

Opening Statement of Christopher Michael De Bono
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
June 23, 2026

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 first thank President Donald J. Trump. I am deeply honored to have been nominated by him to serve as an Associate Judge. I would also like to thank the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, the Honorable Jeanine Ferris Pirro, for her support, for which I am extremely grateful.

I would like to thank the members of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to President Trump; the Honorable Jose L. Linares, for whom I had the privilege of clerking, for his support; and my colleagues at the Department of Justice for their encouragement.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. I am incredibly grateful for my wife, Alissa, my best friend and partner in life; my two wonderful children, who bring me such joy; my parents, Vincent and Deborah, who taught me the value of service and sacrifice; and my in-laws, David and Candyce, who welcomed me into their family. I would not be here today without them.

While I began my career as a civil and criminal defense attorney in private practice representing financial services and pharmaceutical companies, I have dedicated the last nine years to public service, working as an attorney with the Department of Justice to uphold the rule of law. As a Senior Attorney with the Drug Enforcement Administration, I advised Drug Enforcement Administration leadership on drug trafficking enforcement issues, including criminal discovery and disclosure obligations, the use of force, and dark web marketplace investigative techniques. I also defended the Drug Enforcement Administration at all stages of litigation before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and federal trial and appellate courts. In my current role as Senior Counsel with the Office of Legal Policy, I lead Department-wide efforts to develop and implement violent crime-reduction strategies and address emerging drug trafficking threats. I deeply admire the role that judges play in addressing crime and ensuring the fair, efficient, and impartial administration of justice.

My journey to the District began in 2006, when I was offered the opportunity to attend law school here. I fell in love with the District—and with my now-wife, a native Washingtonian—and we chose to make the District our permanent home. My commitment to public service and my gratitude for the opportunities that the District of Columbia has given me have led me here.

If I am given the honor of serving my community as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, I will approach the role with the same dedication and unwavering commitment to service that has guided my legal career.

Thank you again for your consideration of my nomination.