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I. INTRODUCTION

In oral argument in Baker v. Carr, Attorney Z.T. Osborn, Jr., on behalf of Tennessee voters arguing that the U.S. Supreme Court should hold legislative apportionment a justiciable issue, exclaimed that “the motto of the Supreme Court of Tennessee is Fiat justicia ruat caelum; Let justice be done if the skies should fall.” With that exhortation, Osborn remarked to the Court, “We have no other place to go. We are at the capital of the world.”¹

¹ Editor’s Note: With this essay by Professor Stephen A. Higginson of Loyola University College of Law, the Florida Law Review presents the first multimedia article in our sixty-year history. We invite you not only to read Professor Higginson’s piece about oral advocacy before the United States Supreme Court, but also to listen to the moments of Supreme Court advocacy that Professor Higginson writes about in his Article. Supreme Court audio recordings of litigant arguments began in 1955, and today are available from The Oyez Project, at http://www.oyez.org. In this Article, each oral advocacy moment may be heard by clicking into the footnote containing the oral argument after the signal hear. If you are reading this Article in print form, you may listen to links to the audio clips from our website at http://www.floridalawreview.org/higgin/mp3list.htm. We are grateful for permission for this shared usage given by Professor Jerry Goldman, director of the Oyez Project.

² Associate Professor of Law, Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana. I am grateful to Etheldra Scoggin, of the Loyola University New Orleans Law Library, and my research assistant Chun Kuo for their assistance retrieving Supreme Court oral arguments.