

**PRESENTATION OF THE PORTRAIT OF
THE HONORABLE MAURA D. CORRIGAN**

JUNE 14, 2023

CHIEF JUSTICE ELIZABETH T. CLEMENT: Good afternoon. I now call this special session of the Michigan Supreme Court to order for the presentation of the portrait of our friend, Chief Justice MAURA CORRIGAN. On behalf of our entire Court, welcome to the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice.

I would like to first recognize the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society for their support of this event, as well as all the other work the society does to honor and preserve the history of this institution. A special thank you to Lynn Seaks, the Historical Society's executive director, and Michigan Supreme Court security for all of their work assisting Justice CORRIGAN with this event. I'd like to recognize the many special guests of Justice CORRIGAN who are here, including Governor [John] Engler, who appointed her to the Court of Appeals in 1992, as well as her colleagues from that bench and from the Supreme Court. If I were to announce the names of all of our special guests in the courtroom and in the conference room downstairs, I would have to name everyone.

But today is about our friend and colleague MAURA CORRIGAN. And while seeing you here today is wonderful, Maura, I am just as excited to see your beautiful family, especially your grandchildren, whom you have shared so many heartwarming stories about. Maura, I know that you and your family are aware of the importance of this date, June 14th, in history, and I am not talking about the unveiling of your portrait but a date that is much, much more important. Today is MAURA CORRIGAN'S birthday. [Laughter.] Don't worry, Maura, we are not going to sing "Happy Birthday," mainly because I can't sing, and I am told that if you let BOB YOUNG sing, he won't stop. [Laughter.] Actually, it was Bob's birthday yesterday. Happy birthday, Bob.

For Maura, instead of a song this afternoon, I am turning to a traditional Irish birthday blessing. I'm sure you have heard it and it goes like this, "May luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble always be a stranger to you." I chose this blessing to celebrate Maura's birthday and to kick off this ceremony because the truth is that Maura's life is the exact opposite of the sentiment in this blessing. MAURA CORRIGAN has never needed luck because she always brings to the table experience, skill, knowledge, integrity, and dedication to the rule of law. Most of all, Maura is a problem solver. Luck certainly helps, but Maura is the last person to need it. Thinking about trouble: trouble is actually what attracts Maura. Solving big problems, whether in court administration with respect to foster care or adoptions or running Michigan's largest state department, Maura looks for trouble because she wants to fix it, especially if she sees trouble that is harming families and children. Happy birthday, Maura. What a wonderful way to celebrate this special day, your birthday and portrait ceremony, surrounded by so many people that love and admire you.

Now, I am pleased to turn the mic over to my former colleague, Justice KURTIS WILDER, who is our emcee today. Friends, Justice KURTIS WILDER. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Chief Justice CLEMENT. Those are fitting words indeed. Good afternoon, Justices, and good afternoon to everyone here at the Hall of Justice on this special day in the life of the Michigan Supreme Court, the portrait dedication of the Honorable MAURA DENISE CORRIGAN. Even in a long and distinguished line of Michigan Supreme Court justices, MAURA CORRIGAN is exceptional. MAURA CORRIGAN began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable JOHN GILLIS of the Michigan Court of Appeals. She then moved on to become an assistant prosecuting attorney in Wayne County in 1974. In 1979, she was appointed chief of appeals in the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, later becoming the first woman to hold that position. In 1989, Justice CORRIGAN became a partner in the law firm of Plunkett Cooney.

Justice CORRIGAN's judicial service began when Governor Engler appointed her to the Michigan Court of Appeals in March of 1992. In 1992 and '94, she was elected to terms on that Court, '97 being appointed chief judge of the appellate court, a position she held for two years before her election to the Michigan Supreme Court in 1998. In 2001 and 2003, her peers on the Michigan Supreme Court elected her chief justice. She retired from that Court in 2011 to serve as director of Governor Rick Snyder's Department of Human Services. Then, in 2015, Justice CORRIGAN joined the American Enterprise Institute as a visiting fellow in poverty studies. She has participated in numerous community and professional activities: past president of the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, the Detroit Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, public member of the Michigan Law Revision Commission, executive board member of the Michigan Judges Association, and a member of the Judicial Advisory Board of the Center for Law and Organizational Economics at the University of Kansas Law School. She's also served on the board of directors of Boysville of Michigan and is a founding member of the Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry.

