

**Justice Brent E. Dickson
Indiana Supreme Court**

Before I begin, please join me in welcoming three former Supreme Court justices who are also with us today:

Myra Selby
Roger DeBruler
Ted Boehm

On behalf of the Chief Justice's colleagues, Justices Frank Sullivan, Robert Rucker, Steve David, and myself, I am privileged to express our immense appreciation to a man who has been our judicial brother and a bigger-than-life servant-leader for Indiana's judiciary.

And thank you, Amy and Mattie, and your entire family, for providing him with your love and support, which has enabled him to serve and lead Indiana's judiciary.

Just look at this magnificent courtroom! Restoring it to its original splendor was a product of Randy Shepard's love for history, preservation, and tradition. But note also that it is equipped with video cameras for webcasting, also a Shepard-inspired project, to foster openness, public access, and education. This contrast exemplifies so much of Randy Shepard's work on the Court--passionately preserving history, including the good embodied in past achievements and in legal precedents, and yet also energetically embracing the promise and opportunities of innovation and beneficial change.

The Chief Justice has helped transform the mission of the Indiana Judiciary from serving almost solely as a decider of cases to becoming a proactive, hands-on, change-agent in building a better system of justice—more open, more accessible, more sensitive, more helpful, and more restorative for our citizens. And he's accomplished this due to his creative vision and passion for judicial excellence, and his keen insight and appreciation for the limits and opportunities of the judiciary as one of three co-equal branches of government.

But I want to reflect a bit on Randy Shepard, our colleague, our judicial brother. He has presided over our weekly conferences with consummate respect for the views of the rest of us. He never cut off discussion, never belittled another justice's opinion, and yet he often managed to steer our thinking to consider his own perspectives about things like the legislative process, the potential impact on commerce, the adequacy of legal representation for indigent criminal defendants, and the need to assure access to equal justice for all. He has influenced and shaped our views, not by demand or directive, but by courtesy, respect, openness, and willingness to seek first to understand. Randy's profound intellect is matched by his strength of conviction and his heart for Hoosiers and Indiana institutions—no surprise considering that he is a seventh generation Hoosier himself. We have often turned to him to write some of our most important decisions.

As CEO of our Supreme Court family of about 200 employees, Randy Shepard has applied an uncanny management style that quietly motivates by a combination of respect, inspiration, encouragement, empowerment, and recognition. The result has been enormous innovation, productivity, staff satisfaction, and stability.

We have also greatly benefited from having him as the "voice of the Court." His eloquence earns kudos at each annual State of the Judiciary address. No matter how large or small the audience, his speeches are done with a unique flair of intimacy, humility, and gentle thoughtfulness.

While originally a highly "political being", since taking the oath of judicial office, he has meticulously excluded all partisanship from his judicial decisions, and even from his informal comments to us during conference discussions. He fittingly became "apolitical," and this likely has been a major factor in the respect and cooperation he has earned from Indiana governors and legislators from both parties.

Randy, for Frank, Bob, Steve, and me, you've been a wonderful colleague. As a memento, we'd like to present you with this gift. It is crafted from wood that came from Indiana's "Constitution Elm" tree where, as you know, Indiana's first Constitution was written in Corydon in 1816.

[present the gift]

Chief, we are all immensely saddened and challenged by your departure, but we treasure the privilege of having worked with you, and we will look to your example to guide us as we go forward. Randy, we wish you Godspeed in your next endeavors. Thank you, my dear friend.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I present Indiana's great Chief Justice, Randall T. Shepard.