

**Opening Statement of Florence Pan
Nominee, Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court**

I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today, as a nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court. I want to thank President Obama, and the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission, for this great honor. I also want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination so expeditiously, at a time when there are many pressing matters that demand your attention.

In 1949, my grandparents fled mainland China, after the Communist Party came to power. They settled in Taiwan, where both my parents were raised. My parents came to the United States in 1961, to pursue graduate degrees in New York City. They chose to stay here, because of the limitless opportunities that this country offered their children. I think it is fair to say that my presence before this Committee is a fulfillment of all that they hoped for and dreamed of, when they made that fateful decision to plant their roots in America. I would note that my nomination is particularly meaningful to my father, because his father was a judge on an administrative court in China, before being forced to flee to Taiwan.

I attended public schools in New Jersey, and then studied finance at the University of Pennsylvania. I worked for two years as an investment banker, but went to law school because I decided that I wanted to pursue a different kind of career. After graduating from Stanford Law School, I was fortunate to clerk for two great jurists – Judge Michael B. Mukasey on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and Judge Ralph K. Winter on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. I then worked at the Justice Department: first as a Bristow Fellow in the Solicitor General’s Office, and then as an attorney in the Criminal Appellate Section. I left the Justice Department to spend one year working at the Treasury Department. I joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in 1999.

For the past ten years, I have been privileged to serve the citizens of the District of Columbia as an Assistant United States Attorney. I have appeared extensively in the federal and local courts in this jurisdiction, both at the trial level and at the appellate level. I have had the opportunity to prosecute many different kinds of cases, and to come into contact with myriad people from this community. My respect for the Superior Court and the judges who serve on this Court is profound. I have seen the important work that they do first hand. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to give the citizens of the District of Columbia the very highest quality of justice. I pledge to approach my role as a judge with humility and diligence, and to apply the law with thoughtfulness and impartiality.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today, and for your consideration of my nomination.