

Opening Statement

**Hearing before the Homeland Security and
Government Affairs Committee**

Thursday, July 19th at 10:00 AM

Nomination of Dennis D. Kirk to be Member and Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board;

Nomination of The Honorable Julia A. Clark to be Member of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board;

Nomination of Mr. Andrew F. Maunz to be Member and Vice Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board;

Nomination of Carmen G. McLean to be an Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Good morning. Today we will consider the nominations of Dennis Kirk, Julie Clark and Andrew Maunz to be Members of the Merit Systems Protection Board. We will also consider the nomination of Carmen McLean to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The Committee takes these nominations very seriously, and we are pleased to have you appearing before us today.

Dennis Dean Kirk, originally of Kansas, earned a B.S. from Northern Arizona University and his J.D. from the Washburn University School of Law.

Upon graduation, he moved to the Washington area and began working for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Kirk left government service to practice law in private practice in Northern Virginia for almost three decades before rejoining the federal government in 2005.

From 2005 until 2012, Mr. Kirk worked at the Pentagon for the Department of the Army, where he was recognized with multiple awards including a Special Act or Service Award for saving the Army millions of dollars.

The Honorable Julia Akins Clark is originally from the Shawnee, Oklahoma area. She graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with a B.A. in Political Science and then proceeded on to American University's Washington College of Law, where she earned her J.D. in 1980.

After completing law school, Ms. Clark also went to work for the federal government, joining the U.S. Department of Justice. After five years of public service, she went into private law practice here in the area before moving on to work briefly for the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Ms. Clark worked as Counsel for the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers for over two decades before being nominated and confirmed twice during the Obama Administration to serve as the General

Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. Ms. Clark currently serves in the Congressional Office of Compliance.

Andrew Felton Maunz, of Maryland, is also nominated to serve as a Member of the MSPB. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Maunz received his B.S. from Miami University in Ohio in 2005 and then attended the University of Toledo College of Law, earning his J.D. in 2008.

Like his fellow MSPB nominees, Mr. Maunz joined the federal government upon completion of law school. Mr. Maunz has worked as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Social Security Administration since 2008. He currently serves the agency as a senior attorney and has represented the agency in employment litigation before administrative agencies, including the Merit Systems Protection Board.

And Carmen McLean is appearing before us today as a nominee to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Ms. McLean, originally from Oregon, graduated with a B.S. from George Fox University in 1998 and earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 2001.

Ms. McLean is a Partner at Jones Day here in Washington, DC. She has extensive experience in contracts, tort and antitrust law. She's also developed an expertise in civil procedure and discovery, especially discovery practices relating to new technologies and social media.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ms. McLean's tremendous work on behalf of at-risk children in Washington, DC. Ms. McLean has been active with the Children's Law Center and has provided thousands of hours of pro bono work to help individuals and families who want to provide a safe and permanent home for at-risk children. For this work, Ms. McLean was named in 2012 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the D.C. Bar Association. I applaud your hard work and commitment to your community.

Committee staff reached out to a variety of these nominees' colleagues and affiliates, who spoke highly of them.

Committee staff also had the opportunity to interview all the nominees on an array of issues.

They have thoughtfully and competently answered each question.

I look forward to speaking with you a bit more today on your experience and accomplishments and how you intend to bring them to bear in a fair and impartial manner for the Merit Systems Protection Board and for the District of Columbia.

I now recognize Ranking Member Peters for his opening statement.