

HML—

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOMINEES
OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

Thursday, April 29, 1993

1:12 p.m.

Courtyard
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

P R O C E E D I N G S

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Good afternoon, and thank you so much for being here on such a beautiful day, and a day that's so important to the life of the Justice Department.

I know it was a bit of a hassle getting through metal detectors, but I'm pleased that everybody is here, and especially you, Mr. President.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The fact that the President comes here on the 100th day of this administration signifies his deep commitment to the purposes and principals we all share. He had never seen this building before, and he's walked through, and talked to people, withal.

We all want a Justice Department that the American people can be proud of, one which understands the need of the people to be protected and served. Each of you exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism in service to our great country.

As a lawyer who served as Attorney General for his State, and he says it's best job he ever had --

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: -- our President has a keen

—
appreciation of the balance we strive to maintain between Federal and local law enforcement. My own experience as a local prosecutor has made me aware of the useful and effective role the Federal government can plan in making America and more just society.

Mr. President, we welcome you, and appreciate your presence here today.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you.

When Janet Reno was confirmed she said she never wanted to be called "General," but only Janet, but somehow I feel I should call her General. She certainly seemed in command to me yesterday, up on the Hill.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: You know, I want to say to all of you what an incredible honor it has been for me as a citizen of this country, as well as President, to be in the Justice Department for the first time, to walk down the halls and to see the wonderful work that was done, more than 50 years ago now, in building this great building, during the Great Depression when President Roosevelt was trying to lift the spirits of the country by putting the people to work.

That's still a pretty good idea, I think.

[Laughter and applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: To walk into the Attorney General's office and see the magnificent portrait of Robert Kennedy, who was my favorite Attorney General, from my childhood.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: And mostly just to shake hands with all the employees here. I think it is so easy for us to forget in the ebb and flow of events, when we were so focused on the moment, and easy for the American people to forget, that every day there are so many Americans, who could have chosen a different, who get up every day and come to work in this building because they believe in simple justice and fairness, and in doing right by the American people, and I want you to know that I appreciate that very, very much, and I thank you for your service.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: After years of taking a different course, I am doing my best to turn this government around, to change the way things operate here, to convince the American people that we are serious about the economy,

serious about reducing the deficit, serious about investing in the real needs of our people, serious about providing fairness to the middle class, and to others who are willing to work hard and play by the rules in America, and serious about trying to bring all the people of this country together again in a great national community, in which we all recognize that we are in this together.

The changes we are making go well beyond policy and particular bills, and I hope beyond politics, to a whole new idea of hope in this country as we move toward the 21st century, the idea that we can keep the American dream alive, preserve our basic values, and make the new future that all of you and your children deserve.

I thought about this a lot when I was Attorney General, that when you work to ensure the full protection of the law for every citizen, you help to sustain the most fundamental values of democracy, and indeed to provide for the freedom of all.

I know most of you came here with similar feelings for the law. I have enormous respect for your motives. I come from a generation that revered the law, because we believed it gave us the tools to help people, and in my part

of the country that it was the only instrument that would ever enable us all, black and white together, to live as equals.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I still believe those things. The day before I came over here I had a whole string of people into my office whom I had known for years and years and years, and they were laughing about how sometimes I may seem almost naive, because I genuinely feel more idealism and hope today than I did in the first day I entered public life, than I did on the first day I cast a vote, as a young man.

I still believe that we can make a difference, that we can live up to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution, and that we have the obligation to do so, and I asked Janet Reno to become the Attorney General of the United States because I knew she believed that too.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Since I became president, I have spent a good deal of time trying to focus on law enforcement issues, because I saw, all across this land in the last year and a half, when I ran for president, the enormous amount of insecurity and fear that so many Americans

felt, living in their homes, walking on their streets.

Many of you many have heard me tell this story, at least in the media before, but one of the most gripping things that ever happened to me in the race for president occurred in a hotel in New York. It was about a week before the New Hampshire primary, I looked like I was yesterday's news, to say the least.

I was walking through this corridor to go to a big fund-raiser full of people who wondered why they had bought tickets.

[Laughter.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I was feeling sorry for myself, and a man who worked in the hotel as a waiter stuck his hand out and grabbed my hand, and he said, "My ten-year-old boy studies the presidential race in school, and he says you should be president, so I will be for you.

"I'm an immigrant from Greece," and he said, "I will be for you because my boy wants me to be, but," he said, "you know, where I came from we were so much poorer, but at least we were free." And he said, "Now when my boy walks outside from our apartment he cannot go across the street and play in the park unless I am with him, because he won't be

safe.

