ACCEPTANCE OF THE JOHN MARSHALL AWARD IN THE MEMORY OF ROBERT N. WILENTZ

Warren W. Wilentz*

Justice Clifford, that was beautiful and I enjoyed it very much. And I thought if my brother were here, he would have enjoyed it very much. But he would probably have many questions and comments to make about it.

I am here to accept this award for the Wilentz family. For myself, for my sister, and my brother's children. My brother loved constitutional law - as a matter of fact, he won a prize for constitutional law at Columbia Law School. He was brilliant, and he worked very hard. He worked very hard as a student from the day I can remember him and he loved being the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. He enjoyed every minute of it. He worked very hard as a lawyer, as a law student, even in high school, he worked very hard. I told the story before that in school he was never satisfied with a ninety-nine; he always had to get one hundred. Once a teacher gave him a ninety-nine and he appealed it. After he gave his argument, he got the one hundred. Ironically, he has been listening to appeals ever since.

He was a great lawyer, and he was a great legislator. And he was a wonderful warm brother. He was a great husband and a great father. He had many things going for him. I am very proud for myself and my family to accept this award. I know that if he were alive today, and I hope that he is looking down right now, that he would be thrilled.

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