

REMARKS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEDICATION OF THE STROM THURMOND AUDITORIUM  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA  
APRIL 2, 1982

As then-Governor Strom Thurmond once told a captive audience at a state prison here in Columbia, "I am happy to be here and I am glad to see you here."

In dedicating this facility to Senator Thurmond, you are continuing the proud traditions of this University. South Carolina's William Johnson, the first great dissenter on the United States Supreme Court, helped to found the predecessor to this institution. Hugh Legare, the South Carolina lawyer who became Attorney General of the United States, attended this college. Now, you have chosen to associate this institution with the latest in a long-line of great South Carolina lawyers -- Strom Thurmond, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate. Adding Chairman Thurmond to Johnson and Legare completes the representation of this University in all three branches of the federal government.

The decision of this law school to honor Strom Thurmond is especially appropriate. His career has been devoted to the improvement of both education and the law. He was a teacher and an educator himself. At the age of twenty-two he was a member of the Edgefield County Board of Education -- and later he served as superintendent of education. As your Governor and Senator, the improvement of education has been his continuing goal.

The Senator's legal career has also been illustrious -- in private practice and public service. He served as city attorney and as county attorney. Elected at the age of thirtyfive, he was South Carolina's youngest circuit judge. Now, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Thurmond has as much influence on the course of federal law as anyone in the United States.

No one needs to tell the people of South Carolina why Chairman Thurmond is deserving of any honor they can bestow. Nevertheless, I feel a personal debt to the Senator. His graciousness to me has been equalled only by his effective advocacy of legal reforms to which

I am also devoted. As the leader in the effort to achieve passage of the Federal Criminal Code, Senator Thurmond is striving to bring order and reason to the entire corpus of federal criminal law. As sponsor of a proposal to modify the exclusionary rule, the Senator is attempting to correct the anomaly in our law that excludes probative evidence even when it was obtained in reasonable good faith conformity with the Fourth Amendment. Senator Thurmond's sponsorship of habeas corpus reform evinces his balanced concern for the legitimate rights of defendants and his recognition of the need for finality in the criminal process. His leadership in the effort to pass criminal forfeiture legislation will help law enforcement get at the profits of crime. And all this is just a sampling of the many areas in which Senator Thurmond is actively working to promote a safer and more just America. His leadership in the confirmation of Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court allowed all Americans to gain a better appreciation of his skill and grace.

Like another distinguished lawyer of an earlier age, Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Chairman is an inspiration to all of us who have reached a certain age. Justice Holmes, while a member of the Supreme Court, took a long walk every afternoon with his colleague Justice Brandeis. According to a story that many of you have probably heard, Holmes -- who was then 92 -- paused during one such walk to gaze in frank admiration at a beautiful young woman who passed by the two Justices. Turning to Brandeis, Holmes said:- "Oh! What wouldn't I give to be 70 again!"

If Holmes had only known Strom Thurmond -- and the tremendous energy he exudes -- he might have said instead: "Oh! What wouldn't I give to be 80 again!"

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to many more years of working with you. Your continuing leadership in government will guarantee many more pleasant events like this one today, events honoring you for your contributions to better government for South Carolina and the Nation as a whole. I -- like so many of your colleagues -- will always be proud to join in honoring you.