

**Statement of Senator Daniel K. Akaka**  
***Nominations of Ronald McCray to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board; and Corrine Beckwith and Catharine Easterly to be Associate Judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals***

**Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**

**September 23, 2011**

Good morning and welcome. Today, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs meets to consider the nomination of Ronald McCray to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. On the second panel, we will consider the nominations of Corinne Beckwith and Catharine Easterly to be Associate Judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board was established in 1986 by legislation that modernized the Federal retirement system and created the Thrift Savings Plan or “TSP.” The Board administers the TSP, which is a retirement savings plan similar to a 401(k) plan for Federal employees and military service members.

Mr. McCray is well qualified to join this Board. He has over 20 years of experience in overseeing and monitoring retirement systems for many large private sector companies and universities, and currently he is a member of the Board of Directors for A.H. Belo Corporation, a Texas-based newspaper company. In that role, he is responsible for oversight of the company’s retirement and pension plans.

Furthermore, we consistently receive excellent D.C. court candidates, nominated by the President from those recommended by the non-partisan Judicial Nomination Commission.

Both of our judicial nominees have strong legal backgrounds and have devoted much of their careers to public service. Corrine Beckwith is currently a supervising attorney in the Appellate Division of the D.C. Public Defender Service. Before that, she was an attorney with Michigan’s State Appellate Defender Office, and clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court and Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Catharine Easterly has been with the Special Litigation Division of the D.C. Public Defender Service since 2003, and was a state appellate defender as well as a civil litigator before that.

I am confident that if confirmed, these nominees will join the others who have appeared before us in making valuable contributions to the Federal Government as well as the District of Columbia.