

**BENCH STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011**

BEFORE WE HEAR THE FIRST ARGUMENT THIS MORNING, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT OUR COLLEAGUE JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA HAS COMPLETED A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THIS COURT. JUSTICE SCALIA TOOK HIS JUDICIAL OATH OF OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1986, AND HE HEARD HIS FIRST ORAL ARGUMENT AS A JUSTICE ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF OCTOBER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. THE PLACE HAS NOT BEEN THE SAME SINCE. ON BEHALF OF THE COURT, I CONGRATULATE YOU, JUSTICE SCALIA, ON YOUR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE. WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING MANY MORE YEARS WITH YOU IN OUR COMMON CALLING.