

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT CEREMONY  
HONORING TODD J. CAMPBELL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE 1995 - 2016

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017  
CEREMONIAL COURTROOM  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
801 BROADWAY, ROOM 874  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: Thank you and welcome to everyone to this important occasion. My name is Waverly Crenshaw, and it's my honor and privilege to preside over this portrait ceremony.

We have several special guests here that I want to recognize. First and foremost, Margaret Akers, Judge Campbell's wife. And several special guest judges, Judge Jane Stranch from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Gilbert Merritt, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, Judge Daniel Breen from the Western District of Tennessee, Judge Thomas Wiseman -- who's looking good as ever -- Judge Robert Echols, Judge Kevin Sharp, Judge John Bryant, Judge Marian Harrison, who is the Chief Judge of our Bankruptcy Court, Judge Charles Walker, Retired Magistrate Judge Juliet Griffin, Retired Magistrate Judge Cliff Knowles, Judge George Paine, Judge Keith Lundin, U.S. Representative Jim Cooper -- thanks for being here -- our new U.S. Attorney Don Cochran and our not so new Federal Public Defender Henry Martin, Bob Musser who is the chief of pretrial and probation, and our Clerk of Court Keith Throckmorton, as well as -- I'm sorry -- Judge Joe Haynes and Mary Cooper. Glad to have everyone here.

We're here today to honor United States District Judge Todd Campbell for his outstanding service to this Court and indeed to our nation. Judge Campbell served for 21 years. His accomplishments are many and include being

affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in *Brentwood Academy versus TSSAA* on his finding that the TSSAA is a state actor; creating the Bench and Bar Scholarship for economically deserving law students in all of Tennessee's law schools, that Judge Trauger and I renamed the Todd J. Campbell Middle District Scholarship. And as Chief Judge he led the creation of an annual free CLE with the Nashville Bar that focuses on federal practice.

Judge Campbell has been a leader in our courtroom, in judicial administration, and our system of justice. But I also want to share some special pearls of wisdom from Judge Campbell that we all should keep in mind.

We know that when it comes to the fine art of case management Judge Campbell's insight could fill several volumes of Federal Reporters. And it really speaks for itself, quote, nothing focuses the mind of a lawyer like a trial date. And when it comes to selecting trial dates that work with lawyers' busy calendars, he knows just how to accommodate every lawyer. Quote, I'm not trying to ruin your vacations, but I'm free the week of Christmas.

And Judge Campbell always showed patience with litigants and allowed them to take their time to tell their story in detail because he believed, quote, if they feel like I've heard all they wanted to say, it's therapeutic. This also applies to lawyers no matter how long winded they may

be.

The role of the juror is sacred to Judge Campbell, who expressed himself best when he said, "A juror's time is more precious than that of anyone else in the courtroom. And he often reminded lawyers after the jury retired to deliberate, "Don't take this as an opportunity to visit your dry cleaners in Green Hills."

And without doubt, Judge Campbell's ability to analyze and synthesize the most complicated areas of law is a unique gift. For example, he explains 50 years of legal developments in Title VII as follows: "People need to remember what they learned in preschool: Keep your hands to yourself, wait your turn, and treat others the way you want to be treated."

His skill also applies to the most complicated fact pattern, quote, you just can't make this stuff up.

Judge Campbell, my personal thanks to you for your help and support when I joined this Court and your ongoing advice and counsel. I have benefited from you. The citizens of the Middle District have benefited from you. And our Bar is better because of you.

At this time, I recognize Judge Trauger.

JUDGE TRAUGER: Todd has been a dear friend of mine for over 25 years and a trusted confidant since I joined the Court in 1998. I want to tell you a few things about him

that many of you may not know.

Todd went to law school not to become a trial lawyer or corporate lawyer, but because of his interest in government and politics. He became one of the first experts in federal election campaign finance law. And his first election law client was none other than Al Gore.

Todd practiced law at Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin for ten years, but his real love was political campaigns.

When the Clinton/Gore ticket was elected in 1992, he worked in the transition where he was responsible for compliance with federal ethics and personnel laws. After serving as counsel to Vice-president Al Gore, he returned to Nashville to get a house and a yard for his two young sons and a little more dependable financial stability. He got that in spades when he was named to the District Court bench in 1995, the youngest federal district court judge in the country, a mere 39 at the time.

During his 21 years on the bench, he presided over some 200 trials and four cases that went to the U.S. Supreme Court. He helped make our Court one of those ranked most productive in the nation. And he always treated lawyers with courtesy and professionalism.

