

# Clement Marks Milestone of 75 Supreme Court Arguments

Tony Mauro , Legal Times

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Surrounded by friends, rivals, judges, family and even some clients, former solicitor general Paul Clement celebrated an enviable milestone Wednesday night: his 75th oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court.

His firm Bancroft threw a party for Clement at the Folger Shakespeare Library, a stone's throw away from the Supreme Court, where office lights burned brightly as the festivities continued through the evening.

Clement's 75 notes-free arguments include many in momentous cases involving the Affordable Care Act, the Defense of Marriage Act and campaign finance laws, as well as a number of business disputes and cases challenging prosecutorial abuse.

Asked if he is setting his sights on the numbers reached by Deputy Solicitor General Edwin Kneedler (125 arguments) or retired deputy SG Lawrence Wallace (157), Clement said in an interview, "I'm just aiming for 76," namely *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, which will be argued later this term.

Clement seemed somewhat embarrassed about the party, but said, "I learned from Ted Olson that you have to celebrate life's events." Olson, the former S.G. who hired Clement as his deputy in 2001, has argued 61 cases and was on hand Wednesday night. No Supreme Court justices attended, but Chief Judge Merrick Garland and Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit were spotted in the crowd.

The 48-year-old Clement argued his 75th case just last week, in the employment case *Integrity Staffing Solutions v. Busk*. Deborah Pierce, vice president of Integrity Solutions, who cheerily called herself "Number 75," was at the event and praised Clement profusely. "He was very open to learning about us," Pierce said.

Also attending was "client 73," as Clement described him: Mark Rienzi of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, who was counsel for Hobby Lobby in the contraceptive mandate case, which Clement argued and won in March.

"You would think that someone like Paul would be arrogant, full of himself, a hotshot, but he is none of those things," Rienzi said. "The truth is, it was the easiest thing in the world to work with him."

During formalities, Bancroft founder Viet Dinh presented Clement with a Green Bay Packers jersey and an original set of Blackstone's Commentaries.

Robert Grey, vice president and general counsel of PPL Corporation, another Clement client, called Clement "a lawyer's lawyer." In the two Supreme Court cases Clement argued on behalf of PPL, his company did not receive a single negative vote.

Lisa Blatt of Arnold & Porter also praised Clement, for whom she worked in the S.G.'s office. When Clement rises to argue, Blatt said, "the justices visibly relax," knowing they are about to hear an energetic argument by one of the best advocates of his time.

Clement spoke briefly, thanking colleagues and clients as well as his family. Arguing 75 cases, he said, meant "150 weekends toiling over briefs instead of hanging out with family."

Only five years ago, his prior firm King & Spalding held a similar event to mark Clement's 50th argument. Clement's first argument at the high court was in 2001, and his first 49 were on behalf of the United States.

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