

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ROOM 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 22, 2012
10:40 A.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

Bill No. 120343, an ordinance
renaming and designating the Criminal
Justice Center located at 13th and
Filbert Streets as the "Justice
Juanita Kidd Stout Center for
Criminal Justice."

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1 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 Good morning.

3 (Good morning.)

4 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

5 CLARKE: We have a hearing today on
6 Bill No. 120343. Mr. Carter, please
7 read the title of the bill.

8 CLERK: Bill No. 120343, an
9 ordinance renaming and designating
10 the Criminal Justice Center located
11 at 13th and Filbert Streets as the
12 "Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center
13 for Criminal Justice."

14 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

15 CLARKE: Thank you. We will call you
16 up in panels, if that's okay so we
17 have three individuals sitting at the
18 table at a time. Your Honor, do you
19 want me to do them in order of the
20 list that you submitted?

21 JUDGE ALLEN: Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

23 CLARKE: Thank you. We would like to
24 have the Honorable Sheila
25 Woods-Skipper, Mark Aronchick and the

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2 Honorable Pam Dembe. And I'm told
3 that Mr. Gillison would like to also
4 join the panel.

5 THE HONORABLE

6 WOODS-SKIPPER: Good morning.

7 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

8 CLARKE: Good morning.

9 THE HONORABLE

10 WOODS-SKIPPER: I am Sheila
11 Woods-Skipper, Chair for the National
12 Bar Association Judicial Council
13 Clifford Scott Green Chapter.
14 Judicial Council is an organization
15 of judges of color in the greater
16 Philadelphia area that strives to
17 improve the image of the judiciary,
18 educate the community and provides
19 mentorship to students, lawyers and
20 judges. I am honored to sit before
21 you and support a City Council
22 Ordinance 120343 introduced by
23 Councilman Mark Squilla along with
24 the sixteen co-sponsors renaming the
25 Criminal Justice Center the Justice

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2 Juanita Kidd Stout Center for
3 Criminal Justice. This is an effort
4 that has been more than a decade in
5 the making and a deserving reward for
6 a brave warrior who epitomizes Lady
7 Justice.

8 All Philadelphians should
9 be proud of Justice Juanita Kidd
10 Stout. She represented opportunity,
11 arriving in Philadelphia in 1954 as a
12 woman armed with three degrees but
13 struggling to find employment as an
14 attorney. Rather, she was held to
15 secretarial jobs for noted Civil
16 Rights attorneys, and served as an
17 Administrative Assistant to a federal
18 Circuit Court Judge sitting on the
19 U.S. Court of Appeals, William
20 Hastie. Philadelphia allowed her to
21 grow professionally, as she journeyed
22 from a secretary and a teacher,
23 rising not only to become a highly
24 respected homicide judge serving the
25 Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas,

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2 but also received an appointment from
3 Governor Robert Casey to the Supreme
4 Court of this great Commonwealth.

5 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout
6 also represented fairness. As an
7 Assistant District Attorney in the
8 Homicide Unit, I appeared before
9 Justice Stout and witnessed first
10 hand her commitment to hard work,
11 preparation, and most of all,
12 fairness to all parties in often the
13 most emotionally charged proceedings.

14 Justice Stout touts many
15 firsts:

16 The first African-American
17 woman to be elected to the United
18 States Court of Record when she was
19 elected to the Philadelphia County
20 Municipal Court in 1959,

21 The first African-American
22 woman elected to the Philadelphia
23 Court of Common Pleas,

24 The first African-American
25 woman to serve as a State Supreme

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2 Court justice in Pennsylvania when
3 appointed in 1988 by Governor Casey,
4 and,

5 The first woman and
6 African-American in history to speak
7 during the commencement exercise at
8 Lebanon Valley College.

9 She embodies the strength
10 and perseverance necessary to survive
11 in very difficult settings.

12 Many others observed
13 Justice Stout's impressive qualities.
14 She was the recipient of many awards,
15 including honorary doctorate degrees,
16 the Sandra Day O'Connor Award from
17 the Philadelphia Bar Association, a
18 distinguished Daughter of
19 Pennsylvania, Oklahoma Hall of Fame,
20 and Justice of the Year from the
21 National Association of Women Judges,
22 to name just a few. A humble,
23 accomplished woman, Justice Stout
24 distinguished herself by her quiet,
25 thoughtful demeanor on the Bench, her

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2 reaching and mentoring and supporting
3 young lawyers and her natural ability
4 to provide counsel to her judicial
5 colleagues.

6 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout
7 demanded excellence and self-respect.
8 The daughter of a school teacher and
9 a teacher herself, one of Justice
10 Stout's hallmarks was her insistence
11 that you speak and write properly.
12 She never hesitated to correct your
13 grammar, punctuation and sentence
14 structure. Many shuddered when
15 sending any correspondence to Justice
16 Stout, fearing that it would be
17 returned with many edited red
18 markings.

19 (Laughter.)

20 THE HONORABLE

21 WOODS-SKIPPER: But this was just the
22 kind of person that she was. She
23 wanted you to be your best, do your
24 best and produce the highest caliber
25 of work.

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2 I only regret I did not
3 have the opportunity to serve as her
4 colleague in the Philadelphia Court
5 of Common Pleas. She died in August
6 of 1998 and I was appointed to the
7 Bench in November of 1998. I know
8 that I would have benefitted, as many
9 others did, from her strong
10 mentoring, her sense of independence
11 and her infectious personality.

12 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout
13 was an extraordinary jurist, a
14 trailblazer for justice and equality,
15 and a pioneer for all women. The
16 renaming of the Criminal Justice
17 Center will leave an indelible mark,
18 well deserving of this legal legend.
19 You will hear from many speakers
20 today, and I am sure much of what you
21 hear will repeat a continuous theme,
22 that there is no one more deserving
23 of such an honor than Justice Stout.

24 A virtuous woman, Justice
25 Stout was an African-American woman

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2 and much more. To this day she
3 remains a role model for justice. We
4 in the National Bar Association
5 Judicial Council have been advocating
6 for this honor for more than a
7 decade. We look forward to the day
8 that Justice Juanita Kidd Stout's
9 name will be prominently displayed,
10 permanently engraved for everyone to
11 see.

12 Thank you for this
13 opportunity to address you today in
14 support of this most historical and
15 long overdue honor.

16 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

17 CLARKE: I'm Mark Aronchick. And
18 first, let me say, I'm really honored
19 to be back here. I have been at this
20 microphone or microphones around this
21 room many times in my career. And I
22 think this is one of the days
23 where -- that I will always remember.
24 This is one of those times where I am
25 really glad to be here.

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2 I will let others speak
3 about the lifetime of accomplishments
4 of Justice Stout. I won't repeat
5 them, all her firsts, no doubt a star
6 of our judiciary and our profession.
7 But I think I can bring four or five
8 other perspectives here quickly
9 because I think I am particularly
10 uniquely qualified to speak here
11 today.

12 First, I think many people
13 in this room know that I firmly fight
14 for and have fought for justice and
15 diversity in our profession and to
16 recognize merit when merit is there,
17 regardless of any kind of race or
18 gender or anything else. And I think
19 it's well-known that I have picked
20 those battles and fought them. This
21 is another one of those times where
22 we should just do the right thing.
23 It's the right thing to do.

24 Second, I was the City
25 Solicitor under one of our greatest

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2 mayors, William J. Green. And one of
3 the things he did in those years was
4 actually to constitute and revive an
5 ethics board that had been moribund.
6 And Justice Stout was on the ethics
7 board with me. Walter Phillips was
8 the Chair.

9 And any of you with a
10 little bit of memory will recall that
11 in the early eighties we tackled some
12 of the most important, contentious,
13 unbelievably difficult ethic issues.
14 There was a lot of things happening.
15 It was potentially busting some of
16 the City government apart.

17 And I have to tell you that
18 she was unwavering, absolutely
19 correct in terms of grammar. We
20 never put out an opinion that ever
21 seemed to get by her without having
22 to correct something in it.

