

Chief Justice, Your Honors, honorable guests Of the many personal and professional rewards my service as the President of the Evansville Bar Association has brought me, none are more worthwhile than being a participant today and bringing you greetings from southwestern Indiana. I'm happy to report we traveled from Evansville today by way of I-69 – about 1.2 miles of it actually – and may I add another benefit of this great engineering and political achievement: as you begin this new chapter in your life, it will soon herald you to visit your childhood home and back to your Evansville brethren.

Chief Justice, most of us gathered know well how you began your career on the bench in Vanderburgh County, and your less than stellar record as a local political candidate! Instead, I wish for you to recall a time even earlier, as you walked the halls of Harrison High School. (I won't mention your high school graduation year--because who is counting really?--but I know you'll enjoy your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion 3 years and 2 months from now.) You see everyone, as our fine Attorney General once observed, our Chief Justice "never really left his hometown" and has remained engaged and committed to the Evansville community. I can't think of any more relevant example indicative of this man's character than his role in founding the Randall T. Shepard Academy for Law and Social Justice. This two-year program of the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, housed at Harrison High School, uses a multi-pronged approach to challenge students in legal and societal value thinking. This program engages students in critical analysis, prepares them for pursuits in law, social justice and political science, encourages community involvement and partners with the Evansville Bar Association for a mentor program. Now would any of us doubt for a moment that our Chief Justice has championed such a cause for our youth? Teachers Chad Fetscher and Staci Herrin, and

students Rachel Guthery and Layton Hopper have traveled to be here with you today, Your Honor, to thank you for your commitment to the Academy and our community.

In April of 2011, the Evansville Bar celebrated its Centennial as an Association in grand fashion. The members of the local bar contributed \$300,000 to completely renovate the Superior Courtroom located in the Old Vanderburgh Courthouse. The splendor of the renovated courtroom, renamed the Randall T. Shepard Courtroom, surpassed everyone's expectations. Now one is unable to step across its threshold without instinctively looking upward, as if to the heavens, in involuntary reference to the honor of the law, and of justice rendered, that the room commands. Your career on the bench, and your passion for justice eloquently advocated over the years, commands the same level of respect, Your Honor, as do those columns of marble and oak. The courtroom is aptly named.

During our Centennial Celebration we were planning to fellowship with you and to share with you our dedication of the Randall T. Shepard Courtroom, but your health prevented the trip. The Evansville Bar had commissioned Evansville impressionist artist and retired attorney Cedric Hustace, to honor the Chief Justice with a rendering of the renovated courtroom named in his honor. {PAINTING} This acrylic on canvass is the result of the efforts of Mr. Hustace, who has been referred to as "the State Bar's artist laureate". Chief Justice Shepard, on behalf of the Evansville Bar Association, and your Evansville brothers and sisters who both sit behind the bench and argue before it, I am happy to present this gift to you to honor both your career and this occasion. {PRESENT} I pray that at those times you glance upon it, your spirit will be quietly reminded of our fondness, our fraternity, and our friendship.

The 28 year old Abraham Lincoln, in his address to the Young Men's Lyceum Society in 1838, said this about the honor of law: "Let reverence for the laws, be breathed by every American mother....let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in Primers, spelling books, and in Almanacs;--let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice." There is one gentleman among us that perhaps reverts the honor of the law, and has done more to teach us the inviolate nature and goodness of our Constitution and our system of justice, than all of us combined. And it is you, good sir, that I send gratitude from the southern hills of Indiana where Lincoln once roamed, from your Evansville brethren, telling you *job well done*, and we're anxious to see you back home.

Todd I. Glass  
President  
Evansville Bar Association



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