

Opening Statement of Carl Ezekiel Ross
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
June 3, 2020

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. It is an honor to be considered for an associate judgeship with the D.C. Superior Court, and I want to thank the members of the Committee and the dedicated Committee staff for considering my nomination. I would like to thank the JNC and its Chair, the honorable Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House and the President for nominating me. I would like to thank my parents, Carl and Gwen Ross for teaching me the value of hard work and my siblings, Marsha, Della, and Cecil for keeping me grounded. I would like to thank my in-laws, Pastor Gerold and Wendy LeBlanc for always leading by example, and I would like to thank my family, friends and mentors, including the Honorable James Spencer, the Honorable Hannah Lauck, the Honorable Rhonda Reid-Winston, and the Honorable Rudolph Contreras for their continued guidance and support. I would like to thank the members and staff of the House Ethics Committee including Chairman Ted Deutch and Ranking Member Kenny Marchant for their leadership and for allowing me to work alongside them in the Committee's pursuit of justice. And most importantly, I would like to thank my incredible wife Kimberly for her unrelenting love and support. I am truly blessed to have her by my side.

I am a proud third-generation Washingtonian who was taught from an early age the importance of giving back to the community and living by the principle that "to whom much is given, much is required in return." My parents dedicated their professional careers to government service and they now dedicate their retirement years to caring for children in need and running a treatment foster care agency. Following in their public service footsteps, I began my legal career clerking for the Honorable James R. Spencer of the Eastern District of Virginia. During my clerkship, I witnessed first-hand the characteristics that make a good judge and I learned the importance of patience when dealing with civil and criminal litigants. I went on to work for a large international law firm here in Washington, D.C., where I learned to handle large and complex legal matters and, through my pro bono work, many of the challenges facing indigent litigants in the district. For seven years, I served beside some of the most talented and dedicated attorneys in the country as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. During my tenure as an AUSA, I managed a large and complex case docket and represented the United States in more than one hundred civil cases in federal district and appellate courts. And for the past three years, I have had the great honor of serving as Investigative Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics where I have investigated criminal and civil matters and helped prepare those matters for adjudication by the Committee. During my time with the Ethics Committee, I have moved away from traditional advocacy on behalf of an individual or entity and learned to review evidence and testimony with an eye towards adjudication. I have seen first-hand the importance of handling matters without pre-judgment, understand the need to move matters expeditiously, and comprehend the importance of ensuring that each individual that comes before the Committee receives proper due process.

It would be an incredible honor to now use the techniques, insights, and skills that I have developed throughout my career to serve my fellow residents of the District of Columbia as an Associate Judge with the D.C. Superior Court. If confirmed, I will ensure that all litigants are treated fairly, I will faithfully enforce the rule of law, and I will be steadfast in upholding the

Constitution. Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering your questions.