

## The Six Things I Learned From Basketball

Commissioner Julie Brill  
On the Occasion of Being Inducted Into the  
Columbia High School Hall of Fame  
June 1, 2012

Good morning, and thank you to the Hall of Fame committee, the student council, and the teachers and staff for inviting me here to speak today and for this honor.

I also have to thank the coaches who took a chance on me and let me walk on as a starter after not even playing high school ball... the teammates who had my back from day one...and, of course my family: my two beautiful boys, my wonderful husband, and my mom ...You've always been there for me

Ok, I know – we are not in Springfield, Massachusetts. This is not the basketball hall of fame. But indulge my fantasy for a moment. I've been a basketball fan since I had a locker over in the C-Wing. And now I live in New England, work in DC, and root for the Miami Heat – surely that deserves some sort of recognition, at least for bravery.

I admit, I am tempted to pull out some knee-slapped basketball clichés for this speech:

“There is no ‘i’ in ‘team.’”

“You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.”

“When you can't buy a basket, remember to share the sugar and shoot from downtown.”

But I'll spare you a tortured attempt to explain my career trajectory in these terms—because, as sad as I am to say it, my shot just isn't what it used to be.

I am instead, as David mentioned, a commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission. You may not have heard of us, but we are a bipartisan agency of the federal government charged with taking care of consumers – which means taking care of everyone, because everyone goes to

I could talk all day about our cases: how we made Mark Zuckerberg apologize publicly for Facebook's cavalier approach

Your online activity is like one, big tattoo. What you put on Facebook may still be there in thirty years. Be as aware of your online reputation as you are of your reputation here in these halls. Don't hurt your chances for your dream college or that great job because you forgot that everything in the online world is written in indelible ink.

Rule Number 4: It's not about wi