23 She was a rock in terms of
24 ethics and integrity at a time when
25 the City sorely needed it. I served

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2 with her. And I can say that
3 firsthand. I also know something
4 about the CJC since I represented the
5 City in the Rendell years down in
6 Federal Court to get it built. And I
7 know the blood, sweat and tears that
8 went into the building of that
9 building and how many resources were
10 devoted to that and how important
11 that building is to all the
12 stakeholders in the justice system.
13 I was there and I saw it.

14 In addition, I was the Bar
15 Chancellor in 1998 when Justice Stout
16 died and it was under my leadership
17 that the Bar Association passed a
18 resolution unanimously from the Board
19 of Governors to name the CJC Juanita
20 Kidd Stout Justice Center. It's too
21 bad that it has not been effected or
22 implemented since 1998. But we have
23 a chance here to sort of set the
24 record straight.

25 You should know that it is

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2 an unwavering position of the Bar
3 Association. And we would love to
4 see you act on that 1998 resolution
5 and rename -- and name that building.

6 And finally, I will say
7 this. You know, a lot of people make
8 fun here and there of congressmen or
9 people who their only accomplishment
10 is getting the name of a building
11 somewhere, some post office or
12 something. And I really never saw
13 that as something to make fun of.
14 What you do is really important
15 because what you do is you not only
16 honor merit and undoubted
17 accomplishment but you also set the
18 tone for what we are all about as a
19 City.

20 And there is no question
21 that generations from now when the
22 building is called the Stout Center
23 for Justice or let's go over to the
24 Stout Center to get our hearing or
25 let's go to the Stout Center for our

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2 trial, people will know and ask and
3 tell the stories of why the building
4 is called that and what we are all
5 about as a City. And so I think what
6 you're doing is of high moment and I
7 applaud you. I encourage you to act
8 on this finally and I am open for any
9 questions that you may have.

10 MR. GILLISON: Good
11 morning, Council President Clarke and
12 members of the Committee of the
13 Whole. I am Everett Gillison, Chief
14 of Staff to the Mayor and also Deputy
15 Mayor for Public Safety, and I'm here
16 today to testify in support of Bill
17 No. 120343, an ordinance renaming and
18 designating the Criminal Justice
19 Center located at 13th and Filbert
20 Streets as the "Justice Juanita Kidd
21 Stout Center for Criminal Justice."

22 With me in the audience is
23 John Herzins, Deputy Commissioner of
24 the Department of Public Property.
25 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout was born

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2 March 7, 1919, in Wewoka, Oklahoma.

3 There is not too many things that

4 come out of Oklahoma that I know, but

5 I know two things that came out, and

6 they are both excellent in their

7 professions. As a pioneer for women

8 lawyers and, in particular,

9 African-American women lawyers

10 throughout this nation and here in

11 Philadelphia where she served as the

12 first African-American woman elected

13 to any judgeship in the United

14 States. The highlight of her

15 esteemed career was when Justice

16 Stout was appointed to serve as an

17 Associate Justice of the Supreme

18 Court of Pennsylvania from 1988

19 through 1989.

20 Justice Stout was the only

21 child of schoolteachers who instilled

22 in her the value of education and the

23 importance of achieving. After

24 graduating from high school in

25 Oklahoma at age 16, she had to leave

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2 her home state to find an accredited
3 college that would admit an
4 African-American woman. Justice
5 Stout began her college career at
6 Lincoln University in Missouri but
7 later transferred to the University
8 of Iowa where she graduated in 1939
9 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in
10 music. After graduation, she
11 returned to Oklahoma to begin a
12 career in teaching.

13 Later she moved to
14 Washington DC where she worked as a
15 legal secretary for Charles Hamilton
16 Houston, the prominent
17 African-American attorney and later
18 Dean of Howard University Law School.
19 Justice Stout subsequently enrolled
20 at Howard University Law School,
21 later transferring to Indiana
22 University where she obtained her law
23 degree in 1948. It was the
24 distinguished African-American lawyer
25 William Hastie who brought Justice

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2 Stout here to Philadelphia in 1950,
3 where she served as his
4 administrative secretary when he was
5 appointed to the Federal Bench.
6 After passing the Pennsylvania Bar
7 examination and serving in the
8 District Attorney's Office, Justice
9 Stout was appointed to the Municipal
10 Court in 1959, making her the first
11 African-American woman to sit on the
12 Bench in Philadelphia. Later she was
13 elected to a ten-year term becoming
14 the first elected African-American
15 female judge in the United States.

16 Justice Stout had a
17 reputation of being tough but fair.
18 She received national attention for
19 handing out tough sentences for gang
20 members and juvenile offenders but
21 influenced some of them to turn their
22 lives around. Justice Stout was a
23 stickler for punctuality,
24 preparedness and order; she would
25 even correct the language of lawyers

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2 who appeared before her. Some people
3 may not have liked her decisions, but
4 they respected those decisions as
5 being swift and thoughtful.

6 In 1988 she made history,
7 again when she was appointed to serve
8 on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court,
9 making her the first African-American
10 woman to serve on any State Supreme
11 Court. The following year she was
12 forced to retire from that particular
13 court at the age of 70 but returned
14 to serve on the bench in the Court of
15 Common Pleas until she died in 1998.

16 Justice Stout has received
17 many honors for her esteemed
18 accomplishments but it would be most
19 fitting for the Criminal Justice
20 Center to be named after Justice
21 Stout. She was a great public
22 servant and a drum major for justice.

23 The City of Philadelphia is
24 the owner of the Criminal Justice
25 Center and I am proud to be here

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2 today to offer support on behalf of
3 the Administration for renaming the
4 building in honor of Judge Juanita
5 Kidd Stout, and accordingly, I
6 respectfully ask that City Council
7 approve Bill No. 120343.

8 I am requesting a
9 suspension of the rules so as to
10 allow for first reading at the next
11 session of Council.

12 Thank you. I will be happy
13 to answer any questions that you
14 might have about this long overdue
15 tribute.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

18 CLARKE: Any questions of the
19 witnesses by members of the
20 Committee? There being none, thank
21 you very much for your testimony.

22 The next panel will be the
23 Honorable Pamela P. Dembe, Kevin V.
24 Mincey and Linda Medley, Seth
25 Williams, Ellen T. Greenlee.

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2 MR. MINCEY: Good morning,
3 President Clarke and members of the
4 Committee. My name is Kevin Mincey,
5 and I am the president of the
6 Barristers Association of
7 Philadelphia as well as the chair of
8 the Criminal Justice section of the
9 Philadelphia Bar Association. I
10 cannot think of a person more
11 deserving of the honor of having a
12 building now known as the Criminal
13 Justice Center named after them than
14 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout, a
15 trailblazing, courageous
16 African-American woman who has earned
17 this honor by serving her community
18 her entire life, first as a teacher
19 and then as a national legal legend
20 from Philadelphia.

21 Since I cannot envision a
22 scenario where anyone present in this
23 room thinks that Justice Stout is not
24 qualified for such an honor, I guess
25 the real question that everyone in

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2 this chamber should ask themselves is
3 a simple one: Why shouldn't we? Why
4 shouldn't the Criminal Justice Center
5 be named after Justice Stout? The
6 name Juanita Kidd Stout is synonymous
7 with the ideals that we hope are the
8 core of every judge that works inside
9 the Criminal Justice Center:
10 honesty, morality and discipline.
11 Shouldn't the Criminal Justice
12 Center, a building whose sole purpose
13 is to dispense justice, be named
14 after the individual that everyone
15 agrees is the very personification of
16 those ideals. Why shouldn't the
17 Criminal Justice Center be named
18 after a person who after only five
19 years of practice had so mastered the
20 law that they were appointed by the
21 Governor to fill a judicial vacancy.
22 Truly I do not need to discuss with
23 you how remarkable a person Justice
24 Stout must have been for that to
25 happen and for that to happen in

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2 1959.

3 We all hope that when we
4 appoint or elect a person to office,
5 that person will stop at nothing to
6 serve in that role. That similar to
7 the poem Invictus: "They will not
8 wince nor cry aloud when faced wiith
9 just such a circumstance. Justice
10 Stout did not wince when she received
11 death threats in the sixties and
12 seventies. An unconquerable soul
13 would not allow the threat of death
14 to keep her from fulfilling the duty
15 bestowed upon her by her fellow
16 citizens. The people of Philadelphia
17 elected her to serve for 30 years.
18 They would have done so for 50 more
19 if they were given the opportunity to
20 do so. Renaming the Criminal Justice
21 Center after Justice Stout would be
22 like erecting a monument to diversity
23 on the Bench.

