

RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE POWELL

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1987

Present: CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST, JUSTICE BRENNAN, JUSTICE WHITE, JUSTICE MARSHALL, JUSTICE BLACKMUN, JUSTICE STEVENS, JUSTICE O'CONNOR, and JUSTICE SCALIA.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Before I call the first case for argument, I would like to make a part of the record of this Court an exchange of correspondence between the Court and Justice Powell upon his retirement. Our letter to Justice Powell which is signed by his eight colleagues and his response will be made a part of the Journal of today's proceedings.

Our letter to Justice Powell reads as follows:

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE,
Washington, D. C., June 29, 1987.

Dear Lewis:

You know without our telling you again how saddened we are by your departure from our ranks. For more than fifteen years we have benefited from your wise and careful marshaling of arguments in Conference, and from your shouldering Term after Term of more than your share of the Court's opinion writing. All of us admire your extraordinary capacity to forcefully participate in our private and public debates without ever allowing advocacy to degenerate into contentiousness.

Your career in the legal profession before coming here was replete with laurels. Thirty years of successful law practice,

wartime service overseas in Air Force Intelligence, President of the American Bar Association, President of the Richmond School Board were but some of your accomplishments. The lessons from a life so rich in experience informed your judgment as a member of the Court.

We bid you a fond farewell as you retire from this last arena in which you have served your profession and served your country. We are grateful for, and look forward to, the prospect of your continued companionship in the future.

Affectionately,

WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST
 WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR.
 BYRON R. WHITE
 THURGOOD MARSHALL
 HARRY A. BLACKMUN
 JOHN PAUL STEVENS
 SANDRA O'CONNOR
 ANTONIN SCALIA

Justice Powell's response reads as follows:

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
 CHAMBERS OF JUSTICE LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.; (*Retired*)
 Washington, D. C., July 10, 1987.

Dear Colleagues:

Your gracious letter of June 29 was forwarded to me here in Richmond. It is a letter I am proud to share with Jo and our children, and one I shall always treasure.

I can add little to what I said in my statement of June 26. I do leave the Court with a considerable measure of sadness. I have been privileged to serve on a strong Court, and also I have cherished the friendship I have shared with each of you. This, of course, will continue although I will miss more than I can say the day to day participation in the work of the Court.

With admiration and affection for each of you.

Sincerely,

LEWIS F. POWELL