"We live only two blocks from the school, and he cannot walk to his school unless I am with him, because he won't be safe. So if I do what my boy wants me to do, and I vote for you, will you make my boy free?"

And all of a sudden I couldn't remember what I was feeling sorry for myself about, but I did remember one of the reasons that I wanted to be President, and one of the solemn duties of the government of the United States and every other law enforcement jurisdiction in this country.

And I think it's time that we move from the incredible gulf between rhetoric and reality, to doing some very specific things that will make the American people safer. We ought to pass and sign the Brady Bill.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I will propose a major new safe schools program, so that children at least can be drug-free and safe in their schools. I have just appointed Lee Brown, who was the police chief of Atlanta, Houston and New York City, to be the Director of the Drug Control Office, the first police officer ever to hold that position, a person who pioneered community policing, and actually can show how the

crime rate went down in communities where there were enough police officers on the street, to walk the beat and know their neighbors, and work to prevent crime, not just to catch criminals after crimes had occurred.

I have asked for more resources for drug education programs, and treatment programs, and I want to increase police presence in our communities, so I've asked for substantial new funding to eventually add up to 100,000 more police officers on our streets.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Some of them will come, I hope, through the crime bill that I hope we can pass this year, that was filibustered last year. That's an institution I've learned to have less and less respect for, as we go along.

[Laughter.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Some of them will come from incentives we give from people coming out of the service, as we build down our armed services, and give people incentives to move into police or teaching.

Some of them will come from the National Service Corps, which we will announce tomorrow in New Orleans, as people who will pay off their college loans by working as

police officers. I had hoped that some would come from the jobs program which contained \$200 million for more police officers, but we are going to work together to do this.

And as I sat in the Attorney General's office just a few moments ago, it's the second issue she brought up. She said, "We've still got to deliver for the American people -- we have to give them the police officers they need, and the security they need," and we're going to do it.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I also want our government to set an example. I want us to have a tougher child support enforcement program. I've asked my appointees to adhere to the strictest ethics law ever applied to executive branch appointees.

I have cut my own White House staff, and begun a government-wide review of every program we operate, so that we can show the American people we are trying to be accountable and responsible and effective, and that we're trying to make sure that when we do something in Washington, it's for the good of the people out there who pay the bills, and not just for ourselves.

Our country is great because we have succeeded over

200 years in providing opportunity to all, freedom of speech and worship and association to all, providing equal justice to all. We have become the custodian of freedom's dream for the entire world, because people like you have decided to give your lives to this great call.

My goals for this Justice Department are simple. I want it to be free of political controversy and political abuse. I want it to be an innovator in crime reduction and in law enforcement. I want it to create a genuine partnership with those who work with us in State and local systems of justice.

I want it to set an example in the practice of law, and in the protection of civil rights, that will make all Americans proud.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: And I want the American people to believe that you are their partners in making our communities, our children and our families safe again.

In closing, let me say how very, very proud I am to name these seven assistant attorneys general to your Justice Department team. Some of them are new to me, some I have known and admired a very long time. At least one of them

once sued me.

[Laughter.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Shows you how broad-minded I am.

[Laughter.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: And I can tell you, I am very pleased that each of them has agreed to join our administration. Now, this may surprise you if you've been reading the press reports, but with these appointments our administration has, in 100 days, nominated 172 people for consideration by the Senate.

At the same point in their administrations, President Reagan had named 152 people, and President Bush had named 99. By any measure, we're doing a fairly good job in staffing up this administration with high quality folks, and I might add, since I look across here I can't resist saying, a third of them are women, for a change.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Today when I walked through these halls, and I went to the Attorney General's office, I couldn't help but remember that it was 25 years ago, in this springtime, when Robert Kennedy, by then a senator from New York, was running for president, and was subsequently killed,

just two days before I graduated from college, with one of my roommates working in his office.

It's impossible for me still, especially now as I think back across those 25 years, not to be moved by his memory and his work, and the power of the example he set for all Americans, regardless of their gender or color or station in life.

I hope, 25 years from now, another daughter or son of America will walk in here and remember what you have accomplished here, and be moved. I believe the tradition of greatness here is still very much alive. I believe that Janet Reno and the team that she is assembling can bring it to life for all Americans.

The American people want you to succeed in your work; I do too. Working together, we can be proud to honor the tradition of the Justice Department by ensuring its great future.

Thank you all, and God, bless you.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Thank you, Mr. President.
We're so happy and so honored to have you here today.

What we're celebrating is the selection of new

members of a great team, to join and to help lead the Department of Justice, and to share in our commitment to serve the people of the United States.