It's been my privilege to work with Maura as my colleague at Butzel and to become closer to her as my friend. When MAURA CORRIGAN is your friend, you know you've hit the jackpot. When you think of MAURA CORRIGAN as a person and a professional, you think of tenacity, leadership, a brilliant legal mind, dedication to her faith, integrity, tenacity, leadership, loving kindness, generosity, concern for others, tenacity, leadership. [Laughter.] You've got the picture.

Whether it concerns her family, the Blessed Solanus Casey, the judiciary, the practice of law, caring for children and those less fortunate, MAURA CORRIGAN is all in, 100% focused and highly accomplished. Today's portrait dedication will feature people in Justice CORRIGAN'S life who are able to speak to the different facets of her stellar life and legacy. As your master of ceremonies, I'm on strict instructions to keep the program moving and to ensure that each speaker stays within their five minutes that are allotted. Now, I can't really discuss how I plan to do that, [laughter] but remember that MAURA CORRIGAN is known for her tenacity. [Laughter.] In any event, our speakers are exceptional, so I think we're gonna be in good shape.

One person who was not able to be here today, Paul Mersino, president and CEO of Butzel, did send a letter of congratulations for me to deliver, Maura. And I'd like to close my opening

remarks quoting a small portion of Paul's letter: "Maura, you are an inspiration to us all. Through all of your accomplishments, which have been great, you have always kept your family and God in the center of all that you do. And that is not lost on those of us who know you." Maura, thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as the master of ceremonies for this very special event. I would now like to introduce two of Justice CORRIGAN's grandsons, Joseph Grano and Charles Grano, who will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Will all those who are able to stand, please do so as Joseph and Charles come forward.

JOSEPH GRANO and CHARLES GRANO: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you. Nice job, Joseph and Charles. Next, please welcome the Reverend Marianne Grano of the Community Education. Reverend Grano is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA, and the daughter-in-law of Justice Corrigan. Reverend Grano.

REVEREND MARIANNE GRANO: And let us pray. Heavenly Father, we come to you today in gratitude for the judicial ministry of your daughter MAURA DENISE CORRIGAN. For her work is and always has been truly her ministry. It has been her ministry always to seek the truth, to apply the law as written, knowing that truth and law ultimately only come from you. She has also used the law to heal, as she so often says that the law is an instrument of healing. Primarily, she has healed people through her work in child and social welfare and through the jail ministry. Blessed Solanus Casey said, "What does it matter where we go? Wherever we go, won't we be serving the Lord?" Justice CORRIGAN has faithfully served you, Lord, in every place that you have sent her. And so now God we ask, that as she is honored today, her influence would continue and that every person that stands in front of her portrait would be inspired by her conduct as an honorable jurist on and off the bench and that her legacy would continue for generations upon generations to come. Amen.

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Reverend Grano. Our next speaker is a longtime friend and colleague of Justice CORRIGAN's. Tim Baughman had a long and distinguished career in the Wayne County prosecutor's office, serving as its chief of research, training, and appeals for nearly 30 years. He's received numerous honors for his work, including Michigan Lawyers Weekly Lawyer of the Year and the Federal Bar Association's Leonard Gilman Award. Tim, we look forward to your remarks.

TIM BAUGHMAN: Thank you. It's a particular honor for me to be here today and I think there's kind of a sense of completeness about this. Maura and I began in the prosecutor's office together, and the chief of appeals at that time was PATTY BOYLE. PATTY BOYLE then went on to become, of course, a great justice on the Court, and at her portrait presentation, I was privileged to speak. And that session was presided over by Chief Justice MAURA CORRIGAN. And now we are here today, so I think there's a sense of completeness about that.

As I said, Maura and I started together, and as Justice WILDER has pointed out, Maura went on to become chief of appeals for the United States Attorney's Office, chief assistant there, went to Plunkett Cooney and I think established their appellate section, on to the Court of Appeals where

she became chief judge, to the Michigan Supreme Court where she was chief justice, director of the Department of Human Services, and I believe counsel to the Butzel firm right now. And after 48 years, I'm still in the Wayne County prosecutor's office. [Laughter.] I think that goes to show that one of us can't hold a job. [Laughter.]

