**Opening Statement of Bernard Michael Desrosiers**
**Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, members of the Committee, and Committee staff, thank you for considering my nomination to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. It is a privilege to be here today.

I want to begin by thanking President Donald J. Trump for the great honor of this nomination. I am also grateful to the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to the President, and I extend my sincere thanks to Attorney General Todd Blanche and U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro for their support and the confidence they have placed in me.

I have arrived at this moment because of the people who have been placed in my life. First, to my wife, Ida: you have been my rock. Your love and tireless support have carried me to this point, and I am deeply grateful to share this moment with you. I thank my parents, Bernie and Debbie, who sacrificed immeasurably for their children and instilled in me a deep respect for the law. I also thank my friends and colleagues who have helped me along the way. I owe you all a debt of gratitude I can never fully repay.

Finally, I would like to thank Thomas J. Keith, the former elected district attorney for Forsyth County, North Carolina. In 2007, he took a chance by hiring me fresh out of law school. His confidence in me helped set my feet on the path that has brought me before this Committee today.

I am mindful that the honor of serving as a judge carries great responsibility. A judge owes each person who appears before the court a fair hearing and a decision grounded in the law. A judge also owes a duty to the people who may never set foot in a courtroom. They, too, depend on the courts to uphold the rule of law and take the safety of their communities seriously.

My appreciation for that responsibility has deepened over my nineteen years of practicing law. I began my career as an assistant district attorney in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where I prosecuted cases ranging from misdemeanors to murder. I later went into private practice, where I represented criminal defendants and civil clients in state and federal courts. In each of these roles, I counted on the judge to hear both sides and follow the law.

Since joining the U.S. Department of Justice in 2018, I have handled matters involving both federal and D.C. Code offenders. Working alongside the attorneys and agencies that serve D.C. Superior Court and the federal courts here has given me a practical understanding of the District's unique justice system. Together, my experiences have reaffirmed my belief that a judge protects individual rights and helps safeguard the community by weighing the facts of each case impartially and applying the law faithfully.

If confirmed, I would draw on those experiences, listen carefully to those appearing before me, and give each case the attention it deserves. I would work every day to earn the trust of the people of the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.