

**Statement of Senator Daniel K. Akaka  
Nomination Hearing for Walter M. Shaub Jr. to be  
Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics; and Rainey R. Brandt and Kimberley S.  
Knowles to be Associate Judges on the D.C. Superior Court**

**July 20, 2012**

Aloha, good morning, and welcome everyone. Today the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs meets to consider the nominations of Walter M. Shaub Jr. to be the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), and Rainey R. Brandt and Kimberley S. Knowles to be associate judges on the D.C. Superior Court.

Mr. Shaub has spent most of his professional career in the federal workforce, and I want to thank him for his service. He has been employed for nearly nine years at the Office of Government Ethics, where he is currently the Deputy General Counsel. Prior to joining OGE, Mr. Shaub worked as an attorney in the offices of general counsel at both the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services. Mr. Shaub also has practiced law in the private sector.

In 1978, Congress passed the Ethics in Government Act, which established the Office of Government Ethics to foster high ethical standards and strengthen the public's confidence in government. OGE oversees the federal employee financial disclosures, trains thousands of federal ethics officials government-wide, sets enforceable ethics standards for employees, and reviews Presidential nominees' financial disclosure reports.

Mr. Shaub, this important position allows you to show the American people that ethical leadership begins at the top. It is crucial that you ensure that ethics regulations are followed and appropriate standards are upheld. At its core, ethics in government requires that government decisions are determined by the public interest – rather than any personal interest.

Turning to the judicial nominees, the Committee consistently receives excellent judicial candidates, nominated by the President from those recommended by the non-partisan Judicial Nomination Commission. Our nominees today are no exception. Judge Knowles is a magistrate judge at D.C. Superior Court. Before that, she spent a number of years as an Assistant United States Attorney. Ms. Brandt is Special Counsel to the Chief Judge of D.C. Superior Court, a position she has held since 1998. She also is an adjunct professor at American University.

I believe all three of our nominees have much to offer and, if confirmed, will make valuable contributions to the federal government and District's judicial system.