

Opening Statement of Elana S. Suttentberg
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
October 23, 2025

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, members of the Committee, and Committee staff, thank you for considering my nomination to serve as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. I would like to thank President Donald J. Trump for the deep honor of nominating me to serve as an Associate Judge. I would also like to thank the members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to President Trump.

I am extremely grateful to U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro, and Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia Long, for their continuous support of me. I am also deeply grateful to my colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office who have mentored, supported, and encouraged me throughout the years.

I reserve special thanks for my husband, Jeremy Suttentberg—my best friend and strongest supporter. He is my rock who grounds me, makes me laugh, and challenges me intellectually. I adore him and our two sons. I am proud of our sons' kindness and curiosity, and it is my greatest pleasure to watch them grow. To my loving parents, Marcy and Stuart Newberger, thank you for nurturing me and instilling in me a commitment to family. My father passed along to me a love of the law, and my mother ensured I had the confidence to pursue my passions. My in-laws, Laurie and Jay Suttentberg, have embraced me like a daughter since our first meeting. I am grateful for the love and support of my siblings as well as my brothers- and sisters-in-law: Rebecca and Levron Schuchalter, Jacob Newberger and Galia Wilk, and Lindsay Suttentberg and Charles Charpentier. I am fortunate to have the tremendous support of an even larger extended family, and I am privileged to have devoted friends who are like family.

I have committed my legal career to seeking justice for the people of the District of Columbia. After law school, I was fortunate to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Royce C. Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Following my clerkship, I became an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where I have had the privilege of serving for the last thirteen years. As a prosecutor in the Office's Superior Court Division, I became a Senior Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section. In that role, I handled complex and sensitive cases involving domestic violence and sexual offenses committed against children and adults, and I prosecuted numerous cases as lead counsel in Superior Court. I later rose to become Special Counsel for Policy and Legislative Affairs, where I currently serve. I am dedicated to public service, and I am committed to continued service to the people of the District of Columbia. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as an Associate Judge on this esteemed bench.

Thank you again for your consideration of my nomination.