**REMARKS BY MICHAEL JONES IN PRESENTING**

**THE EDWIN WOLF AWARD TO JON GREENBAUM**

**DECEMBER 7, 2023**

Thank you, thank you. The Edwin Wolf Award is awarded to a staff member who has exhibited outstanding service and commitment to civil rights. And in Edwin’s particular case, he had some personal health issues as he was delivering the incredible service.

I think you all think you know Jon Greenbaum. If you’re a trial lawyer, you realize that you really get to know someone when you work shoulder-to-shoulder with them in a trial for 12 hours a day. If you work 12 hours a day over the course of a week or two weeks, you develop a certain affinity with them. If you work with Jon like I did, shoulder-to-shoulder, for 12 hours a day for 105 trial days, they become your brother.

In addition to the 105 trial days, I can probably multiply the days of mediation days that we sat and talked the table from the State of Maryland. Jon, I accounted 60 to 70 mediation days. To say nothing of the very late-night calls that Jon and I had together even as he was dealing with very very trying personal circumstances and family circumstances.

When I was in law school, I received the Thurgood Marshall Award, and I was so proud of that because I looked up to Thurgood Marshall and the other heroes of the 1960s and the civil rights movement. And I have to say that I believe that Jon Greenbaum is the Thurgood Marshall of our era, and having gotten to know him in such an intense kind of circumstances whereas Ali would say, we shook up the world, we made history, in the most challenging kind of circumstances through two long trials, the 4th Circuit of Appeals, legislative hearings during Covid, and having to figure out a legislative strategy to overcome the public announcement of the Governor of Maryland that the last and final offer of $200 million settle in Maryland’s HBCU case. And we silently toasted each other when the Governor publicly acknowledged and announced a $577 million settlement.

I’ve had the chance to try cases with and against some of the best lawyers in the world. None, in my view, are comparable to the brilliance, the tenacity, the insightfulness, and he has a great sense of humor. Jon Greenbaum, I’m happy to call you my brother in arms, and congratulations on this award.