Dignitaries shower Miner with praise

ALBANY - Here is a sampling of what the speakers at Saturday's swearing-in ceremony had to say about new Circuit Court Justice Roger J. Miner.

Justice James L. Oakes, Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals - "My colleagues and I have had a number of opportunities to review his decisions. As you, his friends and family, would expect, we have affirmed the vast majority of them."

Justice Howard G. Munson, chief judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District - "I am sad to see him go. I do not know if we will be able to get someone to replace him who will be as energetic, as devoted, as good as he was at his job."

"Look at the statistics sometime (in the number of cases he handled). Statistics, I know, lie, but in this case they do not.

Ralph Lancaster Jr., Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary, American Bar Association - "He will be missed in the trial court both by other district judges, whose workloads he alleviated by his legendary capacity for hard work, and by the many lawyers, for whom he made trying cases in his courtroom a thoroughly enjoyable experience."

Justin L. Vigor, president, New York State Bar Association - "He has given to the law that sort of devotion that a knight gave in legend to a lady, and that a devout person gives to his religion or a great statesman to the principles of his party."

"He has demonstrated solid intellect, superior judgment, a great love for the law and the role it plays in our society, and deep respect for the bar and the bench."

Justice Leonard A. Wiess, state Supreme Court Appellate Division - "If a Heisman Trophy were to be awarded to the outstanding jurist, the winner this year would be a runaway - Roger J. Miner is everyone's selection."

Justice James T. Foley, senior judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District - "He moved the calendars. Judge Miner is as hard-working a judge as I’ve ever seen. He’s brilliant, he’s a scholar...His opinions are clear, concise, sound and balanced."

Congressman Hamilton Fish Jr., House Judiciary Committee - "While, perhaps, not all cases are of equal importance, Judge Miner as a reputation of being able to treat each litigant as if their case was the most important pending before him. He is independent but not insensitive."

Congressman Gerald Solomon - "Roger has had three great sources of inspiration that fueled his drive to what I call excellence - his father...his family, especially his wife Jackie...and his nation and its system of laws, not men."

U.S. Sen. Alfonse D’Amato - "In my opinion, Judge Miner has the kind of temperament, scholarly ability...and if he continues to win the accolades of the legal community - both his peers and those who practice before him that...he’s the kind of caliber that could take him to the Supreme Court of the United States."

Special guest

Roger Miner’s niece, Susan Comito, sat in the front row clutching her Cabbage Patch doll during the swearing-in ceremony. (Register-Star photo by Celeste Pappo)