

Opening Statement of Robert D. Okun
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
May 15, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, Judge Emmett Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and I would like to thank President Obama for nominating me. I also would like to thank Congresswoman Norton for taking the time out of her busy schedule to introduce me at this hearing today. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee members and the Committee staff for their hard work and for considering my nomination so expeditiously.

I've already introduced the members of my family who are here today, and I am grateful that they could be here with me on this occasion. But I also would like to recognize two people who are not here today – my late parents, Bill and Judy Okun, who would be very pleased to see me sitting here today, and without whom I would not be sitting here. Finally, I would like to acknowledge Chief Judge Lee Satterfield of the Superior Court, Chief Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court, and my many friends and colleagues, some of whom are here today, and to thank them for all their support and kindness over the years.

My entire career has been devoted to public service and the majority of my career has been specifically dedicated to serving the people of the District of Columbia. In fact, I started my legal career as a judicial law clerk in the District of Columbia Superior Court, serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Frank E. Schwelb, who, I am happy to say, is in attendance at today's hearing. I also spent a significant portion of my career as a consumer protection attorney, first at the Federal Trade Commission and then at the U.S. Department of Justice. Last, but not least, I have served as a prosecutor for more than 19 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, litigating a wide variety of cases in both Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. It would be a privilege and an honor for me to continue my public service, and my commitment to the citizens of the District of Columbia, as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you might have.