I knew Maura, from the beginning, was destined for greatness because when we started, Wayne County being as it is, we didn't get an office for like eight or nine months. And Maura had a desk in the back corner of the library, and I had a desk between the bookshelves one over. And we had heard the stories of how Justice CHARLES LEVIN, during oral argument, had tipped over on several occasions. And one day I heard a crash, and I jumped up and Maura had tipped over and—so I knew then that she was on her way. [Laughter.] That Maura was an overachiever was evident from the outset, too. She was only in our office about four years before she was named the chief of appeals for the US Attorney's Office. But getting there was not without its struggles.

In our office in those days, of course, you had to research using books and Shepard's, and we wrote our briefs on yellow pads by candlelight with quill pens. [Laughter.] But we turned them in for review to PAT BOYLE's deputy, who was a wonderful gentleman named Angelo Pentolino. And Angelo was a wonderful man, but he was kind of old school. And my briefs always came back without a mark and Maura's came back with red ink all over them, and it just drove her crazy. I like to think it was because mine were better written, but I really knew that wasn't true. And Maura, I just learned recently that Angelo passed away last year at the age of 103.

Maura also married the late, great Joe Grano during this period of time and that was not without its challenges. Maura used to complain that she and Joe could not visit Canada without getting directed to the customs part where they basically took your car apart. Every time they went in, they didn't get waved through; they had to go over there. And Gary Labret from our office explained that that was because Joe looked like a guy who'd just stolen a car. [Laughter.]

But I want to say that everywhere that Maura has gone, she has made that place better than before she was there, and she left it better for having been there. I'm proud to call her my colleague, "your Honor," and my friend, and also for two years the employer of my daughter. Emerson said that the reward of a thing well done is having done it. Maura, you've done it. Thank you. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you very much, Tim. Our next speaker was general counsel to AAA Michigan when he was appointed by Governor ENGLER to the Michigan Court of Appeals where he was a colleague of Justice CORRIGAN's. He joined the Michigan Supreme Court along with Justice CORRIGAN in 1999 and then served as chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court from 2011 to 2017. May we warmly welcome to the podium Justice ROBERT YOUNG. [Applause.]

JUSTICE ROBERT YOUNG: Now for something entirely different. [Laughter.] Good afternoon. As introduced, I'm BOB YOUNG and surprisingly, Maura has invited me to offer remarks on the occasion of her portrait unveiling. That's strange because she's seen me do this for other friends, and most of them have shied away from offering me the opportunity to do this,

particularly when I'm still miffed that she abandoned me as she did when she left the Court to take up her passion to help children of our state. But she's always been fearless, so here I am.

She specifically asked that my remarks be funny. [Laughter.] But the problem is Maura is not funny [laughter], at least not intentionally so. I do have lots of fall-down-on-the-floor-laughing stories about Maura, but none can be told in polite company. I am willing to tell them at the reception, however. [Laughter.] And I am taking credit for this event because it was I who urged Maura roughly 15 years or so ago, like me, to get our portrait done so the portrait artist didn't have to be practiced in the embalmer's art to make the subject presentable. But even so, you will see the wonderful late artist, portrait artist Patricia Burnett was required to take some artistic liberties with her subject matter, and reverse-Dorian Gray comes to mind.

From January 1999, when we both joined the Court, until she abandoned me in 2011, Maura and I were fast friends, and we remain so. And there really is so much to say about Maura, a great deal of which has already been expressed. A few minutes of research shows, you know, she's just been an exemplary legal—had an exemplary legal career, beginning, as Tim said, in the Wayne County prosecutor's office. What you probably don't know, and I'm surprised you didn't mention it, Tim, that her nickname while there was porn queen. I have no idea why she was the porn queen, and perhaps Maura will explain in some of her remarks why that was so, but obviously being porn queen didn't impede her career since she eventually became a member of the Michigan Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court, and then later dictator of the Department of Human Services. [Laughter.]

I refer to her in that capacity as director of Whirling Dervish because she, as she always has been, a force of nature, sweeping aside all impediments to change in order to serve the children and families of Michigan. Her public record, Tim has talked about, and as has Justice WILDER. Her legal acumen, so well documented in her—and vigorously expressed—in her Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, her tireless work on behalf of the children and families, especially those in foster care. The many changes she made to Michigan law and practice so that children in foster care could move swiftly back to families or their permanent new homes.