As Chief Judge for seven years, Todd administered a budget of over \$4 million, and his years at the White House

helped him do that with a sophisticated understanding of ways through and around the federal bureaucracy.

During his tenure on the federal bench, Todd amazingly found time to teach courses at UT Law School, The Nashville School of Law and Belmont University, not to mention coaching over 20 youth baseball teams and performing significant volunteer work at the Tennessee School for the Blind.

Todd has an ingrained sense of civic responsibility and the importance of the Constitution and the laws of this country. I found his speech to new citizens at naturalization ceremonies so inspiring when I first started doing those ceremonies that I plagiarized it to a very large extent, and I still use it today.

Todd is still an invaluable ex officio member of our Court. He has spent countless hours helping to orient not only our new Chief Judge, Waverly, but our soon to be new district judges Chip Campbell and Eli Richardson -- at least we hope soon to be. I know they all value his wise counsel, as I always have.

So now whenever I get lonely for that wise counsel, I will be able to come down here and tell you my problem and listen for your sage words.

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: The Court recognizes Magistrate Joe Brown.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE BROWN: I'll keep this short. I know Todd does not like long speeches unnecessarily.

He's one of the finest judges I've ever had the privilege of working with. And I've worked with everybody on that side of the law. One thing about him, he did not let motions or decisions linger. His philosophy was that he was the batter, and if a ball came to him it was his job to do something with it. He did not take pitches and he hit few foul balls.

After my appointment as a Magistrate Judge -- same year I think Aleta was -- some 19 years ago, I've appreciated his guidance and support on a lot of cases. We had a rap music case of some seven and eight years that made a lot of law. It started out as a mere 900-page complaint against 700-plus defendants.

He also volunteered to take an MDL case involving several hundred complicated cancer drug treatment with a so-called bad drug that was completed.

His work ethic will be missed by all of us. And I share with Aleta that his portrait in this ceremonial courtroom will continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you, Todd.

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: Judge Barbara Holmes.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE HOLMES: Judge Campbell, as a judge, your intellect and integrity -- and at least for this

lawyer appearing in front of you, perhaps a little intimidation -- made us all better lawyers.

As a volunteer, your dedication and contribution made such a difference in the lives of countless people. And as a colleague, your generosity of thoughts and experiences was invaluable to me.

Now, Judge Brown has used all the baseball metaphors, but I will just say that I knew as soon as I met a fellow jurist that knew what the infield fly rule was that I could always count on you to give me sage advice. Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the payment you make for your space on this Earth." Judge Campbell, you have generously overpaid.

This Court, this community, this country, we are all indebted to you for your lifetime of service. You are missed. Thank you very much.

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: Judge Alister Newbern.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE NEWBERN: Judge Campbell, the time when we magistrate judges get to come and sit at this bench in this courtroom is when we get to partake in the wonderful work of performing naturalization ceremonies for which you, as Judge Trauger said, set the gold standard. And although we all -- I didn't know -- could plagiarize from your remarks, I will be taking --

JUDGE TRAUGER: Not the slideshow about his



heritage. No, not that one.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE NEWBERN: One of the points I try to make in my far less eloquent remarks is that the duty of citizenship is to create America again and again. And that's the work that you did every day in this courtroom. It's the work that you did every day before you came to this courtroom. And I have no doubt that it is the work that you do every day now. What an example your portrait will be for the new Americans who come here and what an example you are for us all. Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: Judge Chip Frensley.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE FRENSLEY: Judge Campbell received his commission on December 26th, 1995. A mere two months later, a dashing, young renegade lawyer began his admission to the Court of this District. In case you didn't know, that was me.

I was fortunate over my 21 years of practice to have more cases in Judge Campbell's court than any other judge in this building. And I think because of that he influenced me in my role as a judge more than any other. I have told him before that when I am on the bench, I say things, and as I say them I hear his voice in my head telling me what to say. Before you get too excited about that, in case you appear in front of me, or you're tempted to go Lloyd Bentsen on me, I will tell you it's only aspirational. I

want to do the best I can to be as good a judge as Judge Campbell.

There are so many things that you can say to describe him both as a person and as a judge, but I do want to briefly talk about three. The first is conscientious. This is shown through Judge Campbell's preparation. He always seemed to know more about my case than I knew about it somehow. And through efficiency -- if you've ever practiced in front of him, you know that before you could get back to the office the order was entered and waiting for you when you got there.

