

THE RELIABLE SOURCE | Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts

Capricia Marshall is sworn in as chief of protocol with her family and several luminaries, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in attendance.



BY MICHAEL GROSS — STATE DEPARTMENT

After Nine Months, Post Is Delivered

It took nine months, but **Capricia Marshall** is finally — and fully — the new chief of protocol of the United States.

The journey from Clinton confidante to ambassador ended Thursday afternoon when a delighted Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** formally swore in her longtime aide and protégé. “Capricia has been an extraordinary friend and colleague,” she told the crowd packed into the State Department’s Ben Franklin reception room. “There is no one in Washington who has worked for me longer. . . . It is, for me, a great personal pleasure.”

The glamorous Marshall, 45, hitched her star to the Clinton family in 1992, serving as right hand for the first lady, protector to **Chelsea Clinton** (who

attended the swearing-in), White House social secretary and insider on Hillary’s Senate and presidential bids. Her loyalty was rewarded this year with the plum protocol job — but the confirmation was delayed for a tense few months while Marshall sorted out tax issues and what exactly her role would be as official liaison to foreign leaders, and whether the Obama camp would put one of their own into a new unofficial role that would take away some of her responsibilities.

All that’s ancient history. The White House sent senior adviser **Valerie Jarrett** and Social Secretary **Desirée Rogers** to the ceremony, which looked like a reunion of Team Clinton: **Terry McAuliffe**, **Ann Jordan**, **Bob Johnson**, **Lisa Caputo**, **Mandy**

Grunwald and **Melanne Verveer**, along with former White House social secretaries and protocol chiefs **Ann Stock**, **Lea Bernan**, **Lucky Roosevelt** and **Lloyd Hand**. “Everyone we know is here!” Verveer said. “If you don’t get out much, this is the way to do it.”

The newly minted ambassador — with husband **Rob** and son **Cole** at her side, and her parents, **Frank** and **Mary Penavic**, proudly watching — was both exuberant and humble. “I could not be more thrilled,” she said, beaming. Then she thanked Clinton, who took her on “the roller coaster ride of a lifetime.” **President Obama**, and many, many others: “To quote our secretary, it does take a village to bring me here today — and in my case, a really, really big one.”

Oprah’s Quiet Time

What would have brought **Oprah Winfrey** to central Maryland for Labor Day weekend? That’s been puzzling us since we heard she and pal **Gayle King** were seen at the Hagerstown airport last Friday, a tipster sent us a photo of what looks like her Bombardier Global Express jet (tail numbers registered to Chicago’s Harpo Inc.) parked on a tarmac with a gentle roll of blue mountain in the distance. Her reps didn’t get back to us, but there are lots of great attractions in the area: Antietam! Gettysburg! Pretty stone bridges! And, uh, Camp David?



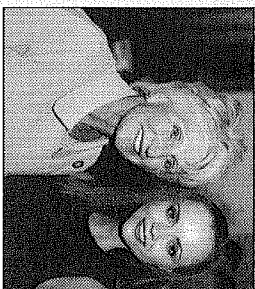
Oprah Winfrey

Where the **Obamas** stayed last weekend. The White House keeps a tight lid on the guest list there; they didn’t really get back to us either.

HEY, ISN’T THAT . . . ?

Billy Crystal

burning the midnight oil at the Palm early Thursday with a motley group of 70 pals that included Democratic honcho **Terry McAuliffe**, game-show host **Pat Sajak**, and Phillies second baseman **Chase Utley**. You know, the whole gang. They got started around midnight after Crystal’s



BY BRENDA HOFFMAN — CELEBRITY

Rep. Jane Harman with Christina Ricci at the RAINN benefit.

CELEBRVOCATE!

An occasional look at the arm celeb-vocates marching on our Wednesday night’s emissary, Hollywood goodness: Indie act **Christina Ricci**.

Cause: RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network), which operates phone and online hot lines for victims of sexual assault.

Site: Cocktail benefit at downtown headquarters of Navigators GIC after a day of lobbying on the Hill. **What she wants:** More funding for mental health and other victim programs. “Everyone knows

someone who’s been affected by issue,” said Ricci, the group’s spokeswoman for three years.

How she looked: Chic and in foot, size 0, sleeveless black dress and sky-high heels, hair pulled back.

Backup: Rep. **Jane Harman**, dashed off to the Capitol for the president’s speech; former WWF wrestler **Mick Foley**, a teddy-bruiser with long brown curls and two missing front teeth.

Charity innovation: Washing