She has a list of well-deserved honors, as long as your arm. But that's the public Maura. And there's the MAURA CORRIGAN that her family and friends know. We don't usually talk about it in public, but who in contrast with many public figures is just as good and gallant and true in private as she is in the public square. This is the Maura who averaged four hours of sleep a night as she cared for her husband, the late Joe Grano in the last stages of his battle with his terminal disease. And this, mind you, she did while serving in her first year as the chief justice. This is the staunch friend who has counseled so many people in need, including foster youth she's mentored. This is the devoted sister, sister-in-law, the aunt of many nieces and nephews, the mother of her beloved Daniel and Megan, and the grandmother who proclaims that the sun rises and sets on her grandchildren's heads.

Her energy and persistence are legendary. Dogged is another word you could use [laughter], but it can't be fully explained by her constant diet of Diet Coke and coffee—Pepsi—I'm sorry, doesn't do Coke, yet. Here, in my opinion, is the secret of Maura's energy. She believes in her mission. Many of us have a mission, or are called to have one, but not all will accept that

call. Maura embraces hers. She believes in the good, the true, and the beautiful, and she believes that they demand her best. She gives nothing less than her best, and I don't believe she ever has. She has the heart of a Girl Scout, the mind of a grand chess master, but the soul of Don Quixote, and she put them all in service of the law and her beloved Michigan families and children.

However, she's also, I wouldn't say mean, but cosseting and annoying to me. [Laughter.] She has referred to me as her work husband, but being the eldest of what, 30 siblings, she instantly installed herself as my older sister, much, much older. Hectoring me at every turn. She was the older sister I never had and frankly, never wanted. [Laughter.] It's still sends shivers down my spine as I recall her giving me that side-eye look with that Churchillian lower-lip set that she has when Cliff and I got too frisky at conference. Have I mentioned that she abandoned me? [Laughter.]

Maura told me that, years ago, as a child, she would accompany her father, who was a physician, on house calls. And in her own way, she is a practitioner of the healing arts. She understands that our challenge is not limited to material poverty and its attendant problems—lack of nourishing food, safe shelter, education—but the poverty of the spirit that wastes lives and cripples societies. I think that's why she stresses responsibility, independence, and self-respect because in the long run, feeding the body without strengthening the soul accomplishes little. Winston Churchill said, "We're all worms, but I do believe I'm a glow worm." That's our Maura. There are human beings who shine so brightly on us in an often-gloomy world and who—by whose light and warmth, the rest of us catch fire. Maura always brings the fire. I love and I'm inspired by her. I hope to be a tenth as good as her when I'm as old as she is. Thank you, Maura, for your wonderful career, public service, and your friendship. Happy 80th birthday. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Justice YOUNG. And all I can say is, Maura, you asked for it. [Laughter.] John Bursch was Michigan's tenth solicitor general, appointed by Attorney General Bill Schuette in 2011. He has argued over 30 cases in the Michigan Supreme Court, some of those I'm sure scrutinized by Justice CORRIGAN, and has presented a dozen arguments in the United States Supreme Court. When Justice CORRIGAN was Director of DHS, Mr. Bursch was her lawyer in children's rights litigation filed against the department. Please welcome John Bursch. [Applause.]

JOHN BURSCH: Madam Chief Justice, may it please the Court. It's such an honor to be here to honor Maura on this special day. You get to know the measure of a person's character when you get to work with them in one capacity, and I've had the privilege of working with Maura in multiple capacities. It started, as Justice WILDER mentioned, when she was on the Supreme Court, and I was an advocate here and we became fast friends. She was such a fierce questioner and a great intellect. Those were always fun times going back and forth. But then when she left to become the director of the Department of Human Services, she did become my client. And just—you know, one comment about that. For some people, their abandonment is actually a gift to tens of thousands of children and their families.

You know, who leaves a position on this bench to go take over a child welfare system that desperately needed help that no one else could solve? And yet, she did that because of her passion

for kids. After that, when she left that position, we became co-authors, we became co-presenters, we became co-counselors, and throughout all of those events we became friends. And I just cannot tell you all the wonderful lessons that she's taught me over the years because of the incredible characteristics that she brings to every position and every task in front of her.

You know, I've mentioned intellect. She's also decisive. She's a tireless worker. She's compassionate. She's just an amazing communicator, both orally and in writing. She's a creative thinker. And yet, behind all of that, the importance of her family is what really stands out. I mean, you can see it right here, the family members who are gathered close to her. But the two characteristics that I want to hone in on, with the short time that I have, are her tenacity, as Justice WILDER mentioned numerous times, and her faith.

You know that tenacity, I think, was demonstrated best as she attacked that child welfare problem that we had in this state. You really have to have been in the middle of that to understand what dire straits that we were in. There was a consent decree that governed the Michigan child welfare system that had hundreds of requirements to it and the department was really not meeting any of those. And Justice CORRIGAN stepped in and in four short years met so many of those hallmarks that, with a very aggressive opposing counsel, we eliminated 80 percent of the requirements in that consent decree. And those aren't just words on a page. It's not just freeing the executive branch from an oppressive consent decree. What that did is it transformed the lives for thousands of children and their families, just made a huge difference. It saved lives, and it preserved lives in ways that they will never forget and that continue to carry on to this day. And it was only someone with her tenacity and courage that would have been willing to even attack a problem much like that, you know, much less succeeded at it.

The other thing that I admire about her is her faith. And anybody who spent even a little bit of time with her knows about her deep faith, and Solanus Casey is a special person in her hall of fame. And he used to say, when he was still alive, that God really deigns to give us the ability to collaborate with him in the work that he does. And you could see that in every mission that she undertook. It wasn't just something to get a position or to even accomplish a task. But she saw her role as one of fulfilling God's will and playing a partner in that and advancing his creation here on Earth. And I can't imagine a better way to live out your professional career than with that type of attitude.

So, as we hang the portrait, I think it's important to think about what the purpose of ceremonies like this are. And that purpose is not just to recognize someone who has done great things, although it's certainly that. But it's also to put someone on the wall that others can emulate, that we can look to and say, I want to aspire to be like that, I want my daughters and my sons to be like that, I want young lawyers to aspire to be like that, to have the characteristics that she did to fight the fights the way that she did, and to do it all for God's glory the way that she did. And I can't think of a better way to honor you, Maura, than to say that future generations are going to look at that portrait and say, I want to be like Maura and, like her, change the world. So, thank you. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Mr. Bursch. Our next speaker worked with Justice CORRIGAN at the American Enterprise Institute. In fact, he recruited her there to work on poverty

studies. Before joining AEI as its President and CEO, Robert Doar served as New York State Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance under Governor George Pataki. He then served as an appointee of Mayor Michael Bloomberg as Commissioner of New York City's Human Resources Administration. Mr. Robert Doar. [Applause.]

ROBERT DOAR: I'm very honored to be here, and I'm conscious of the fact that I'm the last speaker before the main attraction over here. [Laughter.] And I also want to say to the justices that I'm extremely uncomfortable turning my back to the Court. My respect for you is great and for the rule law, and so thank you for having me.

I'm very honored to be here to honor Maura. I first got to know and admire Maura, not during her service on the Michigan Supreme Court, but when she was serving as the director of the Michigan Department of Human Services. That's a very tough job. One that takes her away from the comfortable confines of the Supreme Court chambers and into the homes of Michigan's most troubled families. Maura brought to that effort a tremendous commitment to helping poor children, especially the most disadvantaged children, those who are in the foster care system. And when Justice CORRIGAN left government service, she came to join us at AEI to bring what she had learned to a national audience. And she had a lot to contribute to our research addressing the root causes of poverty and helping struggling families move up.

As a visiting scholar at AEI, Justice CORRIGAN's work combined her deep legal knowledge with her awareness of the challenges facing poor families, as well as the challenges facing state and social-services providers. For example, she authored a report showing how court-issued consent decrees can sometimes hamstring social-services providers so that they aren't able to provide service to families and children in the best way possible. Bringing her experience in Michigan to bear, she testified to Congress about better coordinating welfare programs to serve families in need.

And I had the pleasure of hosting several events at AEI with Justice CORRIGAN. We convened several panels on how predictive analytics might be used to prevent harm to children. And at other events, we combined our similar experiences to bring lessons to how to run state social-services agencies to other states, such as Indiana and Wisconsin. And most of all, and my favorite experience of all, was when Maura organized an event that brought children who had been in the foster care system to the august building of AEI with all these fancy scholars and theoreticians, and Maura showed them the voices and experience of kids who were in the programs we were talking about. That was something that we needed to hear.

Her writing at AEI was incisive and called attention to real weaknesses in our safety net, like the food stamp program's lack of adequate work support, which have only gotten more relevant as time has gone on. And I should say, eight years after she wrote an article called "Back to Work on Food Stamps," Congress and President Biden are now taking her advice.

Justice CORRIGAN was an outstanding justice, I'm sure, and an outstanding practitioner in the field of poverty reduction. I'm honored to be here today to celebrate her and her service to Michigan and to our country. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Mr. Doar. I'm now very pleased to introduce the two oldest of Justice CORRIGAN's grandchildren, Diana Mae Grano and Anthony Canale. They're going to make some remarks.

ANTHONY CANALE: Madam Chief Justice, Justices, may it please the Court.

DIANA MAE GRANO: Hello, I'm Diana Grano. I'm 13.

ANTHONY CANALE: I'm Anthony Canale. I'm 10, and believe it or not, this is our 17th portrait unveiling this week. [Laughter.]

DIANA MAE GRANO: We're big in the portrait world.

ANTHONY CANALE: We are here to speak on behalf of MAURA CORRIGAN or, as we call her, [both:] "Nana."

DIANA MAE GRANO: Nana has been a role model and trailblazer as long as we've known her.

ANTHONY CANALE: I'm going to talk about how my Nana is a role model for her grandchildren. This fall, I'm going to start sixth grade even though I have—even though I haven't been in school for all that long, I have noticed that some kids don't always try their hardest. My Nana has always encouraged me to do my best and try my hardest. When she was little, she got really good grades in school, and she went on to do really well in college and law school. She encourages my little brother and cousins to work hard, too. She even pays us for every "A" we get on our report cards to motivate us. [Laughter.]

And she doesn't—and she cares about other things besides school, too. She grew up playing piano and loves music, so she has encouraged me and my brother Vinny to work hard at piano practice. When she had back surgery during her visit to our house in California this year, she taught me perseverance through pain. My Nana has taught me to do my best, to try my hardest, and always remain faithful to God.

DIANA MAE GRANO: And my story shows her trailblazer personality. My parents went to law school. My Nana learned law from my grandfather, a law professor. My family is full of lawyers, but when Nana went to law school, it was not nearly as normal for women to practice law. Still, she persevered and eventually improved the lives of thousands despite how many were shocked to learn about her career choice.

She's been a trailblazer her whole life, but she's shown that to me especially. For instance, when she hears about someone in our family getting treated unfairly, her first reaction is to say, "I want to deal with this right now." I had to write and record a speech when I was running for president of my school. Multiple times during the campaign, teachers would tell me that I could not say or do certain things, such as talk about how the school needed more freedom of speech, because it was too negative. Nana thought that that was unfair, so she got the whole family

involved. Nana has done the right thing, pushing to make things better, for as long as I've known her, in the world and in our family.

ANTHONY CANALE: We are honored to participate in celebrating Nana's many accomplishments.

DIANA MAE GRANO: Thank you. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Truer our words were never spoken. Thank you, Diana Mae and Anthony, for your wonderful remarks. Now, may I invite all of Justice CORRIGAN'S grandchildren, Diana Mae Grano, Anthony Canale, Joseph Grano, Vincent Canale, and Charles Grano, to step over to the portrait to gently remove the velvet cover from the portrait?

[Portrait unveiled.] [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: And now the honoree, Justice MAURA CORRIGAN, and her grandson Vincent Canale, for the giving of the response. Justice CORRIGAN. [Applause.]

JUSTICE MAURA CORRIGAN: May it please the Court. Chief Justice CLEMENT and Justices, members of the bench and bar, my dear family and friends who are here today—thank you all so much for joining me at this spec—on this special day in my life.

Let me first of all introduce my grandson, Vincent Canale. He's here to assist me; he's going to assist me in a few minutes. Profoundly grateful, that's what I am today. Thanks to the Supreme Court, the Historical Society, and the contributors for convening this special session of the Court today. Thanks to all of the speakers who traveled here for me today and to the late Patricia Hill Burnett for painting the portrait that my grandchildren have just unveiled. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, back in the 1950s, I never could have imagined that one day I would be the 101st justice to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. And now my portrait will be part of the Court's permanent collection that will outlast me. I'm both honored and humbled.

As the chief told you, today is my 75th birthday, and I chose this day for the portrait unveiling, first of all to say thank you to the good Lord for the gift of life, for God's abundant blessings to me each and every day of the past 75 years. I especially want to thank and recognize Governor John Engler, Michelle Engler, Governor Engler for joining us today. You gave me the opportunity to become a judge back in 1992, and for that I'm enormously grateful. Your enduring vision helped to shape Michigan's judiciary for many years. Thank you for that.

I was also honored to serve with all my judicial colleagues, and so many of you have joined me today. Thank you so much. You taught me how to be a judge. And many of my former law clerks are here this afternoon. I want to thank and commend these talented lawyers for their work on the thousands of cases that we touched across the years. I was privileged to serve with all of you. I also thank Jan Christophel, my judicial assistant, and J. Michael Thomas, my career clerk. And I'd ask that my former clerks and Jan and Mike stand and be recognized please. [Applause.]

Across the years, I did my best to keep faith with my oath to uphold our Constitution and laws. In my opinions, I worked to convey respect for the rule of law, and I worked to communicate a sense of the proper role of the judiciary in our government of separated powers. Finally, I worked to deliver on the promise of ordered liberty for the people of Michigan in our judicial branch.

Thanks to all of you speakers who described my career over the past decades—to Tim Baughman to ROBERT YOUNG, John Bursch, Robert Doar, and to my grandchildren, Diana Mae and Anthony, for your beautiful remarks today. I'm really overwhelmed by everything that you had to say. I also want to thank my dear friend, KURT WILDER, for emceeding today, and also to Marianne Grano and Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny for your beautiful opening and closing prayers. Today's session only came about because of the work of two very talented women, and they are Lynn Seaks—Lynn, the executive director of our Historical Society—and Marcia McBrien, retired public information officer of the Michigan Supreme Court. I also thank the Supreme Court staff and SCAO staff and Court security for all their efforts today. You're the best.

I want to ask your indulgence as I introduce several important people in my current pro bono project, which is the Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry. We have several representatives here from the jail ministry this afternoon, and I would ask that they stand please at this time. Members of our board: Chief [Robert] Dunlap, Wayne County Sheriff's Office; Chief Judge Tim Kenny, on our board; Erica McNamara, our legal counsel; Orlando Gregory is here, our executive director; John Trupiano, our deputy executive; and Carla Hills and Nanette Poole, our administrative assistants; Regina Greer, our treasurer. Thank you all for coming to Lansing, and thanks for all you do on behalf of the returning citizens of Wayne County. [Applause.]

Vinny, come on up. I want to close my remarks this afternoon by paying special tribute to my family. I thank them for their selfless efforts on my behalf during my two statewide campaigns for the Supreme Court. And I especially want to thank and recognize my sister, Colette Sirhal, my brilliant campaign manager. [Applause.] I also thank my children, Megan and Daniel, and their spouses, Marianne and Mike, for their care and concern for me over the past years. My six siblings and I were blessed with devoted parents, and here are my siblings, all except Pat who's having shoulder surgery, Colette, Kate is here, Kate, Therese, and Grace, and my brother Pete. [Applause.] We were blessed with devoted parents, Peter and Mae Corrigan, who supported and loved us. Our mother, as Bob said, was a force of nature. She was a rock and a tireless campaigner. Our parents pursued the American dream, not only for themselves but for their children and grandchildren. I was married to the late Joe Grano for almost 26 years. He was a brilliant scholar and a wonderful man. Joe's family and his parents, Sarah and Dante Grano, also pursued the American dream. Each of our families taught us the values of faith, family, and country. And they did this in conversations every night at the dinner table. Vinny, what did Grandpa Joe tell his family at the dinner table when he was only five years old?

VINCENT GRANO: "The dining room is a happiest place in the house." [Laughter and applause.]

