

Texas Supreme Court Justices Green, O'Neill, and Brister Sworn in



On Jan. 7, during an investiture ceremony at the Texas Capitol, former Fourth Court of Appeals Justice Paul W. Green was sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court of Texas and Justices Harriet O'Neill and Scott Brister took oaths of office for their newly elected terms.

To accommodate preparations for the legislative session, the investiture took place in the Capitol Extension Auditorium rather than the House Chamber. The auditorium proved an intimate venue, resulting in a comparatively informal and humor-filled ceremony.

Approximately 350 friends, family, judges, and state officials attended the investiture, including Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Carol Keeton Strayhorn, and former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justices John Hill, Jack Pope, and Joe Greenhill. Sen. Jeff Went-

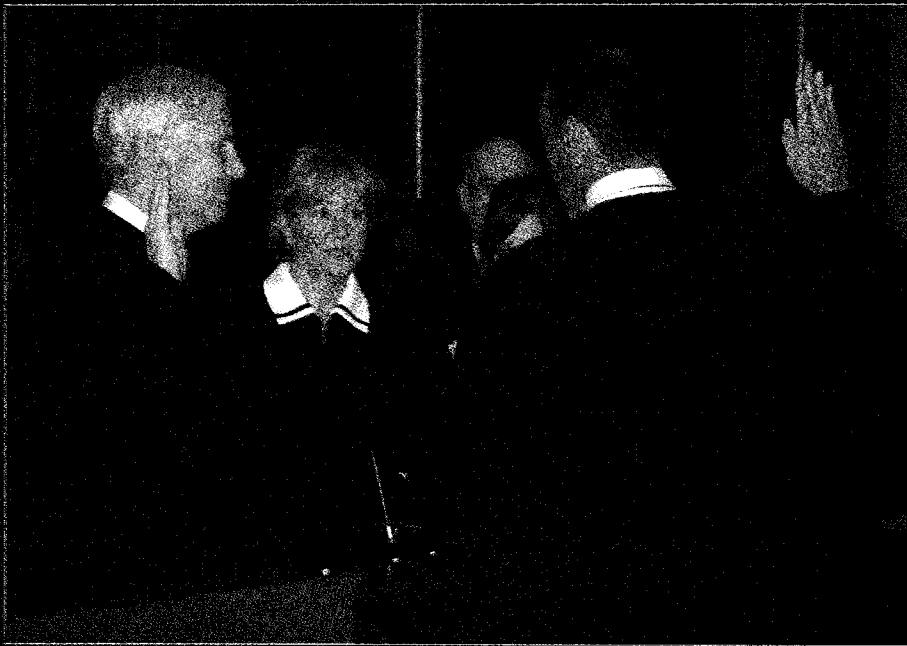
worth of San Antonio led the audience in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

After an invocation by the Rev. Charles Foster Johnson, Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson called for a moment of silence in memory of "our fallen colleague, Justice Mack Kidd," who died Jan. 3.

Jefferson paid tribute to departing Justice Steven Wayne Smith, who he said had earned the court's respect, not only as the author of several majority opinions, but also with his calm demeanor, even when the court discussed its most contentious cases.

Smith said it was truly an honor to serve and that he wished the court and Green well as they performed their important future work.

Green's father, San Antonio attorney Hubert W. Green, introduced the new justice. The elder Green discussed his son's



OPPOSITE PAGE: Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson (left) administers the oath of office to **PAUL GREEN** of San Antonio.

Left: Jefferson swears in Justices **SCOTT BRISTER** and **HARRIET O'NEILL**. Brister was elected to a full, six-year term in November. O'Neill was reelected to a full term.

BELOW LEFT: Green's predecessor, Justice **STEVEN WAYNE SMITH**, recounted his accomplishments on the court.

BELOW RIGHT: Justice **HARRIET O'NEILL** with her husband, Keny Cammack, and daughters, Carolina and Hailey.



preparedness for duty after 17 years in private practice with Green McReynolds & Green and 10 years on the bench of the Fourth Court of Appeals. He joked, "I don't know if being the only male member out of that San Antonio court's seven judges had anything to do with his decision to run."

Hubert Green said his son had the right motivations to become a lawyer and judge. One, he was born into the tradition of law. Green's grandfather, father, and brother are all attorneys, and Green grew up with a high regard for the law. Second, his son has a "fire in his belly" — a personal zeal and dedication to serve.

Green and his father embraced while the audience stood and applauded. Jefferson then administered the oath of office as Green's wife, Judy, and his sons, John and Paul, stood at his side.

After donning his judicial robe, Green remarked on his

admiration for the law and those who practice it. "The law is to be respected," he said. "My father learned this from his father, and I learned it from him. Lawyers and judges are the highest guardians of our liberty. I arrive at this court with a clear understanding of its history and the significance of what it does. It is an honor for me to serve the people of Texas."

At the conclusion of Green's remarks, Jefferson swore in Justices O'Neill and Brister, who, like Green, were elected in November to six-year terms.

Despite a recent spate of investitures, the court should convene for a similar ceremony soon. There is a vacant seat on the court, created when Gov. Rick Perry named Jefferson to serve as chief justice. In addition, President George W. Bush has re-nominated Justice Priscilla Owen to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.