

Opening Statement of Elizabeth J. Shapiro
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
June 3, 2020

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Peters, and members of the Committee, it is a great privilege to be here. I am deeply grateful 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. I want to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House. I want to thank the President for nominating me. Finally, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Committee members and the dedicated Committee staff for their hard work in considering my nomination, particularly during this difficult period.

I want to single out my husband and life partner, Amos Gelb, for his love and support over the last 25 years. Without him, I could not have accomplished all that I have professionally, or managed to raise our three wonderful children. To my children, Noa, Eliya and Mica, I thank you for being the light of my life, for being the strong and independent-minded individuals that you are, and for sharing your mother with one of this country's great institutions, the Department of Justice. I love and cherish each of you. To the men and women of the Department of Justice, working with you has been an absolute privilege. You are the best and brightest colleagues imaginable. I particularly thank my colleagues in the Federal Programs Branch for being part of my extended family for the past 29 plus years. Your commitment to excellence and devotion to public service is second to none.

I am a native Detroiter and graduate of University of Michigan. From there I moved to Washington, D.C. to attend law school, and I have never left. My children were all born and raised here in D.C. My oldest daughter is a local actress and casting director. My other children are in college.

After starting my career as a judicial clerk at the Superior Court, I spent two years working appellate cases at the Department of Labor. From there I moved to the Department of Justice. In the Civil Division of DOJ I began as a line attorney, handling a wide variety of cases on behalf of the Executive Branch. I became a supervisor specializing in government information, and ultimately served as the Deputy Director of the Federal Programs Branch. I was also privileged to serve as Special Assistant United States Attorney for a limited time.

I have also been honored to represent the Department not just in court, but on the Federal Rules Committees created under the Rules Enabling Act. The inclusive and transparent nature of those proceedings is a model for the judiciary, as are the civility and open-mindedness, qualities that I hope and expect to bring to the bench.

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