The President has nominate six individuals, and intends to nominate the seventh -- four women and three men, all of whom have had significant achievements in their previous careers. Now they have been asked by the President to put aside those other pursuits and dedicate themselves fully to public service.

The fact that they accepted without hesitation demonstrates their commitment to public service, and I'm truly delighted to introduce them to you today.

Walter Dellinger has been nominated to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. There is probably no one in this audience who hasn't heard Walter, or read his scholarly views on constitutional law. Currently he is Associate Counsel to the President. In his other life you know him as a professor and a former dean at the Duke University Law School.

He has briefed and argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and has been influential in the development of a number of Federal legislative reforms.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Lani Guinier is a remarkable woman, who is no stranger to this Justice Department. Many of you will remember her as the energetic and thoughtful Special Assistant to Dru Days in the Civil Rights Division in the late 1970s. She headed the Voting Rights Project of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

She clerked for the legendary Judge Damon Keith of the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. She was a Juvenile Court referee in Wayne County, Michigan, which impressed me so much. Currently she is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she teaches legal ethics, criminal procedure and voting rights law.

We're delighted you're here.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Frank Hunger brings a wealth of courtroom experience and a practitioner's wisdom to the Civil Division which he has been asked to lead. Frank is the managing partner of the law firm of Lake, Tyndal, Hunger and Paxton in Greenville, Mississippi.

He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he is president-elect of the Bar Association of the

5th Federal Circuit. His extensive litigation career includes complex toxic tort cases, contract matters, and products liability actions.

In short, he's a lawyer's lawyer, and we're proud to have him here.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Anne Bingaman is the woman from the Golden West. She started her own law firm in Santa Fe, New Mexico, heading the kind of firm many of us dream of, until she moved here a few years ago with her husband, who was sent here by the voters.

She's a tenured law professor at the University of New Mexico, she has handled major complex cases, including challenges to alleged price fixing and monopolization arrangements.

Anne has served as general counsel of Planned Parenthood of New Mexico; currently she is a partner in the Washington, D.C. firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazier and Murphy, which means she has just has to move across the street.

We're so happy to have you here to lead the Antitrust Division, Anne.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Gerald Torres is a law professor at the University of Minnesota, on leave from the University of Texas. He is also a proud father, who will show baby pictures to everyone in this courtyard if I give him half a chance.

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: He was hired based on baby pictures.

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: On a Saturday.

After his graduation from Yale Law School, Gerald worked with the Children's Defense Fund. In 1991, while teaching as a visiting professor at the Harvard University Law School, he was named National Hispanic Law Professor of the Year.

He has taught and written extensively on environmental law, and the issue of environmental equity, which is why we are so pleased that the President intends to nominate him to lead the Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Eleanor D. Acheson, better known as "Eldee," is already well-known to many of you who have seen her whizzing by on the fifth floor. She is a partner in the Boston law firm of Ropes and Gray. There, in addition to her practice as a civil litigator, she initiated the firm's pro bono program, and as we approach Law Day, I think this signals something that is important to this Justice Department.

She's served on the board of a number of public agencies and private social service organizations in Boston, she has been nominated to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Police Development.

In short, Eldee, you're going to play a major role in our quest for excellence, because you're going to be telling us what we should be doing.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Sheila Anthony has been nominated to head the Office of Legislative Affairs. One of her jobs will be to make sure I am as well-received on the Hill as I was yesterday.

[Laughter.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Sheila is a former senior

associate in the Washington, D.C. firm of Dow, Lohnes and Albertson. She specialized in intellectual property law, and is an expert in such things as trademark, copyright, licensing and technology transfer law.

She is a member of the bar in Arkansas and the District of Columbia, an increasingly frequent combination these days. She is a board member of the Washington Center, a nonprofit organization that works with students interested in public service.

Sheila, we welcome you to the Justice Department.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce you to ~~the~~ new members of our team, and I look forward to working with all of you in our common goal to make this a place of justice, in deed as well as in name.

Thank you all so much for coming.

[Applause.]

MR. DELLINGER: I was a sophomore at a segregated high school in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1957 when Dr. King gave his first civil rights speech, and I've always been struck by what he told the crowded Hope Street Baptist Church on that December night in 1957.

He said, as he began his assault on the citadel of segregation, "If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong; if we are wrong, the Supreme Court of this land is wrong; if we are wrong, God almighty is wrong." Faith in God, belief in constitutionalism, devotion to the rule of law, were the themes upon which he chose to draw.

