

Comments of Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers
Meeting of Judicial-Media Committee
June 11, 2007

Thank you, Doug, for that introduction, and also thanks to you, Claude, and to all of you here who volunteer as members of the Judicial-Media Committee, the Events Subcommittee, the Survey Subcommittee, or the Fire Brigade. I know how busy your schedules are, and on behalf of the Branch, I want you to know how much we appreciate your service.

Justice David Borden showed great insight in asking you to serve, for both he and I believe that communication is key to improved relations between the courts and the news media. Since becoming chief justice, I made a commitment to meet with members of the news media, and have, in fact, met with many, who have impressed me with

both their knowledge of government and commitment to covering the news. I've also enjoyed meeting them as individuals and would like to continue this exchange of ideas and opinions. My door is open, and I hope that reporters and editors take advantage of that.

Similarly, I believe that members of the media can learn and benefit from the input and experience of our talented judges, who are just as dedicated to their responsibilities. Your work ensures that this dialogue, which began in earnest with Justice Borden's Public Access Task Force, will continue and, I hope, thrive -- even when we disagree.

John Chancellor once said, "The function of good journalism is to take information and add value to it." I

believe that understanding each other better will add value to what is reported about our state courts and that, in the end, the citizens we all serve in our different capacities will be the better for it.

You have a very full agenda and an esteemed speaker, Attorney Floyd Abrams, so I don't want to take any more of your time. I do hope to attend future Judicial-Media Committee meetings and look forward to working with you.