

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson**  
**Nomination Hearing to Consider Roman Martinez IV and Ron Bloom to be Governors,**  
**United States Postal Service and James Crowell IV and Jason Park to be Associate Judges,**  
**District of Columbia Superior Court**  
**April 2, 2019**

Today the Committee will consider two nominations for Governor of the United States Postal Service. The Board of Governors functions similar to a private company's board of directors, overseeing the operational and financial decisions of the Postal Service. The Board also represents the public interest, ensuring that the Postal Service continues to meet the needs of customers and the American people. Due to dysfunction in Washington D.C., the Board of Governors has not had a quorum since December 2014. Last August, the Senate confirmed new Governors to the Board for the first time since 2010. Although that was a welcome development, the Board still lacks a quorum of four Governors, and is well short of its full membership of nine.

Last month this Committee held a hearing to consider the financial crisis facing the Postal Service, and the findings and recommendations made by the President's Task Force on the United States Postal System. That hearing highlighted the financial instability the Postal Service faces without action by its leadership, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Congress. Current projections show the Postal Service running out of money by 2020, or by 2024 if Postal leadership continues to default on legally required retirement liability payments. It should be obvious to interested observers that Congress cannot expect the Postal Service to address its financial challenges without a functioning and independent Board of Governors.

It is my hope, therefore, that we will give prompt consideration to all nominees for the Board of Governors pending before this committee. Today we will consider Mr. Roman Martinez IV and Mr. Ron Bloom. Mr. Martinez currently serves on the Board of Directors for Cigna, Corp. and Orbital ATK. He has nearly fifty years of business experience, including his role as former Managing Director for Lehman Brothers, and has twenty years of experience serving on various corporate Boards of Directors. Mr. Ron A. Bloom is currently the Vice Chairman of Brookfield Asset Management. He previously served as U.S. Treasury and White House advisor on automotive and manufacturing policy under President Obama, and has over thirty years of business experience.

We are also pleased to consider two nominees to serve as Associate Judges of the District of Columbia Superior Court. Since 2015 this Committee has considered and confirmed 10 associate judges to the court, but 10 vacancies remain. I'm glad that the President and the city are working together to ensure that we receive qualified nominees that can be confirmed without political obstruction.

Mr. James Crowell IV is currently the Director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys at the Department of Justice (DOJ). He has worked for DOJ for nearly eighteen years, including sixteen years as a federal prosecutor. Mr. Jason Park is currently the Deputy Chief in the Major Crimes Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C., where he supervises a group of Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) prosecuting violent felony cases in D.C. Superior Court.

I'd like to thank the nominees who have volunteered to serve in these important positions, and I look forward to hearing their testimony.