

*Remarks for the  
Investiture of Judge Paul Funderbur,  
February 1, 2002*

Francis Bacon, who made his name in the art world as one of the great painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, also had some astute insights in other areas.

He once wrote, “if we do not maintain justice, justice will not maintain us.”

Today, we are doing our part to maintain justice.

At the beginning of January, I appointed Paul Funderburk as Circuit Court Judge for the First District. I was as confident in that appointment as I have ever been about anything else.

I know Paul, and I know the experience and wisdom he brings to this new position. His grasp of the law and ability to interpret the intricacies of cases will be evident from the start, and the people of north Mississippi can rest assured in his commitment to the truest meaning of the word “justice.”

This is not an easy role Paul assumes today. It is one that will require patience, determination, compassion, and a sense of humor. It will demand the very best of his skills and his intellect. It will push him to work harder than ever before. It will evoke the best of his wisdom.

“No man was ever wise by chance.” These are the words of Seneca, from 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome. They still ring true here today in 21<sup>st</sup> century Tupelo, in application to Paul Funderburk.

He is not wise by chance. He is wise because of his patience and because of his willingness to listen when he would rather have talked. He is wise because of his desire to learn and share.

His wisdom, his desire, his knowledge – these will be the hallmarks by which Judge Paul Funderburk is known. They will be the tools by which we help maintain justice.

Congratulations, Judge Funderburk. You will do us proud.