Eid Appointed to Colorado Supreme Court

Allison Eid ’91 was sworn in as a justice of the Colorado Supreme Court on March 13, 2006. Before the appointment, Eid served as the state’s solicitor general, an associate professor of law at the University of Colorado at Boulder, a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, and a clerk for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Houston. Eid was appointed by Governor Bill Owens to succeed the Honorable Rebecca Love Kourlis.

Justice Thomas, when introducing her to the Court at the swearing-in ceremony, praised Eid’s intelligence, honesty, humility, and skill at working with others. “Her work was simply outstanding,” said Thomas when speaking about Eid’s work as his clerk in 1993 and 1994. Governor Owens added that he believes the state will benefit from Eid’s experience as Thomas’s clerk and that she is both intelligent and ethical, and has the humility “essential for any public servant.”

Several state leaders and guests, including Eid’s husband, Troy Eid, ’91, and their two children, Alex and Emily, attended the ceremony in the court’s chambers.—L.H.

no one will come to the reunion in May. As a result, I have been asked by the Law School Administration to refrain from humorous remarks for this column only.

Big news about one of our classmates: Allison Eid has been appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court as an associate justice. I received a number of articles about her that focus on her, as well as hubby Troy. Because this is such a big deal, I take the liberty of including some excerpts:

“When he was nineteen, Troy Eid learned over dinner in San Francisco that his wife-to-be had lofty legal ambitions. ‘It was our very first date in the fall of 1984 and I was at Stanford and she had just transferred in,’ Eid said. ‘I asked her at the time what she wanted to do, and she said she’d like to do some clerking for a Supreme Court justice, be a law professor, an appellate court judge…’ Eid paused. ‘I didn’t even know what clerking was,’ he said.”

“After sixteen years of marriage, he now not only knows what that is, but law students will soon be clerking for his wife. Governor Bill Owens appointed Allison Eid to the Colorado Supreme Court at a formal ceremony in his office. Standing with her husband and two children—Alex, ten, and Emily, four—the forty-one-year-old alternately blushed, smiled, and seemed to be on the verge of tears during her twenty-minute press conference.”

“The near-tears moment came when she spoke about her mother, Janey Hertwell, who stood along the side wall. Eid said that her sister was raised by her mother—Eid’s father disappearing when she was ten. Her mother’s eyes glistened, too, as Eid talked about how they made it on the tight pay of odd jobs around eastern Washington.”

‘She raised two daughters by herself,’ Eid said. ‘Having two children of my own now, I have had just a glimpse of what a monumental task that was—one she accomplished with grace, good humor, and determination.’ Eid is the ninety-fifth person to serve as a Colorado Supreme Court justice, replacing Rebecca Love Kourlis—who resigned in January.”

“Between 1993 and 1994, Allison clerked for US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, and a year before that, she clerked for Judge Jerry E. Smith, a Ronald Reagan-picked Republican who sat on the Fifth Circuit US Court of Appeals. Recently in Colorado, she served as the chief legal officer for Attorney General John Suthers, also a Republican. She has published papers about, and she speaks regularly on, an issue near and dear to many Republicans—tort reform.”

(Note: Can you tell she’s a U of Calum?). Her husband (our beloved Troy) also used to be Owens’s chief legal counsel. He is currently running for a seat on the University of Colorado Board of Regents. (Can you say “Power Couple”?!)

“In addition to working as the solicitor general for the state, Allison has served as a law professor at the University of Colorado Law School since 1998. The school’s dean, David Gorchels, said she was popular with students and always seemed to have someone in her office whose career she was trying to help advance. ‘She never seems to turn down a student looking for help,’ he said. ‘It’s not that she’s not busy, either. She’s got a challenge with two little kids and her husband with a high-powered job. She’s a mom and a professional.”

On behalf of the entire Class of 1991, we congratulate Allison. As for Troy, he confidentially reported that being married to a Supreme Court Justice is not without its challenges (According to Troy, its always like “Will you pass the peas, your honor?” “May it please the court, let’s see what’s on ESPN”—not to mention being threatened with sanctions for leaving his socks on the floor). Also on the bench is Valerie Turner, who is a judge in Cook County, IL. Any more judges that we have left out?

The reunion materials do a pretty good job of listing where most people are in terms of jobs and careers, so we won’t dwell on that too much in this column.

I will note one pertinent change: Kurt Heyman announced the opening of his new firm, Proctor Heyman, in Wilmington, DE—they are a full service firm in corporate and commercial matters. Kurt can be reached at kheyman@proctorheyman.com.

I had a lovely chat with Roya Behnia, who asked that I point out that she is not actually a bowling diplomat. Here is what she is really up to: “I thought I would write finally to contribute to the class correspondent’s note. You can let people know that I have had a great last few months. I left my position as Assistant General Counsel at SPX Corporation at the end of August 2005 and then went to Iran for a month and then Paris for a month. I had a great (and, not unexpectedly) different time in each place. I have been enjoying time off since I got back at the end of October, but have kept busy by taking classes, teaching at the Law School, and serving on the board of a theatre company here in Chicago. I just signed up to do the thirty-nine mile Aven Walk for Breast