Second is consistent. You didn't have to worry about what kind of mood Judge Campbell was going to be in. He was always the same. He was always respectful. He was always prepared. And he always did a great job.

The final word I would say is caring. He cared about the law. You saw that in his opinions that have been referenced today. He cared about the Court. This Court meant so much to him. And the work he did as the Chief Judge of this Court is work that will last forever. And, finally, he cared about the people. He cared about the parties who appeared in front of him. He cared about the staff that worked for him and for the Court. And he cared about the lawyers who appeared in front of him. He would always take the time to ask you about your family and how you were. And

that was really important.

Maya Angelou, the poet and activist, said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, they'll forget what you did, but they'll never forget how you made them feel." And if you were lucky enough to practice in Judge Campbell's court, you will never forget the way he made you feel. When you the left the room, you knew that you had had a fair day in court. And in the end, that's all we could all ask for.

Judge Campbell, thank you for your inspiration. Thank you for everything you've done for me and for this Court.

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: The Court recognizes Michael Shane Neal, our artist.

MR. NEAL: Thank you so much, Your Honors. Thank you so much, Your Honors, Congressman, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury --

(Laughter.)

MR. NEAL: I watch Perry Mason on MeTV every night.

I am so excited to be here. I have to tell you that the part of a portrait that is exciting and sometimes a little bit daunting is the planning process, when you're beginning to plan the portrait. And when I began to plan Judge Campbell's portrait, I had just returned from Scotland

where I was painting a gentleman, the Duke of Argyle, who happens to be the Clan Chief of the Campbell Clan, your clan chief. He posed in a kilt, as you might imagine. Judge Campbell was not quite as interested in going that route. But I did give it a little thought. Who knows what's under the robes. We'll see.

I love painting portraits because of two distinct parts of this job that is so interesting to me. And one is that there is an outer likeness, of one that is very measurable. I think I can teach most everybody in the room how to do that. You measure how far -- the distance between the eyes, how far the eyes are from the nose, but there's another part that's really a challenge, and, that is, the sort of the inner likeness of someone, the spirit of the person. And that's something that's much tougher to teach. And you have to have a feeling of the person almost to surmount the measurable likeness.

I hope today when you see the portrait you feel Judge Campbell as much as you see him.

And I have to tell you, Judge, that I will miss the stories. One of the most fascinating and wonderful story tellers you'll ever have anywhere, including any studio.

And, you know, it's just such an incredible privilege to be able to create an image that will be the lasting impression of this man. And as people enter this

courtroom, they will always know the importance that he had here and the role that he played here.

And it is a privilege, a distinct privilege, to be the artist who has been selected for this commission.

So if I may at this time, I'll ask Margaret to step up with me, and we'll unveil the portrait. We'll leave the hanging to someone else.

(Portrait unveiling.)

(Applause and standing ovation.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: I want to thank each member of the Court, the district judges and the magistrate judges, for those kind remarks and the nice introduction.

I barely recognize the person that you're talking about, but I'll take it. I want to thank Chief Judge Crenshaw and Judge Trauger for holding this ceremony. It means the world to me.

And Aleta and I were judges together, as she said, for many years, and I couldn't have a more supportive friend during those years that we served together.

It is a great honor to have a portrait hung in the U.S. District Court. It's fitting that I'll be to the left of Judge Echols.

(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: It's a great honor to have the portrait hung wherever it is.

I did my best for the citizens of the United States. I had good days and bad days as a judge. Hopefully you only came during the good days.

My hope, as I've said, is when the scales of justice are balanced, they tip ever so slightly in favor of the greater good.

I want to recognize Shane Neal for the outstanding portrait. He really is the best there is, and my advice is to hire Shane.

He has made me look better with paint and canvas than in real life. Look at it. What else could I ask for? The portrait improves the original and it never ages.

(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: I'm glad to be known by his work. It's outstanding.

When I became a judge in 1995, all of the Court's computers were on DOS, and there was a chalkboard in my courtroom. The district judges were Morton, Wiseman, Nixon, Higgins and Echols. It's all changed now.

And I spent over a third of my life as a District Judge and presided over 10,000 cases, both criminal and civil.

So I have many people to thank for my work. And I can't name them all because there's not enough time and there's too many of them. But I want to especially thank

these people. First, I want to thank Vice-president Al Gore for putting his trust in me and President Bill Clinton for seeing my potential. They took a risk with my appointment, and hopefully it paid off.