JUSTICE MAURA CORRIGAN: My parting wish is that not just my grandchildren, but that every child could learn these values and be happy at the dinner table. Thanks to all of you for celebrating with me. May God bless you, and God bless the great state of Michigan. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Chief Justice CLEMENT.

CHIEF JUSTICE ELIZABETH CLEMENT: Thank you very much. I am so honored to receive this incredible portrait on behalf of the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. Justice VIVIANO and Justice ZAHRA are unable to join us today, but they are here in spirit to honor you. Maura, I promise I will not let Justice ZAHRA put your portrait in his chambers where he has hidden Justices MARKMAN, TAYLOR, and YOUNG. [Laughter.] We will find a place to put your beautiful portrait on prominent display, I promise.

Since I first met MAURA CORRIGAN in 1998, the first campaign I ever worked on, she has been a mentor, an inspiration, and a role model. In this regard, I know for a fact that I am not alone. MAURA CORRIGAN has inspired at least a couple generations of young lawyers, as well as childcare professionals in our state and across the country. As I said earlier, Maura has never been afraid to take on any challenge if the result would help families and children. Her wise counsel has always been priceless.

I know that this ceremony is all about looking back on Maura's achievements—as a jurist, as a state agency director, as a public-policy expert, and as a lawyer. But I always remember an interview Maura gave when she retired from the state Department of Health and Human Services in 2015. She said to the reporter, “I’m not looking back.” I think that is a lesson we should take from this ceremony today. That reporter back in 2015 wanted her to take credit for her accomplishments or offer her perspective on the various positions she had held. But Maura would have none of it. She only wanted to look forward. That ability to focus on the future is called vision.

More than anything, MAURA CORRIGAN has vision. In particular, a vision of a world where every child is loved and cherished, where every family is a nurturing and happy place. MAURA CORRIGAN draws strength from all of the families that she has helped. She connects with them and understands their concerns, their hopes, and their dreams. Then, she channels that connection and passion into a positive vision to help even more families. Your vision is an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you to Patricia Hill Burnett for capturing Maura for all of history, and thank you to Justice WILDER and all of our speakers today for telling MAURA CORRIGAN's story and honoring her life's work. But most of all, thank you, Chief Justice MAURA CORRIGAN, for being an incredible public servant for this state, especially the families in Michigan. [Applause.]

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: May I now introduce the Reverend Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny for the closing prayer. Monsignor Halfpenny is the retired pastor of St. Paul's on the Lake in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, and serves as a volunteer chaplain for the Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry. Monsignor Halfpenny. [Applause.]

REV. MONSIGNOR PATRICK HALFPENNY: Let us pray. Please listen to God's word as it comes to us, first from the prophet Micah:

He has showed you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?^[1]

And also, God's word as it comes to us from the prophet Jeremiah:

I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them. I will remove the stony heart from their bodies and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes and ordinances. Thus, they shall be my people, and I will be their God.^[2]

Gracious and loving God, creator of all that is good, as our gathering draws to a close, we ask that you bless all here. We thank you for the heart you placed in Chief Justice MAURA CORRIGAN, for the manner in which she brought that heart to her service to our community, to our state, especially through her service on the Supreme Court. Please continue to bless her, and bless this new service which you have called—to which you have called her on behalf of prisoners and those recently released in Wayne County. We pray this afternoon that every person in our state will seek to do justice and want that for one another, most especially for those who cannot obtain it for themselves: the poor, the lonely, those on the fringes of our community. May we take another step toward that goal this afternoon. May we take each step humbly, looking first for the light which you provide, knowing that you want good for all your sons and daughters. And please take all here safely home. Lead and guide us to that day when we are all together in the home you have prepared for us. I pray, in the name of Jesus, your son, my Lord. Amen.

JUSTICE KURTIS WILDER: Thank you, Monsignor Halfpenny. Thanks to all of you for coming this afternoon, and we hope you'll join us in the atrium—rotunda for a reception afterwards. And it's going to be—and I'll turn this back over to the justices and Chief Justice CLEMENT.

CHIEF JUSTICE ELIZABETH CLEMENT: Thank you. We look forward to seeing everyone on the first floor in the conference room for the reception, and this session of the Michigan Supreme Court is adjourned. Thank you. [Applause.]

¹ Micah 6:8.

² Ezekiel 36:26-28.