24 Diversity is something that
25 we all agree is needed if the ideal

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2 of justice is to be realized.

3 Judicial diversity reduces not only

4 the perception of violence but also

5 reduces the actual opportunity for

6 bias in the courts. A diverse Bench

7 leads to better and more informed

8 decision making by our judges. If

9 there is a more deserving

10 Philadelphian for such an honor,

11 their name is a mystery to me.

12 Justice Stout exemplified all the

13 best elements of a Philadelphia

14 lawyer, a Philadelphia judge, and a

15 justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme

16 Court. I desperately urge this

17 Council and this Committee to do what

18 should have been done at least ten

19 years ago: name the Criminal Justice

20 Center after Justice Juanita Kidd

21 Stout. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Good

24 morning, President Clarke and members

25 of the Committee. My name is

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2 Angelina Williams. I am here on
3 behalf of the National Bar
4 Association Women Lawyers' Division,
5 Philadelphia Chapter. On behalf of
6 the Women Lawyers' Division or as we
7 affectionately call it, the WLD, I am
8 here today to express our complete
9 support of Ordinance 120343 renaming
10 and designating the Criminal Justice
11 Center located at 13th and Filbert
12 Street as the Justice Juanita Kidd
13 Stout Center for Criminal Justice.

14 The WLD was formed in 1981
15 as a professional organization that
16 fosters constructive, professional
17 and personal development. It is
18 dedicated to creating an environment
19 which maintains professional
20 competence and integrity, to
21 increasing the numbers of
22 African-American lawyers in
23 Philadelphia and to fostering
24 personal and professional support
25 networks. Justice Stout embodies the

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2 aforementioned goals and objectives.

3 She was a mentor, friend and guiding

4 light for young lawyers in

5 Philadelphia. Just as Justice Stout

6 is, the WLD strives to be an icon of

7 achievement in Philadelphia. It is a

8 strong force in allying the

9 continuing struggle for equality,

10 justice and diversity in the

11 Philadelphia legal community.

12 As the WLD has grown, it

13 has continued, in addition to

14 fulfilling its mission, to focus on

15 two major themes, the importance of

16 the individual and the strength of

17 the community. This is exactly what

18 Justice Stout did throughout her

19 life, both inside and outside of the

20 courtroom.

21 Many of the sitting judges

22 and practicing attorneys in

23 Philadelphia can attribute a

24 milestone or two in their own

25 professional and personal development

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2 to the role model who accomplished so
3 much just because she wanted to.

4 Although I did not have the great
5 fortune to meet her, I can recall
6 many stories from WLD members who
7 shared the words of wisdom and
8 guidance Justice Stout was gracious
9 enough to share with them.

10 The WLD is and will always
11 remain in awe of the numerous
12 accomplishments of Justice Stout and
13 will forever be indebted to the
14 legacy she left behind. Her passion
15 for justice and commitment to
16 education not only inspired the WLD
17 but compelled it to establish a
18 tuition scholarship in her honor.

19 The Justice Juanita Kidd Stout
20 Tuition scholarship helps to ensure
21 that her legacy of excellence shall
22 continue. It was created to support
23 the efforts of young women enrolled
24 in local law schools and who dream of
25 becoming lawyers and serving the

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2 community.

3 In 2011, the Justice
4 Juanita Stout Tuition Scholarship
5 recipient who is a dual degree
6 student pursuing a master's in
7 bioethics as well as a law degree,
8 was able to pay off outstanding
9 tuition bills with the funds from the
10 scholarship which enabled her to find
11 a community trip to Kenya where she
12 was able to volunteer at a school in
13 a women's legal clinic for two weeks
14 helping victims of domestic violence
15 who could not afford an attorney.

16 We believe Justice Stout
17 would be very proud. Outside of
18 establishing a tuition scholarship,
19 the WLD could not imagine another
20 more phenomenal way for it to honor
21 the memory of Justice Stout until
22 now. The WLD is greatly honored and
23 humbled to be able to publicly
24 support and advocate for the Criminal
25 Justice Center to be renamed the

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2 "Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center
3 for Criminal Justice." Thank you for
4 your time and opportunity to speak on
5 behalf of this proposed ordinance.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. GREENLEE: Council
8 President Clarke and members of the
9 Committee. It's an honor and a
10 privilege for me, Chief Defender of
11 the Defender Association of
12 Philadelphia, to appear in support of
13 the ordinance renaming and
14 designating the Criminal Justice
15 Center as the "Judge Juanita Kidd
16 Stout Center for Criminal Justice."

17 Justice Stout's story is an
18 American story, an African-American
19 and a woman's story, a combination
20 that's hard to beat and deserving of
21 the recognition we seek today.

22 Hers was a career of
23 firsts, as the first African-American
24 woman to be elected a judge in the
25 United States and the first

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2 African-American woman to be
3 appointed to a State Supreme Court.
4 As a jurist in our state courts,
5 Justice Stout had a reputation as a
6 firm but fair judge
7 with a passion for
8 justice and a
9 commitment to education
10 which was always a
11 condition of
12 probation for anyone
13 lucky enough
14 to get probation from
15 the judge.
16 Ironical, isn't it, that
17 as a teenager
18 in her native
19 Oklahoma, she had to seek
20 higher education
21 elsewhere (in Iowa)
22 at that time in the
23 mid-1930s because
24 no accredited colleges
25 would admit

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2 African-Americans.

3 How fitting that in 1982

4 Justice Stout was inducted into the

5 Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Justice Stout

6 was a classy lady: bright, charming

7 with a disarming smile and spine of

8 steel. Though petite in stature, she

9 was a giant in our justice system.

10 Whenever you had the opportunity to

11 be in her company, in court or out,

12 you always wanted to be at your best,

13 as she radiated intelligence, grace

14 and professionalism.

15 Judge Stout was a jurist of

16 the utmost rectitude, a role model

17 for all attorneys, especially

18 women -- serious, hardworking, honest

19 and dedicated to the law. It will be

20 a fitting tribute to this

21 extraordinary woman jurist to name

22 our Criminal Justice Center in her

23 honor. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

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2 CLARKE: Thank you very much for your
3 testimony. Any questions of these
4 witnesses by members of the
5 Committee? There being none, thank
6 you so much for your testimony.

7 Next panel is the Honorable
8 Pamela B. Dembe, Seth Williams,
9 Esquire and the Honorable C. Darnell
10 Jones.

11 MS. DEMBE: Good morning.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Good morning.

14 MS. DEMBE: Mr. President
15 and Council members. I'm a little
16 older than my colleagues here so I
17 remember trying cases in front of
18 Juanita Kidd Stout. She was tough.
19 She was fair. She was unfailingly
20 gracious. She was a teacher in every
21 sense of the word. I do hope that
22 you have all checked the punctuation
23 and the grammar in your written
24 submissions because she will come
25 back to haunt you.

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2 (Laughter.)

3 MS. DEMBE: And I think the
4 need to recognize her was sort of
5 encapsulated for me as I was leaving
6 the Criminal Justice Advisory Board
7 meeting just five minutes ago. And a
8 young man who is in City government
9 said, yeah. They are having hearings
10 on this Juanita Kidd -- oh, man.

11 She was a real giant in our
12 court system and while she was
13 certainly recognized in her lifetime,
14 thank goodness, and in part by being
15 appointed to sit on the Supreme
16 Court, I think that her stature is
17 such that we should carry that
18 recognition forward.

19 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

20 CLARKE: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Good
23 morning, Mr. President and members of
24 Council. I have a copy of my written
25 letter I will provide to your staff.

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2 With your permission, I will
3 summarize. I just wanted to come add
4 my voice to the choir of all those
5 that are supportive of renaming the
6 Criminal Justice Center after Justice
7 Juanita Kidd Stout. The history of
8 Philadelphia's legal establishment is
9 perhaps our country's most
10 impressive. The list of important
11 figures who have shaped local,
12 national and world events no more
13 than just a mile from where I sit
14 today is practically endless.

