

REMARKS OF BILL BOWE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NOMINATION OF
BETH FULKERSON
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE LAWYERS CLUB OF CHICAGO

Union League Club
Main Dining Room, 5th Floor
65 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

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Mr. President, distinguished speakers, fellow members of The Lawyers Club of Chicago and guests: I am Bill Bowe, the General Counsel of Encyclopaedia Britannica. I am here this evening to propose for membership in the Club, Britannica's Assistant General Counsel, Beth A. Fulkerson.

Before I briefly review her qualifications, may I please have a show of hands? How many of you had an encyclopedia in your home growing up?

Now, how many of you had World Book or Wikipedia?

How many Britannica?

I see.

Well, let me put many of you at ease. I will speak very slowly. This will give those of you who grew up without Britannica a better chance of following along.

Beth Fulkerson was born in Torrance, California. That's not far from Area 51 in Nevada. After grammar school, and chafing under the growing influence of the nearby aliens, Beth decamped east to spend her high school years in Ohio.

She graduated from Findley High School, where she excelled in track and field. I'm no psychiatrist, but I suspect her resulting lifelong commitment to long distance running had something to do with Marathon Oil having its headquarters in Findley.

Beth received her college degree from the University of Chicago. Academically, she also participated in the Oxford University Study Abroad Program.

Always the athlete, she skipped football at Chicago in lieu of varsity tennis. As near as I can tell, this was her first and only connection with the racquets.

After graduation, she went to work as a research associate for Lexecon, where she did statistical analyses related to preparation of Michael Milken's securities law defense. When I interviewed her for the Britannica job, Beth told me she had done exceptional work. But let's face facts. We all remember Milken went to jail.

As you plaintiff's lawyers are well aware, her obfuscation is famously akin to the doctor who says her operation was a great success, but the patient died.

Beth was then off to the University of Illinois for an M.A., courtesy of Ford Foundation and Arms Control fellowships.

In a big mistake, Beth thought learning to speak Russian was going to be the next big thing, so she entered the Moscow Energy Institute Language Program during this period. I'm not saying her matriculation was the

straw that broke the camel's back, but you all remember, the Russians lost the Cold War about then.

Beth's apple cart had clearly been upset. There was obviously nothing left for her to do but go to law school.

She attended the University of Michigan for her law school education. When I asked Beth what program strengths of the school led her there, she said, and I quote, "Michigan is a great football power. I was denied that at Chicago."

As a law clerk at Bartlit Beck and later an associate at Goldberg Kohn and Pattishall McAuliffe, all here in Chicago, Beth honed both her litigation and intellectual property law skills.

When she later went out on her own, she had both Amazon and Tribune Company as continuing clients in the online sphere. In a little more than two years after that, Beth was recruited to be Senior Counsel for Intellectual Property and Online Services for Tribune Company.

Now, before I came to Britannica, I was General Counsel of another publisher, United Press International, headquartered in Washington, D.C. UPI, then and now, is a newswire service that pretends to compete with the Associated Press.

When UPI couldn't pay its bills, I recommended to senior management that it declare bankruptcy. In later years, I was often surprised at the strange looks I got from fellow professionals, as well as lay people, when I proudly declared that as a result of my legal advice, my prior employer had gone bankrupt.

Not wanting any later fuss if Britannica hired Beth from Tribune Company during its recent troubles, I put the question to her directly: "Did your legal advice bring about the bankruptcy of Tribune?"

Beth was straightforward in her denial, "I didn't do it. My husband is a good man. My children are good people. It was all Sam Zell's fault. I've done nothing wrong. My innocence will be proven if you play all the tapes. That's my story and I'm sticking to it."

Ladies and gentlemen of The Lawyers Club of Chicago, I commend to your attention Beth Fulkerson.