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Acknowledgment

JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR

I think you can understand when I say I'm overwhelmed. I turned to Austin and said this wasn't supposed to make me cry, but I am. I was going to start by thanking the *Annual Survey* for touching me by dedicating journal seventy-three to me. I thought, and still do, that it was a tremendous, tremendous honor. And I thank all of you who have had a part in making it happen. My grandmother's upstairs in heaven playing seventy-three as her number for the week. She's probably boxing it so—for those who don't know what it means look at the Internet.

You know, Connie Motley, the legendary Justice Constance Baker Motley, who I was graced to sit with on the Southern District of New York bench, came to me after I decided the baseball case.¹⁶ And she came down and sat with me and said, "Sonia it doesn't matter what you do in life. When you die, your obituary will start with 'Baseball Judge Dies.'" Connie, as with so many things, was absolutely right.

But what the *Annual Survey* has done for me is a greater gift. It's the gift of palpably knowing, palpably feeling, the love of friends who I adore. Every one of you has played such a special part of my life. One that has helped me with some of the toughest times, one who's gotten me to the Supreme Court—I don't always forgive him for that, especially when I'm back home—but I am blessed with so many things, but not the least of which is friends who are so special and treasured to me. Thank you.

I thought that the greatest gift of the nomination process, despite Trevor—a process I will never ever, ever repeat—was seeing my brother cry on television one day. 'Cause I knew how much he loved me. You can watch me cry and know how much I love you. Thank you, my friends. And thank you to everyone in this audience. So many of my former law clerks, so many of my judicial colleagues—who if I mention one and then I forget somebody, and then I'm going to be horribly embarrassed—but to the others, who have spent their time with me, and with whom I have shared so much, it is an honor. John, I had no understanding at your tribute

16. *Silverman v. Major League Baseball Player Relations Comm.*, 880 F. Supp. 246 (S.D.N.Y. 1995).

how you felt, because I thought it was all true. What happens when you don't think it's all true but you're grateful anyway?

I am grateful. Thank you all. This is deeply, deeply touching.