15 But even given this rich
16 history, the late Justice Stout
17 stands out as a figure of singular
18 significance and achievement and
19 unquestionably worthy of the honor
20 being discussed here today. Justice
21 Stout among many other things served
22 in the Philadelphia district
23 attorney's office heading our
24 Appeals, Pardon and Parole Division.
25 She earned the label of the hardest

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2 working lawyer in Philadelphia,
3 waking up at the break of dawn seven
4 days a week to study case law and
5 evidence.

6 And soon enough she broke
7 her own historical ground. She was
8 elected to our Municipal Court, the
9 first African-American woman in
10 America elected to a court of record.
11 Justice Stout's trailblazing was far
12 from over. She went on to become the
13 first African-American woman elected
14 to Philadelphia's Court of Common
15 Pleas where she specialized in
16 homicide cases. I didn't have the
17 privilege of trying cases in front of
18 her, but I often went to watch so
19 that I could learn, as Judge Dembe
20 has just recognized. I saw her put
21 one of my heroes, Roger King, in his
22 place almost every time I went to
23 court, and that was a rarity. As
24 district attorney, Mr. President, I
25 often speak about the fact that the

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2 number one commonality that we see in
3 Philadelphia's criminals is the lack
4 of a high school diploma.

5 This is not a new
6 phenomenon. Justice Stout, she
7 called this a willful ignorance, and
8 seeking to correct it became one of
9 the driving forces in her career as a
10 jurist. She became renowned for her
11 speeches on the importance of
12 education.

13 Youth defendants that came
14 before her knew ahead of time to cite
15 their unblemished attendance records
16 as points in their favor, a tactic
17 that would have had more success had
18 she not already checked their
19 attendance records herself. In 1988
20 Justice Stout became the first
21 African-American woman to serve as a
22 Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice.
23 She was named Distinguished Daughter
24 of Pennsylvania. I could go on and
25 on with her accolades and

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2 achievements. But again, I am very
3 proud to have known her, watched her.
4 And again, I would just like to add
5 my voice to the choir of those that
6 really think it would be an honor to
7 have the Criminal Justice Center
8 named after her. Thank you, Mr.
9 President.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

12 CLARKE: Thank you.

13 THE HONORABLE JUDGE JONES:

14 Good morning, Mr. President and
15 members of Council. It is a distinct
16 honor to appear before you once
17 again. As you know, I previously
18 came before you in my capacity as
19 President Judge and Chair of the
20 administrative governing board,
21 requesting that \$114 million every
22 year. But also even more proudly, I
23 stood with you in creating the
24 Mortgage Foreclosure Program that is
25 now nationally renowned.

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2 Today my task is even more
3 monumental, and hopefully the fruit
4 of this labor of love will be
5 everlasting. Unlike most, I grew up
6 in Oklahoma in the fifties and
7 sixties and I remember many, many
8 family gatherings, church meetings,
9 school meetings, functions where you
10 would hear people talk about her.
11 They would say, oh, yes, that's
12 Juanita Kidd Stout. No one ever
13 referred to her without including all
14 three names because she was
15 important.

16 Throughout my childhood, I
17 heard many speak -- perhaps brag is a
18 better way to put it -- about this
19 legendary figure. Ironically I
20 believed at that time I would never
21 meet her because she was back East as
22 people used to always say. Thusly I
23 consider it destiny, good fortune and
24 quite honestly a blessing that she
25 and I ended up together ironically in

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2 the homicide division of the Court of
3 Common Pleas assigned to adjacent
4 rooms across the street in the
5 justice center. She once jokingly
6 said to me that she was going to name
7 that end of the hallway the Oklahoma
8 wing.

9 (Laughter.)

10 THE HONORABLE JUDGE JONES:
11 Indeed, becoming her associate was an
12 unintended consequence of my and
13 Justice Stout's parents insistence
14 that we become teachers and leave
15 Oklahoma for a better opportunity,
16 even though our parents lived miles
17 apart and never knew each other.

18 Later in my career, I would
19 visit her and her husband Otis at
20 their apartment and share stories
21 about people we knew or had in common
22 in Oklahoma. I loved to watch her
23 play piano with the greatest flair.

24 And above all, I remember
25 her words and deeds. I once remarked

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2 to a fellow assistant public defender
3 when I was there at the Defender
4 Association: I will never be a judge
5 but if I were, I would be like her.
6 She's how a judge is supposed to be.

7 One of the more famous
8 quotations attributed to Justice
9 Stout is, quote, a person educated in
10 mind and not in morals is a menace to
11 society, end quote. I can assure you
12 it was not only meant for smart
13 defendants. It applies to judges as
14 well. It is that theme that inspires
15 me to come before you today seeking,
16 as are others, to have the justice
17 center renamed.

18 The greatest jurists are
19 not only educated in mind. They are
20 also learned in morality. I'm
21 speaking about the morality of
22 integrity, respect, compassion.
23 Today I recognize that having a
24 superstructure just as the justice
25 center renamed after someone who did

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2 not financially contribute to its
3 construction is a feat that is
4 practically unheard of.

5 So when we look to rename
6 an edifice after someone who did not
7 contribute financially, we must look
8 to that person's achievements which
9 are in Justice Stout's case far above
10 the norm. While she did not live to
11 see the ultimate results of those
12 chats over the piano or the product
13 of the sharing of thoughts during
14 recesses of our respective homicide
15 trials, her leadership enabled her
16 fellow Oklahoman to become the
17 President Judge of this court, a
18 court that both of us so much loved
19 and adored.

20 Justice Stout's legacy is
21 that beacon of light guiding an
22 educated and moral judiciary. Her
23 name on that edifice would be a
24 constant reminder to all who would
25 wear the robe to forever maintain and

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2 zealously guard the integrity,
3 respect and compassion befitting the
4 title of judge and to be vigilant in
5 meriting the respect of the people we
6 serve. Thank you so much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

9 CLARKE: Thank you. Any questions
10 for these witnesses? There being
11 none, thank you so much for your
12 testimony.

13 CLERK: Deborah Willig, J.
14 Whyatt Mondesire, Thomas McGill.

15 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
16 morning, Mr. Mondesire. Please
17 identify yourself for the record and
18 proceed.

19 MR. MONDESIRE: I have
20 copies of my testimony here. Before
21 I begin, members of City Council --
22 and it's a pleasure to be here. I
23 would like for us to salute the hard
24 work of Common Pleas Judge Jackie
25 Allen for bringing us all together

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2 this morning.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MONDESIRE: It is both
5 a privilege and an honor to join this
6 chorus of exultation in support of
7 the renaming of the Criminal Justice
8 Center for the late Justice Juanita
9 Kidd Stout. I knew Judge Stout as a
10 young journalist when I first was
11 assigned to report on City Hall and
12 during those years I was always
13 impressed by her stellar knowledge of
14 the law, her poise on and off the
15 Bench and most of all by her
16 steadfast dedication to public
17 service as a special calling, almost
18 like a gift from the heavens.

19 To remain a bit personal
20 for a few more moments, I also knew
21 my legendary predecessor as head of
22 the NAACP, the late criminal Attorney
23 Cecil Bassett Moore. On more than
24 one occasion, he spoke glowingly
25 about Justice Stout, even when he was

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2 regaling his audiences with ribald
3 stories about his courtroom exploits.

4 It should be remembered
5 that when Mr. Moore was forced to
6 address his extraordinary backlog of
7 major cases, the City's judicial
8 leaders at the time settled
9 immediately on just one Common Pleas
10 judge to handle that awesome task,
11 Juanita Kidd Stout because she was
12 the only one that could shut Cecil
13 up. She handled that task like all
14 the others with skill, fairness and a
15 sprinkle of wry humor that even the
16 bombastic Cecil Moore had to
17 appreciate and respect. Naming the
18 Criminal Justice Center for the first
19 African-American to be elected to a
20 judgeship in these United States is
21 more than just fitting, it is
22 overdue. Justice Stout's list of
23 "firsts", in fact, is so stellar it
24 is hard to think of any reason this
25 building would be adorned with any

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2 other name but hers.

