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Welcome and Introductions

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

DOUG BLAZE: I'm Doug Blaze, the Dean of the UT College of Law. I want to welcome everybody here today to this incredible program on the politics of protecting children. A symposium like this really represents the best in our law school and what we're trying to do. What we're about is trying to connect the theory that our students learn in the classroom through their textbooks and apply it in a real world setting, or at least explore with folks from the profession what's going on in terms of what they've learned and how it actually applies in real life. We do that through our clinical programs; we do it through field placements; we do it through our simulation classes; and we do it through symposia like this. I think that's a wonderful way for our students to see what's going on. It's also a wonderful way for the law school to bring folks together to talk about what I consider to be a vitally important issue. Most of you probably know that our clinical program and various faculty members for years have been involved in these issues, and so we're very pleased to welcome you.

I applaud the *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* for having come up with this particular topic and idea. It's also a great collaboration between the *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* and the Center for Advocacy, so I want us to thank the Center for Advocacy, Corinna, and particularly the incomparable Professor Penny White for helping to put this together. I want to applaud and thank the editor-in-chief, John Evans, who you'll hear from in a second, and especially the symposium editor, Jessica Van Dyke, for putting this together. I also want to thank all the panelists, the rest of you in the audience, and the students for being here. It is a terrific day. I think it will be great. So let's get started.

JOHN EVANS: Thank you, Dean Blaze. I'm John Evans. I'm the editor-in-chief of the *Tennessee Journal of Law and*

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Policy. We're just absolutely thrilled that you're here. We came up with this topic a while back and our biggest worry was that people might not be interested. But, if you look around, obviously it's a topic that means a whole lot to this community and people across this state. We have wonderful presentations from a variety of different speakers today, so we hope you're here for the whole day if you can, and ask as many questions as you like. Again, thank you so much for coming. Now Jessica Van Dyke is going to introduce our first panel.

JESSICA VAN DYKE: Good morning. I'm Jessica Van Dyke. I'm the Symposium Editor for the *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy*. I think any symposium about child law has to start with a little bit of Dr. Seuss. He said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know; the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." For us sitting here in this room today, there is a good chance that we have fond memories of our parents reading from this or another of Dr. Seuss's books to us as children. But as we all know too well, not all children have these opportunities. That's why we're here today. I am thrilled that so many practicing attorneys took time out of their schedules to sign up and attend today's symposium. I think the numbers say very promising things about the future of service to children in the state of Tennessee.

This Dr. Seuss motto really guided the *Journal* as we planned and orchestrated this symposium. The motto that, as future attorneys, the more that we know and the more that we read, the more places we can go in protecting children in the future. I have to say the very best aspect of planning this symposium has been the enthusiasm and the dedication of the individuals asked to sit on panels or for their input, and of those who simply just said, "We're so glad you're having this symposium today." The feedback we have received over the past several months has been incredibly positive, with individuals from the legislature,