

Opening Statement of Loren L. AliKhan
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Good morning, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and members of the Committee. I am honored and humbled to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I thank you and your staff for holding this hearing. I also wish to thank the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and, of course, I thank President Joseph Biden for nominating me.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge a few important people in my life. First, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my husband, Justin Noble, for his patience, encouragement, and support of all my personal and professional endeavors. Next, I thank my parents, Mahmood and Linda AliKhan, who instilled in me the values of hard work and public service; my sister, Leah AliKhan, who inspires me every day by living a rich and independent life as a woman with Down Syndrome; and my extended family in St. Louis, Missouri, Daytona, Florida, and across the globe. Finally, I am grateful to my friends and colleagues for their steadfast support.

My father was born in British India and, after independence and partition, he and his family made the arduous journey to what is now Pakistan. Just over fifty years ago, he undertook another journey—this time to the United States—where he settled in Baltimore. My father is a cardiologist who spent time in the United States Public Health Service, and my mother was a nurse, so I learned from an early age that there is no higher calling than serving one's community. And while it is the South Asian stereotype that one's children should grow up to be doctors, my family has supported—or at least tolerated—my decision to serve my community as a lawyer.

I currently serve as the Solicitor General of the District of Columbia, representing the District and over 50 administrative agencies before the local and federal appellate courts. In my eight years in the office, I have worked on over 2,500 cases in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals involving issues including administrative law, contract disputes, criminal law, employment discrimination, family law, the Home Rule Act, torts, tax, workers' compensation, and zoning. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I would join the bench with a deep understanding of the Court's docket and could quickly contribute to the Court's pressing work.

Before joining the District government, I had a broad-based appellate practice with both O'Melveny and Myers and the Office of the Solicitor General at the United States Department of Justice. In both positions, I had extraordinary opportunities to work on civil, administrative, and criminal appeals in the United States Supreme Court and appellate courts around the country. I also had the great fortune to begin my legal career as a law clerk to Judge Louis Pollak on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Judge Thomas Ambro on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. From watching their exemplary work as judicial officers, I came to truly understand and appreciate what it means to have a judicial temperament. Win or lose, parties left both judges' courtrooms knowing that they had been heard, and the resulting opinions were written in a way that could be understood by counsel and pro se litigants alike.

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It has been a privilege to serve the residents of the District of Columbia as its Solicitor General. With your advice and consent, I very much look forward to serving the District in a new role as an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.