3 Appointed in late 1959 by
4 then Governor David Lawrence to a
5 seat on the Municipal Court, she ran
6 for a full term that November, making
7 her the first African-American to be
8 elected to a judicial post in this
9 country. Elected to the Common Pleas
10 Court in 1969 and again in 1979, she
11 served with distinction that was
12 noted by legal scholars across the
13 nation, especially for her vigorous
14 fight against juvenile delinquency.
15 And in what had to be the crown jewel
16 of her extraordinary career, she was
17 named to a seat on the Pennsylvania
18 Supreme Court by then Governor Bob
19 Casey in 1988, making her the only
20 woman of color to ever serve on the
21 State's highest court and certainly
22 only one of a handful of
23 African-American women to have ever
24 reached such a pinnacle.

25 It should be noted that in

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2 the 21st Century, at a time when many
3 of our young people barely care to
4 understand or even appreciate our
5 common history, it is important that
6 each generation take the time to
7 enshrine the names and
8 accomplishments of our peers so that
9 their life stories serve as mileposts
10 by which future generations can mark
11 their own progress.

12 Furthermore, in a City
13 which has so few monuments dedicated
14 to the plethora of accomplishments by
15 those of African descent, it is time
16 to right this omission. And in a
17 City where to my knowledge there is
18 no public building or monument named
19 in honor of an African women except
20 for a handful of schools, it is time
21 to correct this affront to our
22 American history. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, sir. Ms. McGill, before you

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2 start, is Frank DeSimone here? If he
3 could approach also. Mr. McGill,
4 please identify yourself for the
5 record and proceed.

6 MR. MCGILL: Thank you. My
7 name is Thomas McGill. Good morning,
8 Mr. Council President and honorable
9 members of the Philadelphia City
10 Council. May it please this august
11 body. I appear this morning to offer
12 comments in support of Ordinance
13 120343 which calls for the renaming
14 of the CJC to the Justice Juanita
15 Kidd Stout Center for Criminal
16 Justice.

17 As someone who worked for
18 Justice Stout as a judicial law clerk
19 for ten years, I can assure you that
20 each of you stand to write your name
21 into the history of our beloved City
22 by the honor you are considering
23 bestowing on her and her family
24 today. As you know, she was a woman
25 of many firsts. However, as

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2 significant as those accomplishments
3 were, they pale in comparison to the
4 life she lived and the lives she
5 impacted.

6 A child of educators born
7 in Wewoka, Oklahoma, she often said:
8 Mama and Daddy insisted that I be
9 obedient, studious and above all
10 useful. Her life was a commitment to
11 the law, to justice and to improving
12 the plight of the less fortunate.
13 Yet her path to the law and the
14 judiciary came by a circuitous route.
15 The scholarship is well known.

16 The child of Henry and Mary
17 Kidd could read by the age of three,
18 studied piano at the age of five,
19 started school at the age of six in
20 the third grade.

21 She arrived in Philadelphia
22 in 1950 when Judge William Hastie was
23 appointed to the U.S. Court of
24 Appeals. Judge Hastie hired Justice
25 Stout as his administrative

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2 secretary. Justice Stout passed the
3 Pennsylvania Bar in 1954, worked as
4 Chief of the Appeals Departments and
5 Paroles Division of the District
6 Attorney's Office and in 1959 was
7 appointed to the Bench.

8 Her career as a jurist was
9 not without controversy. Known as a
10 tough but fair judge, Justice Stout
11 upon her ascendance to the Bench took
12 on the gang violence that was
13 plaguing the City. The severe
14 sentences that she imposed on gang
15 members caused her to receive
16 complaints from the ACLU. She also
17 received many death threats.
18 Undeterred, she often spoke about the
19 bad grammar and misspellings
20 contained in the gang missiles.

21 Gang members were not the
22 only subjects of her disdain for bad
23 grammar. Many college and law
24 students have written to Justice
25 Stout inviting her to speak at one of

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2 their events, only to receive the
3 letter returned with numerous red
4 notations correcting the grammar and
5 inviting them to resubmit the
6 invitation with proper English.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. MCGILL: Some
9 unfortunately never did.

10 She also took on the
11 Rendell administration when signs
12 were erected in this very building
13 directing people to the lavatories in
14 improper English.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. MCGILL: She fired off
17 letter after letter until the signs
18 were changed. Now, some may view the
19 criticism as petty or mean-spirited,
20 but nothing could be further from the
21 truth. Justice Stout saw it as a
22 teaching moment and in keeping with
23 her calling to be useful.

24 In court, Justice Stout
25 demonstrated her love for the law and

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2 commitment to justice by the way she
3 ran her courtroom. Tough but fair
4 has been used to describe her. She
5 was, however, so much more.

6 Attorneys appearing in front of her
7 were treated to an education in
8 ethics, decorum and, yes, grammar.

9 She never hesitated to
10 correct one's English, remind them
11 they were an officer of the court or
12 chastise them for being less than
13 civil to their adversary. Do I need
14 to get my switch and take you two
15 into the back room was one of her
16 ways of disarming attorneys who had
17 become testy with one another. She
18 also was fond of telling lawyers who
19 would appear and ask of the court:
20 Can I approach the Bench? I don't
21 know if you can or not but you
22 certainly may if you are able would
23 be her response.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. MCGILL: There were

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2 also those moments when she would
3 talk about her colleagues of the
4 Bench and Bar who often appraised her
5 instead of apprising.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. MCGILL: The stories
8 are endless. The moments in her
9 presence were uniquely special. I am
10 blessed to have met and worked for
11 this special person. It is truly
12 fitting that today you are
13 considering legislation that will
14 name the Justice Center after this
15 truly remarkable and legendary woman.

16 When she arrived in
17 Philadelphia in 1950, there was no
18 space in Center City corridor where
19 an African-American lawyer was
20 permitted to rent an office. To have
21 the Justice Center adjacent to City
22 Hall named in her honor will be a
23 tribute to this body and to our City.
24 I am proud to enthusiastically
25 endorse ordinance 120343. Thank you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

4 CLARKE: Thank you very much, Mr.

5 McGill. Mr. DeSimone.

6 MR. DESIMONE: Thank you,

7 Mr. President. I am distinctly

8 honored to be here this morning. And

9 I want to come at this from a

10 different perspective, much like

11 Judge Dembe. I met Judge Stout in

12 1970 when I was a public defender. I

13 didn't know her. I was a young

14 lawyer. And I tried one of my first

15 jury trials in front of her. And the

16 impression I had that day was the

17 impression I took with me throughout

18 the rest of my life.

19 Here was the epitome of a

20 judge. She treated everyone with

21 dignity. She loved what she did.

22 She loved being a lawyer. She loved

23 being a judge. She had a sense of

24 morality that I find important in

25 what lawyers do. And she was fair.

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2 I took this and I worked with her
3 over the years and I got to have a
4 personal relationship with her.

5 And what happened was I
6 went into the District Attorney's
7 Office, and now I was as an Assistant
8 District Attorney appearing, again,
9 in front of Judge Stout. And again,
10 the same fairness, the same morality.
11 When I walked into this hearing this
12 morning in City Council, every time I
13 think of Judge Stout and every time a
14 lawyer thinks of Judge Stout who knew
15 her, a smile comes to your face
16 because that's what she was. She
17 made you feel that way about life,
18 about the law.

19 And a tear came to my eye
20 this morning, and I will tell you
21 why. Because coming in here, not one
22 floor above us in Courtroom 513 is
23 where Judge Stout worked, where her
24 chambers was near 513. I started
25 thinking of that.

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2 She and I bonded over the
3 years about the law and everything
4 else. It happens that we were both
5 only children. So I got to speak a
6 lot with Judge Stout and she would
7 inquire about my family and my
8 mother. And when my mother passed
9 away, she was interested in that and
10 how I was doing, having been an only
11 child herself. This was the degree
12 of person she was.

13 But she had a tremendous
14 sense of humor. And I hope I can
15 capture that. Mr. McGill did a
16 little bit here with some of the
17 anecdotes. But I can tell you one.
18 When Tom McGill asked me to come to
19 speak today, I thought of the day
20 when the people on the Supreme Court
21 called me from Pittsburgh and asked
22 me why I wrote this letter that Judge
23 Stout should be a justice of the
24 Supreme Court. And I told them what
25 I thought.