For one who grew up in the South, the embodiment of the rule of law is the United States Department of Justice, and it is a great honor for all of us to be able to serve in that tradition. By the rule of law, we mean a government not by whim or preference or raw power, but a government according to enduring principles, binding even on government itself.

Thirteen years ago I was here while my wife served across the street with Judge Webster at the FBI, and for a year some of the dedicated professionals like Kopp and Steinmeier took a mooshy-headed law professor and taught him about lawyering professionalism and dedicated public service.

I'm honored to return to head an office of great distinction, whose reputation for integrity and independence is a tradition I would like to see continued. It is our job to assist the Attorney General in giving advice to the President that is as objective and detached as we can

possibly make it, and at times, Mr. President, even to give you advice that you rather not hear.

But that's a function we hope to carry out in serving what I believe will be one of the great Attorneys General of this century.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. GUINIER: I am the nominee who has sued the President of the United States.

[Applause.]

MS. GUINIER: And I am very proud, honored and humbled to be here before you today. If confirmed by the Senate, I eagerly anticipate leading a new and highly regarded Civil Rights Division that works to enforce, not repeal, the civil rights laws as passed by Congress.

[Applause.]

MS. GUINIER: I am committed to reviving the morale and respecting the efforts of the Division's career civil servants who have labored so mightily to do their jobs against so many political head winds and attacks on their mission. Those who know me, or any of my students, will attest to my approach.

I will work hard to be respectful of all viewpoints, but I will have high expectations of each one's performance. I will, if confirmed, administer this Division the way I teach my classes and litigate my cases: I will be tough but fair.

[Applause.]

MS. GUINIER: I have always wanted to be a civil rights lawyer. As a young girl in Queens, New York, I was inspired by the examples of Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley, two fearless and noble attorneys who resolved to make America a more just society, a society at peace with itself.

I was particularly challenged by the courage of Judge Motley, one lone, black woman among many men, helping to see that James Meredith could attend the University of Mississippi in the early 1960s.

But while I consider myself a civil rights advocate at heart, I am not simply an advocate. I have also worked hard to learn to be a respectful listener. It was my father who demonstrated, by his example, the advocacy side of effective communication. He showed me the importance of projecting ideas forcefully and with dignity.

But I am not simply my father's daughter. My mother also taught me the importance of attentive listening. From my mother's example, I learned that effective communication requires the ability to learn from constructive criticism and contrary viewpoints.

I am prepared, therefore, to join with others in rethinking some of the traditional civil rights strategies. I am deeply committed to building consensus and defining anew the civil rights mission. My last five years as an academic have given me the opportunity to combine activism and reflection.

I have gained insight from perspectives that span the political spectrum, from listening respectfully to my colleagues and my students. I am prepared to continue to think independently, but in collaboration with people of good will, who are struggling to make the ideals of the Constitution a reality.

I pledge, if confirmed, to leave recriminations behind, to work together in the spirit of an administration dedicated to changing America, to make America a more just society in the eyes of all of its citizens.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR. HUNGER: Mr. President, Ms. Reno, I want to thank both of you for giving me this opportunity to be of public service. It's something that I have wanted to do all my life. I look forward with great enthusiasm to joining this Department to represent the interests of the people.

I'm a trial lawyer. I have been in the trenches for the past 27 years; I know what it's like to take the depositions, produce the documents, meet with the judges, and wait on that verdict to come in. For whatever I have learned from those experiences, I hope to now use it on behalf of this government.

I consider it a great privilege to work with some of the best attorneys in this country. I now have the opportunity to represent the preeminent of all clients, the United States of America. For that privilege, I thank you, Mr. President, I thank you, Ms. Reno, and I thank all who have played a part in helping me get here.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. BINGAMAN: I am Anne Bingaman, from New Mexico, and the first and proper thing is to thank President Clinton

for his faith in me, Janet Reno for her faith in me, and to pledge to both of them personally, to the United States Congress, to American business, but most of all to the American people, to enforce the antitrust laws of this country fairly and fully, and vigorously, according to the laws as the Congress wrote them, according to the judicial precedents of interpreting those laws, and with fairness for the benefit of the American people and American business.

I pledge you that with all my heart, with all the energy anyone could muster.

Let me tell you briefly, it is a wonderful honor to be here. I am from a small mining town in Arizona that's now bankrupt, bills itself the largest ghost town in the world, and may be, for all I know.

I am the granddaughter of immigrants from Yugoslavia and Switzerland; I watch the news in Yugoslavia with horror, of course. My parents did not go to college; I am the first member of my family to attend college, much less law school, and I applaud so sincerely the President's efforts to make a college education available to all in this country, through national service, and hopefully through expanded loans and grants for educational opportunities.

