

**Opening Statement of Jonathan H. Pittman
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court, September 12, 2017**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am deeply grateful to you for 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. It is a great honor and very humbling to be recommended for this position. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and I would like to thank the President for nominating me. I also would like to thank Congresswoman Norton, who, although she could not attend today, submitted a statement on my behalf. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Committee members and the dedicated Committee staff for their hard work and for considering my nomination so carefully and expeditiously.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife, Wendy Smith, for her encouragement in my pursuing public service and for her unwavering support. Without Wendy's love and support, I would not be sitting here today. I also thank my parents, Fred and Joan Pittman, who are here today from South Carolina, for their guidance and support during my entire life. They taught me to work hard, strive for excellence, and to always treat everyone with dignity and respect. I would also like to acknowledge my stepson, Spencer Smith, who has taken time away from his preparation for the LSAT to travel here today from Massachusetts, and my daughters, Anna Kate and Louisa, both of whom are in school today. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many friends and colleagues who have mentored and supported me throughout my career, and I appreciate that many are here today.

I moved to the District of Columbia 27 years ago, after graduating from Vanderbilt Law School, to begin my legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable John A. Terry of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I then joined a large law firm here in the District, where I worked with and learned from some of the finest lawyers in the country. During my more than twenty years in private practice handling complex civil litigation, I appeared before excellent trial and appellate judges all over this country and I am thankful for that experience.

Since 2012, I have had the honor and privilege of serving the citizens of the District under two Attorneys General for the District of Columbia, first under Mr. Irvin Nathan and more recently, under Mr. Karl Racine, who is here today. I have served as a Section Chief in the Civil Litigation Division, defends the District of Columbia and its employees in civil litigation in the Superior Court as well as in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. More recently, I have served as the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Civil Litigation Division, where I assist the Deputy in managing the operation of the Division.

My deep respect for the rule of law began with my clerkship with Judge Terry and continues to this day. My experience with Judge Terry and the many judges I have appeared before over the years has given me an appreciation of the skill, dedication, and patience that is required to be a successful judge. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will commit to treating all parties with dignity and respect, to ensuring that all parties have an opportunity to present their case, and to making thoughtful and timely decisions.

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