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2 And when she did get on the
3 Court, the morning Governor Casey
4 called her, she called me at my
5 office and she said there: Mr.
6 DeSimone, Governor Casey called me
7 this morning. And I was jumping up
8 shouting. And I said, Well, what was
9 it about? And she said, Well, you
10 know what it was about. He asked me
11 to be on the Supreme Court of
12 Pennsylvania. And I said, Wow, what
13 did you say? And she said, Well, he
14 told me there was going to be a press
15 conference at 1:00.

16 And I said, Well -- I
17 looked at my watch and I said, Well,
18 it's 11:30. What are you going to
19 do? That's what I told him. I said,
20 Governor, you never call a woman an
21 hour and a half before a press
22 conference before she has time to get
23 her hair done.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. DESIMONE: And that's

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2 what she said. But it happened many
3 times, and there are stories I wish I
4 could tell but I can't.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. DESIMONE:

7 Mr. Mondesire mentioned Cecil Moore.
8 I tried many cases with Mr. Moore.
9 He was a fine lawyer but could not be
10 controlled by any judge in the
11 criminal -- in City Hall here, except
12 Juanita Kidd Stout. And the only
13 thing she would have to say to him
14 was, Now, now, Mr. Moore. And that
15 was it.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. DESIMONE: Cecil knew
18 that he had met his match. And that
19 is what she did with quiet dignity
20 and morality. I just hope -- and
21 there was one young lawyer who is
22 going to speak who didn't know her.
23 I just wish you all could know her
24 because she was a special person.
25 She was an icon.

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2 She was a person that is
3 the epitome of what a judge should
4 be. And when I work out of the
5 Criminal Justice Center sometimes and
6 I get a crazy ruling or the judge
7 does something crazy, I honestly will
8 tell you this. I say to myself: My
9 God. Juanita is turning in her
10 grave.

11 So we have William Penn up
12 here, and he looks out towards the
13 Northeast. Every grizzled lawyer I
14 speak to may think, Oh, it's Juanita.
15 A little smile will come to his face.
16 Well, when we do the right thing here
17 and we name this Council -- when this
18 Council names that building after
19 her, if you look close, Mr. Penn is
20 going to have a smile on his face.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Any
25 questions? Seeing none, thank you

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2 all very much. Victoria A. Mosley
3 Rivers, Thelma T. Henderson and
4 Romona Riscoe Benson.

5 MS. RIVERS: Good morning.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Good
7 morning.

8 MS. RIVERS: And greetings.
9 Council President Darrell Clarke,
10 distinguished members of City
11 Council, Members of the Clifford
12 Scott Green Chapter, the National Bar
13 Association, Philadelphia Chapter of
14 the National Bar Association of the
15 Women's Lawyer Division, Councilman
16 Mark Squilla -- if I might possibly
17 step outside of protocol for
18 Councilwoman Marian P. Tasco and for
19 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown,
20 Judge Jacqueline Allen.

21 My name is Victoria Mosley
22 Rivers. I stand before you as
23 President of the Philadelphia Alumnae
24 Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
25 Sorority, Incorporated, where Judge

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2 Stout was an active and committed
3 member.

4 Philadelphia Alumnae
5 Chapter passionately supports the
6 City Council Ordinance No. 120343 to
7 rename the Criminal Justice Center in
8 honor of Judge Juanita Kidd Stout.

9 It is important to discuss the
10 influence that membership in Delta
11 Sigma Theta had on the life of Judge
12 Stout and the legacy she leaves to
13 all members of our Chapter, to the
14 Sorority and to the City of
15 Philadelphia.

16 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
17 Incorporated is known publicly as a
18 sisterhood called to serve,
19 transforming lives and impacting
20 communities. Our Soror, Judge
21 Juanita Kidd Stout, was initiated
22 into the Alpha Theta Chapter at
23 Lincoln University in Jefferson,
24 Missouri.

25 Since its founding in 1913,

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2 Delta Sigma Theta has clearly
3 distinguished itself as a public
4 service organization that boldly
5 confronts the challenges of
6 African-Americans and, hence, all
7 Americans. Over the years, a wide
8 range of programs addressing
9 education, health, international
10 development and strengthening the
11 African-American family have evolved.
12 In realizing its mission, Delta Sigma
13 Theta provides an extensive array of
14 public service initiatives through
15 its Five-Point Programs. My presence
16 here today supports our political
17 awareness and involvement thrust
18 initiated by the Sorority's decision
19 to participate in the Women's
20 Suffrage March in 1913 down
21 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington,
22 D.C. This act caused such national
23 consternation in an era, during that
24 era. As an organization, we will
25 repeat that history in March of 2013.

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2 Judge Stout was an active
3 member of the Philadelphia Alumnae
4 Chapter who worked diligently with
5 our Founder's Day programs and May
6 Week programs as well as all
7 fund-raising initiatives. In 1977
8 she was the recipient of our
9 Chapter's most prestigious award
10 named for our first national
11 president and Chapter member Sadie
12 Tanner Mossell Alexander.

13 This award established in
14 1966 was so aptly depicted as a young
15 woman taking strides towards equal
16 opportunity horizons, leaving behind
17 a mantle of segregation and the
18 chains of discrimination. Judge
19 Stout's personal path of
20 jurisprudence and her steadfast
21 commitment to ethics and the law
22 provide a proper example for the
23 Philadelphians who came to the
24 Criminal Justice Center each day.
25 People come through the building in

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2 hopes of justice being served,
3 whether they support the plaintiff or
4 the defendant, whether they fall on
5 the right or the wrong side of the
6 law, whether they support the
7 impartial consideration of each case.

8 On behalf of the Philadelphia Alumnae
9 Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
10 Incorporated, I voice my support of
11 the decision to dedicate the Criminal
12 Justice Center here in Philadelphia
13 to the legacy and memory of Judge
14 Juanita Kidd Stout. Thank you for
15 your consideration.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. HENDERSON: Good
18 morning.

19 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

20 CLARKE: Good morning.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Council
22 President Clarke, Council members,
23 friends, members of the LINKS,
24 Incorporated who are present. I'm
25 Thelma Henderson, President of the

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2 Penn Towne Chapter of the Links,
3 Incorporated. I'm here today to
4 speak in support of naming the
5 Criminal Justice Center in honor of
6 our late Links sister, Justice
7 Juanita Kidd Stout.

8 First, let me give you a
9 little background of our
10 organization. The LINKS,
11 Incorporated is an international
12 voluntary service organization of
13 concerned, committed and talented
14 women who are linked in friendship to
15 enhance the equality of life in our
16 larger community. Our members are
17 12,000 professional women and 274
18 chapters throughout 42 states, the
19 Bahamas and the District of Columbia.
20 It is one of the nation's oldest and
21 largest volunteer service
22 organizations. Our members are
23 extraordinary women committed to
24 enriching, sustaining and ensuring
25 the culture and economic survival of

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2 African-Americans and other persons
3 of African ancestry. Our members
4 contribute more than 500,000
5 documented hours of community service
6 annually to help strengthen our
7 communities and enhance our nation.
8 And I should note that the LINKS as
9 an organization started right here in
10 Philadelphia in November of 1946.

11 Justice Stout possessed all
12 of the aforementioned tributes and
13 more. She was inducted into the Penn
14 Towne Chapter in May of 1984. She
15 was an active and productive member
16 of our Chapter until her death
17 prevented her participation. For
18 most of her tenure she served on the
19 Services to Youth and National Trends
20 Facets Committees. Annually she
21 provided a scholarship for law
22 students to be given in the name of
23 our Chapter. We knew Justice Stout
24 as an eloquent and elegant woman.

25 However, her path to

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2 judicial greatness was not without
3 obstacles, as we talked about here
4 this morning. She was born as we
5 said earlier in Wewoka, Oklahoma.
6 She was the only child of two
7 teachers.

8 She began her professional
9 career as a teacher and during her
10 teaching career she met her husband
11 Charles Otis Stout, who was also
12 teaching. Despite the fact that she
13 had never seen a woman lawyer,
14 nevertheless a black woman lawyer,
15 she wanted to be a lawyer from an
16 early age. She returned to school
17 and earned a law degree from Indiana
18 University in 1948 and a graduate law
19 degree in 1954.