Because education is the foundation of this country, and I think President Clinton understands that in the most fundamental way, as I do. I was lucky enough to go to Stanford, to the London School of Economics, to Stanford University, and lucky enough to become the first woman law professor at the University of New Mexico, the first woman hired by a major firm in New Mexico, and now the first woman to head this Division.

But you know the truth? It doesn't amount to anything, being the first woman. What really matters is what kind of job you do. That's what I pledge myself to do, and I will do it with all my heart.

Let me say to every attorney here in the Antitrust Division, it is an enormous honor to be appointed to head you, if I'm confirmed, because this Division, more than any for me -- and I've practiced antitrust law 17 years now -- epitomizes the excellence, the integrity, the dedication, the professionalism of the Department of Justice.

It is a renowned division nationally and internationally. I am honored to be part of it, I hope to head it, and I thank very much the President and Ms. Reno for this opportunity.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR. TORRES: I would also like to thank the President and the Attorney General for giving me this opportunity.

During the introductions I was reminded of a story a former president used to tell -- Lyndon Johnson -- who said that whenever he received a laudatory introduction he always wished there could be two more people present: his mother and his father -- his father because he would have liked it, and his mother because she would have believed it.

[Laughter.]

MR. TORRES: And I wish they could have been here today. I want to say to the people in the Environment and Natural Resources Division that I want to reinvigorate the Division, make sure that the environmental laws of this country are enforced as they were written, fairly but vigorously, and to look with new hope for accomplishing the goals that the Congress has set out for us, and that the laws dictate to us.

I'd also like to think more broad-mindedly about how we ought to be moving, as we move to an international

arena for the consideration of environmental problems. We have to think about questions like harmony, and how our policies harmonize with policies that people in other parts of the world are developing.

I want the Department to think about those kinds of issues. I hope to provide some leadership in helping to think about those issues, but in any case I really look forward to working with a, as far as I have been able to discern, very talented, energetic and dedicated group of attorneys.

Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

MS. ACHESON: My name is Eldee Acheson, and I have been nominated by the President to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Policy Development, and for that, Mr. President, I am infinitely grateful.

I grew up in a family extremely successful in private enterprise, but devoted to public service. My grandfather was the Secretary of State of the United States, my father was the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and my mother served in a presidential appointment in the United States Information Agency.

I have, in short, unlike many on this stage, been given every opportunity, both by way of advantage, educational or otherwise. I have tried hard to be responsible to those advantages, and to make the most of every opportunity, and to work hard for the principles that my family had the luxury to work hard for -- those established by Harry Truman and John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

Once again, through the amazing serendipity of having joined somebody named Hillary Rodham in what passed for political disruption and civil disobedience at Wellesley College in 1969, I have come to have another opportunity that's an extraordinary one, and I am very humbled by it, and I commit to work extremely hard in the Office of Policy Development to try and bring the various threads and the initiatives of what we intend to do in the Department of Justice together.

I thought, having known Bill Clinton for some years, that I had met the ultimate policy wonk, but I didn't know anything until I met Attorney General Janet Reno.

[Laughter.]

MS. ACHESON: We have a huge agenda, we need your help, I look forward very much to meeting all of you and

working with many of you, and I think we'll have an exciting four years.

Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

MS. ANTHONY: I'm Sheila Anthony, I am unabashedly ecstatic to be here today as the designee for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the Department of Justice.

As a long-time friend and supporter of the President and Mrs. Clinton, I would like to thank him for the confidence he has shown in me, and I am committed to serving him to the very best of my ability.

I also would like to thank Attorney General Reno for the opportunity to serve the Department of Justice as the agency pursues its important initiatives. I think I will probably have the easiest job here, if yesterday was any precursor, and my job is to make her look good before the Congress.

[Laughter and applause.]

MS. ANTHONY: I feel as though I must be the luckiest lawyer in America, to be working for the first woman Attorney General, one who has already shown extraordinary

leadership and grace under pressure.

[Applause.]

MS. ANTHONY: I bring to this position a lifelong commitment and involvement in public service, as a lawyer, teacher, parent, county official, involved citizen. I have had experience with various branches of government, on the State and Federal level.

One important lesson of my many years as a close observer of Congress is the need for a better working relationship between the executive and legislative branches. The responsibility of good government is shared among administrator and legislator, Democrat and Republican.

We all must work together to serve the American people.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Let's go to work for America!

[Applause.]

[Whereupon, at 2:00 p.m., the announcement ceremony was concluded.]

- - -