

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing: Judicial and Postal Nominations
September 7, 2023**

Today, we are considering four nominations: Robert Taub to serve as a Commissioner for the Postal Regulatory Commission, as well as Tanya Jones Bosier, Danny Nguyen, and Kenechukwu Okocha to be Associate Judges on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Welcome to each of the nominees and to your friends and family members joining us today. Congratulations on your nominations, and thank you for your prior public service and your willingness to fill these important positions.

The Postal Regulatory Commission and the D.C. Superior Court present these nominees with very different roles, but both are essential to the functioning of the federal government and to our nation's capital.

The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent agency that serves as the Postal Service's regulator, providing oversight and accountability. Robust oversight is especially important as the Postal Service continues to implement the Postal Service Reform Act passed last year, and makes other plans that could impact Americans. This bipartisan commission is most effective with a full complement of commissioners who have diverse perspectives, but who are all committed to ensuring transparency and accountability of the Postal Service.

I am pleased that we are considering Mr. Taub's nomination today, and I also look forward to receiving and promptly reviewing the nominee for the last upcoming vacancy on the commission.

The D.C. Superior Court functions as the state-level trial court in the nation's capital. The court handles some of the highest case volumes in the country, deciding matters that impact the freedom, livelihoods, and safety of individuals and families across the District. Unfortunately, the Superior Court continues to struggle with high judicial vacancy rates. Currently 12 of the 62 seats on the court are vacant – placing serious burdens on current judges and delayed resolutions for the parties before the court.

I am grateful to have three nominees here today who are willing to take on the challenging role of a D.C. Superior Court Judge, and I hope we will soon see several of these seats filled.

Welcome again to all four of you. Today's hearing is an important opportunity for the Committee to learn more about your qualifications and how you plan to serve in these new roles.