20 Even with this educational
21 background, she was unable to secure
22 employment as an entry level
23 attorney. She took a job in
24 Washington, D.C. as a secretary to
25 prominent African-American Attorney

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2 William Hastie. Shortly thereafter,
3 President Harry Truman appointed
4 Judge Hastie to the U.S. Court of
5 Appeals in Philadelphia and Judge
6 Stout followed him to our City where
7 she served as his administrative
8 secretary.

9 Judge Stout passed the
10 Pennsylvania Bar in 1954. In
11 September of 1959, Governor David L.
12 Lawrence appointed her to a vacancy
13 on the Municipal Court. Two months
14 later, she was elected to a full
15 term, making her the first
16 African-American woman in the United
17 States to be elected to the Court of
18 Record.

19 In 1988 Governor Robert
20 Casey appointed her to the
21 Pennsylvania Supreme Court and she
22 became the first African-American
23 woman in the United States to serve
24 on a State Supreme Court. She
25 developed and maintained her

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2 reputation as we said here earlier as
3 being a tough and fair judge.

4 In an article in "Ebony
5 Magazine," Justice Stout was
6 interviewed and she was quoted as
7 talking about a young man who came
8 before her in her Court. And she
9 passed down on him an 18-month
10 sentence. He was a young gang member
11 and she said he was the best little
12 gang leader in Philadelphia. He was
13 bright but he had gotten mixed up
14 with the wrong crowd.

15 Three years after that
16 happened, the young man came to her
17 office to thank her for being tough
18 on him. He said, The day you
19 sentenced me, he said, if I ever got
20 out, I would make something of
21 myself. The young man went on to
22 graduate from college and law school.
23 The next time he appeared in Judge
24 Stout's courtroom, it was as her law
25 clerk. The young man eventually

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2 established a successful law practice
3 here in Philadelphia.

4 There was also an incident
5 where a young woman stopped by Judge
6 Stout on the street and explained
7 that she was inspired to switch
8 careers after serving on a jury in
9 Judge Stout's courtroom. The woman
10 shared how she returned to college,
11 finished law school and passed the
12 Bar exam.

13 Judge Stout was often the
14 subject of news and magazine articles
15 and was recognized for her tough
16 stance on crime and juvenile
17 delinquency. She was outspoken
18 against gang violence and deadbeat
19 dads, the exclusion of blacks from
20 juries as we said many times before,
21 bad grammar.

22 But now I would like to
23 return to the Judge Stout as a member
24 of the Penn Towne Chapter. We knew
25 her to be a mentor to young men and

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2 young women. She offered career
3 advice, writing advice and spoke on
4 behalf of younger colleagues at their
5 induction ceremonies. She never
6 strayed from her roots in education
7 and was always a stickler for proper
8 English, be it written or spoken.

9 Within our Chapter, she
10 helped us develop a sense of
11 philanthropy, collectively as well as
12 individually. As I indicated
13 earlier, she annually funded a
14 scholarship to be given to a law
15 student in the name of the Penn Towne
16 Chapter. She kept us grounded by
17 reminding us of our responsibility to
18 maintain our social consciousness.
19 Of course, she was a friend to each
20 of us, not only a friend. She was a
21 mentor as well. She was a stickler
22 for proper etiquette, and our Chapter
23 members to this day know that the
24 proper way to hold a glass of wine,
25 white wine, is by the stem, not the

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2 bowl because you would warm the wine.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MS. HENDERSON: It was a
5 proud day for us the day her portrait
6 was unveiled and our Chapter had the
7 honor of cohosting the reception
8 right here in City Hall. At this
9 time I would like the members of the
10 Penn Towne Chapter to just stand,
11 please, so that you can be seen, Penn
12 Towne. And now all the members of
13 the Links, whatever chapter, would
14 you please stand. The Penn Towne
15 Chapter and our sister Links from
16 other chapters here today do heartily
17 support and endorse Bill No. 120343
18 to rename the Criminal Justice Center
19 at 13th and Filbert Street the
20 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for
21 Criminal Justice. Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

23 CLARKE: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. BENSON: Good morning,

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2 President Clarke.

3 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

4 CLARKE: Good morning.

5 MS. BENSON: Distinguished
6 members of Council and guests. On
7 behalf of the board, staff and
8 members of the African-American
9 Museum in Philadelphia, I am honored
10 to participate and give testimony to
11 support the naming of the Criminal
12 Justice Center after Judge Juanita
13 Kidd Stout.

14 The historical significance
15 of Judge Stout cannot be stated
16 enough. To put this in context, she
17 was born to school teachers in
18 Oklahoma in 1919. It was a
19 tumultuous time in Oklahoma and we
20 are reminded that two years after her
21 birth in 1921, the Greenwood section
22 of Tulsa, Oklahoma known as Blackwall
23 Street was destroyed in race riots
24 that devastated that community and
25 signaled to the nation the climate

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2 that prevailed in this state.

3 It is against this backdrop
4 that at age three, Judge Stout began
5 to read, at age six entered school
6 and qualified and was placed in the
7 third grade and graduated high school
8 at age 16. Initially she completed
9 her Bachelor of Arts degree in music
10 at University of Iowa. She taught
11 school for a period of time,
12 relocated to Washington, D.C. where
13 she became a secretary in a law firm,
14 became enamored with the law
15 profession, received her law degree
16 at Indiana University and later
17 relocated to Philadelphia as was all
18 stated earlier, working for Justice
19 Hastie on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

20 Judge Stout went on to
21 become a true trailblazer for women
22 and African-Americans, becoming the
23 country's first African-American
24 woman elected to the Bench. First
25 Municipal Court for ten years, then

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2 twenty years serving on the Court of
3 Common Pleas and then finally in
4 1988, she made history again when
5 then Governor Casey appointed her to
6 the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court
7 and she became the first
8 African-American woman appointed in
9 any state in this country.

10 Judge Stout is to be
11 remembered for her accomplishments,
12 the wide recognition by the legal
13 profession, human rights field,
14 societies in Pennsylvania and
15 Oklahoma, including the Oklahoma
16 Women's Hall of Fame and for the
17 community of Philadelphia. She will
18 always be remembered for her tough
19 stance on crime, particularly as was
20 stated earlier, juvenile crime,
21 during a time when Philadelphia was
22 unfortunately known for its
23 proliferation of gangs and for her
24 incredible spirit. She is remembered
25 with other outstanding

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2 American-African women of her time,
3 coming out of the City, namely the
4 songstress and diplomat Marian
5 Anderson, fellow Delta Soror and
6 sister in the legal profession, Sadie
7 Tanner Mossell Alexander, former
8 councilwoman and Pennsylvania
9 secretary, Dr. Ethel Allen and
10 others, sisters who all contributed
11 to the greater good and did so
12 unselfishly.

13 The African-American Museum
14 is proud to include a number of
15 awards bestowed on Judge Stout as
16 part of its permanent collection.
17 Two: I will make note of an award
18 presented by her Sorority, Delta
19 Sigma Theta in 1989 and Salem Baptist
20 Church in 1995. It is fitting to
21 honor the memory of Justice Stout by
22 naming this Criminal Justice Center
23 after her. In so doing, this will
24 continue her legacy of firsts and
25 signal to the country and world the

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2 importance of this woman's
3 contributions, this African-American
4 woman's contributions to our society.

5 And now I am going to
6 actually mention something that was
7 just mentioned to us a minute ago. I
8 will leave you with a very light and
9 personal comment on Judge Stout who I
10 had the honor of meeting on two
11 occasions, and sat next to at an
12 Urban League banquet in the early
13 nineties when I, of course, held my
14 wine glass the wrong way and she gave
15 me my etiquette for the evening: My
16 dear, wine is to be sipped and you
17 should hold the wine glass by its
18 stem. And to this day, when I hold
19 my wine glass, I think of Judge
20 Stout. Thank you so much.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

23 CLARKE: Thank you so much. Any
24 questions of these witnesses by
25 members of the Committee? There

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2 being none, thank you so much for
3 your testimony.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

6 CLARKE: This concludes the list for
7 witnesses who was scheduled to
8 testify. Is there anyone else who
9 would like to testify on this bill?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

12 CLARKE: There being none, thank you
13 very much. We -- this concludes the
14 public hearing. We will move into
15 the public meeting. The Chair
16 recognizes Councilman Squilla for a
17 motion on Bill No. 120343.

