

## Inside the Court: Eyewitness Accounts

### *Justice Stephen Breyer*

---

#### **Always an Optimist, Always a Teacher**

*By Aileen McGrath. SCOTUSblog – January 28, 2022*

"One of the perks of the clerkship was being able to arrange tours of the court for visiting friends and family members. I arranged such a tour for this group – from a girls' high school in New York – because their teacher was a friend's mother. I promised to meet them in a conference room afterward to answer a few questions about the court and what it was like to spend a year working there. As I headed out of chambers, I mentioned to the judicial assistant that I'd be down the hall for a few minutes meeting with some students. The justice heard me say this, put down his papers, grabbed his jacket, and began following me down the hall as if I had summoned him. I'll never forget the look on the students' faces – who were expecting to hear from a 27-year-old nobody! – as I walked in with the justice himself. Justice Breyer spent the next 30 minutes giving a version of what the country listening in yesterday heard, pocket Constitution and all. He talked about how he approached each case, with an open mind informed by his core beliefs and his background. And he described how the court's role is the foundation of our ongoing democratic experiment and tradition, grounded in the Constitution and our nation's fundamental values. I vividly remember sitting in the back of the room listening to him talk. The moment captured so much about Justice Breyer so perfectly: his enthusiasm and generosity, his optimism and belief in the court and our democracy, and his abiding sense of hope for the next generation."

SOURCE : <https://www.scotusblog.com/2022/01/always-an-optimist-always-a-teacher/>