Thank you Governor Brownback for your kind words and for the honor of this appointment.

I am deeply grateful to and for my family: my wife Ann, my great kids, and my parents, all of whom are here with me. Thank you for your steadfast love and support.

There are so many people to thank on an occasion such as this. I would not be here were it not for many teachers and mentors who have poured themselves out selflessly to make me a better lawyer and a better person.

A few of these merit special mention. First, Judge, now Dean, Deanell Tacha. She has provided for me, and for all the young lawyers over the years who had the rare privilege of clerking in her chambers, a shining example of what it means to be a judge.

Also, the law enforcement community of Jefferson County that I worked with day in and day out as County Attorney demonstrated a commitment to public service that will always stay with me.

Finally, I want to note a special thanks to my colleagues, many of them Democrats, who, even though they have good faith disagreements on the matter of how we select our judiciary in Kansas, they have endorsed my nomination for this position because they know my record.

Colleagues such as former Attorney General Steve Six, former Sebelius Administration Official Steve Martino, KBA President Dennis Depew, Dan Watkins, Jay Fowler, Terry Campbell, and others, have provided an example of the professionalism, collegiality, independent judgment, and political disinterest that defines our profession at its best. It is an example that I have always tried to follow as a practitioner of the law, and these are the qualities that I will strive every day to embody as a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals.

I have been privileged to work in many different facets of a just ice system that is the envy of the world. During the few intense weeks that I represented four American citizens held in a Haitian jail following a devastating natural disaster, I was saw first hand in a dramatic way how fortunate we in this nation are to be the heirs of a justice system that zealously guards the rights of ALL individuals in a forum that fiercely protects fairness and impartiality. I am proud to be a member of the profession that is called to guard this system of justice for all, and I look forward, if confirmed by the Senate, to the continued pursuit of this calling in a new and challenging role.

Governor Brownback, I look forward to working with you and with the Senate as we move forward in this process. Thank you again for giving me the honor of being able to continue to serve my fellow Kansans and the state I love.