18 Oh, I'm sorry. Before we
19 do that, the Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Tasco.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I
22 would certainly like to thank all of
23 the members of the Bar, the
24 judiciary, the Links, the Deltas, and
25 my Link sisters and all of the people

1 5/22/12 STATED BILL NO. 120343
2 from the members of the community who
3 have come out this day to add their
4 voices in support of this resolution.

5 I would like to thank my
6 Council colleague Councilman Squilla
7 who is new to this whole environment
8 who introduced this resolution, and
9 we want to thank him. The Criminal
10 Justice Center is in his district.
11 As the District Council member has
12 the right or choice to introduce the
13 resolution. He has done it. And I
14 told him he learned a lot today.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And so
17 we want to thank him. I certainly
18 want to thank Judge Jacqueline Allen
19 and her colleagues, the members of
20 the Clifford Scott Green Chapter, the
21 MDA Judicial Council, for her
22 leadership in moving this piece of
23 legislation through City Council.
24 She was tremendous.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: She's
3 done an outstanding job and certainly
4 it has been a long time in coming and
5 we can see why this building should
6 be named in honor of Judge Juanita
7 Stout. She gave a lot to the City
8 and to all of us. And I knew her
9 personally, and she used to say to
10 me, "How you doing, little girl"?
11 And I said, "I'm doing fine." Thank
12 you all very much for coming.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

15 CLARKE: Thank you. I learned a lot
16 today myself. The Chair recognizes
17 Councilman Green.

18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank
19 you, Mr. President. I must say it is
20 an honor for me to be on City Council
21 today and be involved in a decision
22 like my father was in appointing
23 Justice Stout to the Ethics Board and
24 my grandfather was as chairman of
25 City Committee when she was appointed

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2 to fill a vacancy on the Municipal
3 Court in 1959. I am glad to be
4 involved in a decision that will give
5 her another honor that she deserves.

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

9 CLARKE: Thank you. The Chair again
10 recognizes Councilman Squilla.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And I
12 just want to say a few things, I
13 guess, before you push the motion
14 forward.

15 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

16 CLARKE: Absolutely.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And I
18 just want to say it is an honor for
19 me to introduce this legislation for
20 Justice Juanita Kidd Stout. And I do
21 want to thank all my colleagues who
22 cosponsored this because it was
23 really a unified push to have this
24 named and also Council President
25 Darrell Clarke who helped push this

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2 forward. And I thank you for that.

3 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

4 CLARKE: You're welcome.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And
6 especially Judge Jackie Allen whose
7 endless, tireless phone calls and
8 emails and walking around City
9 Council to make this happen. It
10 wouldn't have happened without all
11 your help. So we appreciate it and
12 thank you for that.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: And I
15 would like to make a motion to accept
16 it.

17 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

18 CLARKE: So moved. Can I get a
19 second?

20 (Seconded.)

21 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

22 CLARKE: Properly seconded. Move that
23 Bill No. 120343 be reported out of
24 Committee with favorable suspension.
25 And you would like a rule suspension,

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2 Councilman?

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

5 CLARKE: All in favor?

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT

8 CLARKE: Nobody would dare oppose.

9 The ayes have it. Bill No. 120343 is
10 reported out of Committee of the
11 Whole with a favorable
12 recommendation. Rule suspension will
13 be read at the next session of
14 Council. Again, thank you all very
15 much.

16 (Applause.)

17 TIME NOTED: 12:05 p.m.

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A ability 7:3 able 27:8,12,23 50:22 absolutely 11:18 79:16 accept 80:15 accolades 35:25 accomplished 6:23 26:2 accomplishment 13:9,17 accomplishments 10:3 18:18 26:12 45:8,14 47:2 73:11 accredited 16:2 29:24 achievement 25:7 33:18 achievements 36:2 40:8 achieving 15:23 ACLU 48:16 act 13:4 14:7 60:22 active 59:2 61:2 64:15 actual 23:5 add 33:3 36:4 77:3 addition 12:14 25:13 address 9:13 43:6 addressing 60:8 adjacent 38:3 51:21 administration 19:3 49:11 administrative 4:17 17:4 36:20 47:25 66:7 admit 16:3 29:25 adored 40:19 adorned 43:25 adversary 50:13 advice 69:3,3	Advisory 32:6 advocate 27:24 advocating 9:5 affectionately 24:7 afford 27:15 affront 45:21 aforementioned 25:2 64:12 African 45:15,19 64:3 African-Ameri... 5:16,21,24 6:6 8:25 15:9,12 16:4,17,24 17:11,14 18:9 20:16 24:22 28:18,23 29:2 34:9,13 35:21 43:19 44:7,23 51:19 60:11 65:25 66:16,22 71:8 72:23 73:8 74:13 75:3 African-Ameri... 30:2 60:6 64:2 72:22 age 15:25 18:13 47:17,18,19 65:16 72:4,5,8 ago 23:19 32:7 75:7 agree 22:25 agrees 21:15 ahead 35:14 Alexander 61:12 74:7 Allen 2:21 41:25 58:20 74:9 77:18 80:6 allow 19:10 22:13 allowed 4:20 allying 25:8 aloud 22:8 Alpha 59:22 Alumnae 58:23 59:4 61:3 62:8	America 34:10 American 28:18 45:22 Americans 60:7 American-Afri... 74:2 ancestry 64:3 Anderson 74:5 anecdotes 54:17 Angelina 24:2 annually 64:6,20 69:13 answer 19:13 apart 11:16 38:17 apartment 38:20 Appeals 4:19 33:24 47:24 48:4 66:5 72:19 appear 28:12 36:16 46:11 50:19 appeared 5:8 18:2 67:23 appearing 50:6 53:8 applaud 14:7 Applause 19:16 23:22 28:6 30:24 32:21 36:10 41:7 42:3 45:23 52:2 57:23 62:16 70:24 75:21 76:4 77:15,25 78:13 79:7 80:13 81:16 applies 39:13 appoint 22:4 appointed 6:3 8:6 15:16 17:5,9 18:7 21:20 29:3 32:15 44:3 47:23 48:7 66:3 66:12,20 73:5,8 78:25 appointing 78:22 appointment 5:2	appraised 51:4 appreciate 43:17 45:4 80:11 apprising 51:5 approach 46:3 50:20 approve 19:7 aptly 61:14 area 3:16 armed 4:12 Aronchick 2:25 9:17 array 60:13 arrived 47:21 51:16 arriving 4:11 article 67:4 articles 68:14 Arts 16:9 72:9 ascendancy 48:11 asked 54:18,21 55:10 assigned 38:3 42:11 assistant 4:17 5:7 39:2 53:7 associate 15:17 38:11 Association 3:12 6:17,21 9:4 12:17 13:3 20:6 20:9 24:4 28:11 39:4 58:13,14 assure 39:11 46:19 attendance 35:15 35:19 attention 17:18 attorney 4:14 5:7 16:17 27:15 34:24 42:22 53:8 65:23,25 attorneys 4:16 25:22 30:17 50:6,16 attorney's 17:8 33:23 48:6 53:6	attribute 25:23 attributed 39:8 audience 14:22 audiences 43:2 august 8:5 46:10 Avenue 60:21 award 6:16 61:9 61:13 74:17 awards 6:14 74:15 awareness 60:17 awe 26:11 awesome 43:10 Aye 81:6 ayes 81:9 A.M 1:6 B B 1:11 31:8 Bachelor 16:9 72:9 back 9:19 31:25 37:21 50:15 backdrop 72:3 background 63:9 65:21 backlog 43:6 bad 12:21 48:19 48:22 68:21 Bahamas 63:19 banquet 75:12 Baptist 74:19 Bar 3:12 6:17 9:4 12:14,17 13:2 17:6 20:9 24:3 48:3 51:4 58:12 58:14 66:10 68:12 76:23 barely 45:3 Barristers 20:6 Bassett 42:23 battles 10:20 beacon 40:21 beat 28:20 becoming 17:13 26:25 38:11 72:22
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