ALBANY - “Only in America” was the underlying message as Roger J. Miner of Hudson donned the robes as a justice of the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Saturday.

From the words of Judge Miner himself to the singing of “God Bless America” after the oath was administered, the theme was one of a nation that rewards hard work and integrity.

Judges, lawmakers and attorneys hailed him as “a treasure,” the judicial equivalent of a Heisman Trophy winner, and a jurist destined for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Before an audience of over 500, Judge Miner recited the oath administered by his 81-year-old father, Hudson attorney Abram Miner, at 1:02 p.m. in the fourth-floor courtroom at the federal courthouse in downtown Albany.

“I think the story is the story of a young Jewish boy from a small county, a small town, who showed that the American dream is alive and well,” observed U.S. Sen. Alfonse D’Amato.

“Some would say that a career like Judge Miner’s could happen only in America,” said Congressman Gerald Solomon. “I can only add that it takes an American like Judge Miner to build that career.”

And Judge Miner himself expounded on the theme.

“My immigrant grandparents referred to this great nation as ‘The Golden Land,’” he related.

“They never ceased to be awed by the freedoms, the opportunities and the individual liberties that were available to...
...Miner oath

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them in their adopted country.

'Only in America' they would say. I wish that they could be here today to witness this cerem-

ony and to say, once again, 'Only in America.'"

The grandparents, Frank and Fannie Miner, immigrated

when their son Abraham was about 7. They operated a grocery store in Hudson for many

years.

Judge Miner described the ceremony as "an emotional ex-

perience" and said that as he recited the oath he was

"thinking ahead to the work that had to be done on the new
court and what a heavy responsibility it would be." He is the 53rd appointee in

the 116-year history of the circuit court. The Second Circuit

covers New York, Connecticut and Vermont and is seated in

New York City.

It was standing-room-only in

the courtroom. Those who

couldn't fit inside watched on

color closed-circuit TV mon-

itors outside in the hall.

Following congratulatory

speeches by dignitaries, Judge

Steven Flanders, circuit execu-

tive, read the presidential order

appointing Mr. Miner.

Then, placing his left hand on

a Bible held by his wife Jackie and

raising his right, he recited the oath of office as read by his

father.

As the audience burst into

standing applause, he shook his

father's hand, kissed his wife,

stepped to one side where an

aide helped him put on his robe,

and strode to a seat on the bench with the other judges as-

sembled on the bench.

After his ...
Proud moment

Roger Miner of Hudson, left, is sworn in as a U.S. Court of Appeals judge Saturday by his father, Abram, right, as his wife Jacqueline looks on. Other stories and photos on the Albany ceremony appear on Page A-5.

(Register-Star photo by Celeste Puppolo)