

**Response to Questions from Senate Judiciary Committee
December 19, 2011**

1. In your statement, you shared an example of how broadcasting Iowa Supreme Court arguments has increased the public's trust in the court. Have you noticed if broadcasting court proceedings has led to any educational benefits to the legal profession, the education system, or the public-at-large? If so, please explain in what ways?

Answer. *We are encouraged by the number of website views of the oral argument videos, which suggest to us that the public is interested in the work of the court and taking advantage of the online videos. For example, in 2007, after one year of operation, the videos had 75,000 views—the most number of views recorded in one year. However, we do not have information that identifies who is watching the videos. We have heard from lawyers who watch the videos to learn about the cases argued or to help them prepare for oral arguments. When the court dropped the videos during a time of deep budget cuts, we heard from some law students and professors who asked the court to restore the videos.*

2. There was testimony that audio tapes and transcripts are as effective as video. Do you agree with this statement? If not, please explain what benefits video offers over the currently available audio recordings and transcripts.

Answer. Video provides a complete picture of the proceeding. For example, a video enables viewers unfamiliar with the appellate process to see the differences between a trial and oral arguments.

3. Have you changed your approach or strategy in preparing for a case because you knew that the oral argument was going to be broadcast? If so, please describe.

Answer. *Video coverage has not led me to change my case preparation practices.*

4. Have you or your colleagues changed, or refrained from asking, certain questions because the proceedings were broadcast?

Answer. *I do not recall ever refraining from asking a question because of the broadcast. I cannot answer for my colleagues.*

5. Have you noticed that your own performance during argument is different when you know you are being televised? If so, in what ways?

Answer. *I do not think the broadcasts affect my conduct on the bench. During oral arguments, I do not think of the cameras.*

Mark Cady

6. Has the broadcast of Iowa Supreme Court arguments affected the way you and the associate justices deliberate and reach conclusions in the cases you hear?

Answer. *I have no reason to believe that the broadcasts affect the manner in which the court deliberates and makes decisions.*

7. Has the broadcasting of the Iowa Supreme Court ever materially affected the outcome of a case? If so, please explain.

Answer. *No.*