society's First Annual Group Admission to the Supreme Court of the United States. On November 7, 2005, twelve members of the Historical Society were admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court at a swearing-in ceremony presided over by Chief Justice John G. Roberts. The group's trip to Washington, D.C. included dinner in Georgetown the night before the ceremony, a private breakfast in the Supreme Court Building immediately prior to the ceremony, and the witnessing of oral argument before the Supreme Court after the ceremony.

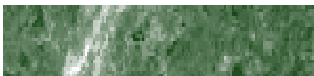
The group's private breakfast, which was held in the Natalie Cornell Rehnquist dining room inside the Supreme Court Building, included a meeting with William K. Suter, the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Mr. Suter talked about the history of the Court and answered questions from the group. He stated that he is a proponent of Federal Court Historical Societies, and noted that the Supreme Court has an active Historical Society. He was pleased to learn that our Historical Society's group included three sitting Federal Judges, namely District



Editor: Frances C. Bajada, Esq.

Visit our website at
www.history.njd.uscourts.gov

President:
 Donald Robinson, Esq.
Treasurer:
 Sean Kelley, Esq.
Executive Director:
 Susan A. Travis
Counsel:
 Eugene Haring, Esq.
 McCarter & English, LLP



THE SUPREME COURT

(Continued from Page 6)

Judge Jose Linares and Magistrate Judges Madeline Cox Arleo and Mark Falk.

The group was then escorted through some of the non-public areas of the Supreme Court Building and seated in the well of the Courtroom, immediately in front of the Justices. The first order of business was the admission of new attorneys. Our Historical Society group was the largest group of attorneys admitted that morning. After the Clerk announced the group's sponsor, Doug Arpert, he proceeded to the rostrum and made the following motion to the Justices:

"Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the Court, I move the admission of

the following attorneys: Frank P. Arleo, Judge Madeline Cox Arleo, Timothy M. Donahue, Judge Mark Falk, Judge Jose L. Linares, Keith J. Miller, Ann M. Patterson, James E. Patterson, Marion Percel, Esther Salas, Leda Dunn Wettre, and Stacey Ann Biancamano, from the Bar of the State of New Jersey; I am satisfied each possesses the necessary qualifications."

Chief Justice Roberts granted the group's application for admission, and the members of the group were then sworn in by the Clerk.

There was only one case argued after the ceremony. Another case that had been scheduled for oral argument was cancelled due to the loss of one of the attorney's files during Hurricane Katrina.

The oral argument that was held involved a Third Circuit case from the District of Pennsylvania entitled *Dolan v. United States Postal Service, et al.* It concerned the applicability of the Federal Tort Claims Act to a personal injury lawsuit asserted by a woman who purportedly tripped on a piece of mail left on her porch. The group's location in the well of the Courtroom was an excellent vantage point for observing the Justices as they interacted with counsel and each other.

The Historical Society's First Annual Group Admission to the Supreme Court was a memorable and enjoyable experience for all involved. Many thanks are owed to Doug Arpert for his work in arranging the trip.

