Clarence Thomas and the Tough Love Crowd

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The book began, at Harvard Law School, with Randall Kennedy’s suggestion that I address, generally, the political responsibilities of intellectuals, and examine the (he felt) competing duties of political loyalty and truth-telling. But Kennedy was soon in an unusual position: both supervisor and subject. While his enthusiasm may have waned, his cordiality has not. Just after that early draft was finished, in mid-1991, Clarence Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court.

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