Also, I want to commend Congressman Jim Cooper, who is right here in the flesh, for his unflagging support of the judiciary over these last 21 years. I want to thank my staff of 21 years, Ms. Doris Bush, Vicki Holloway, Janet Phelps, Charlotte Rappuhn. And one of my proudest accomplishments is that I had the same chamber staff all of those years. So I share that honor with them. When I got reversed, I made my own decisions. When I followed their advice, I was affirmed.

(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: I'll let you draw the inference.

I especially want to thank Margaret Akers, my wife. She takes very seriously the "for worse" clause. And I want to thank my son Seth, and Holt Akers-Campbell, who couldn't be here with me, for the many sacrifices they made. Their sacrifices for me are innumerable and ineffable.

I also want to thank all of the district judges. I told Judge Crenshaw, do it now; you only have to confer with one person.

(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: It was a larger court when I was

involved. And I want to thank all the district magistrate judges and bankruptcy judges who gave me such wise advice over the years. And the public has been and remains in good hands. So whether I'm here or not, you're in good hands.

A special thanks goes to the Office of the Clerk, the Probation Office, the embodiment sitting right there, the clerk and probation office, and the court security officers -- I talked to a number of them this afternoon -- the Marshal for that great opening and constant service to the Court, and the public defender, Henry Martin, who is here, and the U.S. Attorney, who is just here, these many years, particularly when I was Chief Judge for seven years.

I want to thank the University of Tennessee College of Law for the wonderful education. That's why I drove back and forth from Knoxville for years.

And I want to thank Jack Robinson. There he is. Hiding. And Val Sanford, who is no longer living, for hiring me as a young lawyer even though I was nobody from nowhere. And at the time I got out of law school, all the lawyers seemed to have come from the same zip code, and I was hired regardless of that. And I'm forever grateful.

Praise also goes to Byron Trauger and Jim Doramous. I saw Byron. And Jim is here somewhere. I met Byron when he moved from Boston, and I painted Jim's house. He paid for my -- helped pay for a semester of law school.



(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: I also want to thank them for understanding when I left their law firm for the bench.

Lastly, I want to thank the lawyers who appeared before me for their excellent work, for keeping me somewhat sharp, and for upholding our Constitution.

There's a special place in my heart for the attorneys who take appointed criminal cases. And we're forever grateful for them, even though Chip's client got three life sentences plus 4,000 years.

(Laughter.)

MAGISTRATE JUDGE FRENSLEY: You had to bring it up.

JUDGE CAMPBELL: He was an experienced defender.

I also want to thank all of the immigrants who were naturalized as Americans in my court. I learned from them that America is a beacon to the world. And that is important to remember. I also learned that naturalization ceremonies was one of the few times where everyone left the court happy.

And I want to emphasize, but for an immigrant, I would not be an American. So I'm very glad we have immigration.

Lastly, as a point of personal privilege, I want to express my appreciation to my friends who are all here. They're hiding back there, but they're here. And their

friendship has been invaluable to me. And I can't tell you how much they mean to me.

I'm blessed that I had the opportunity to serve the people of the United States both in the White House and in the District Court. It was an honor and privilege to be a United States District Judge. It's no secret I've had some health issues recently. I retired to protect the integrity of the Court before I made a mistake. I could have faked it for a while probably, but it meant -- the Court means too much to me to have done anything else than I did. I suspect it means that much to you, too, or you wouldn't be here. It's not about me.

I've had an abundance of good fortune in my life. And it's thanks to all these kind people who are here who I've gotten to know. And I'm very grateful for their help.

In conclusion, I want to leave -- I want to say that may we each lead meaningful lives to honor what the law has done for us. It has done a tremendous amount for me, you as well.

And by the way, I noticed the jury box is full. Your verdict should be not guilty.

(Laughter.)

JUDGE CAMPBELL: Thank you.

(Applause and standing ovation.)

CHIEF JUDGE CRENSHAW: Before we adjourn, I want

to acknowledge that this event and the reception to follow and all really planning that takes place comes out of our clerk's office, and especially our Chief Deputy Clerk Vicki Kinkade.

Judge Campbell, with your permission, I'll issue one more order, and that is for everyone to join him in Judge Trauger's courtroom for a reception. And let really festivities continue.

Adjourn court.

(Court adjourned.)

Prepared by Lise S. Matthews, RMR, CRR  
Official Court Reporter  
Chief District Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr.