

Opening Statement of Judge Kimberley S. Knowles
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
July 20, 2012

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am grateful for and honored by the opportunity to appear before you today as a nominee to be an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I would like to thank the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, chaired by the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House and I am thankful to President Barack Obama for his nomination for this position. I would also like to thank Congresswoman Norton for taking the time to introduce me at this hearing today. I also am appreciative of this Committee considering my nomination so expeditiously.

Unfortunately, my family is unable to attend today's hearing, as they are on a vacation that I will rejoin right after this hearing. They are my greatest supporters, and I would like to acknowledge them: my son, Cameron Knowles; my brothers Alex and Nigel Knowles; my sister-in-law Arlene Knowles; and my nephews, Devin and Sean Knowles. I would also like to recognize my late parents, Philmore and Ita Knowles, whose hard work and many sacrifices put me in a position to be able to sit before you today. I also wish to acknowledge Chief Judge Eric T. Washington of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield of the District of Columbia Superior Court for their leadership, guidance and support. Finally, I would like to thank my many friends and current and former colleagues, who have supported me over the years, some of whom are present today.

I was born and raised in Bronx New York. I moved to Washington D.C. to attend Howard University School of Law, and never left because I fell in love with the city and community. My entire legal career has been dedicated to serving the District of Columbia community—first as a judicial law clerk in D.C. Superior Court; then as a prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and now as a Magistrate Judge in D.C. Superior Court. I hope to continue my service to the District of Columbia as an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court.

I am honored to be considered for this esteemed position, especially in the court where I have practiced my entire career. I thank you for your consideration of my nomination and I look forward to answering your questions.