

Opening Statement- As Prepared

Ranking Member James Lankford

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

*Nominations of Loren L. AliKhan and John P. Howard III to be Associate Judges,
District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Adrienne Jennings Noti to be an Associate Judge,
Superior Court of the District of Columbia*

December 2, 2021 10:15AM

Thank you, Chairman Peters.

Thank you to the nominees for appearing before us today. It is a long process to get to this spot. You did not do this alone, your family walked with you through this process and we appreciate you all going through this.

The committee takes these judicial nominations very seriously. The nomination process for DC judges is different from that of Article III and other federal judges and demonstrates the unique Constitutional responsibility Congress has over the District of Columbia. Part of that responsibility, as outlined in the Home Rule Act, is to ensure the District has well qualified judges to serve the city.

It is vital that the District has qualified, unbiased judges to serve in both the Superior Court and Court of Appeals. The city faces a number of serious issues, from crime rates to evictions to broader constitutional questions such as how the city treated houses of worship during the pandemic.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you today and get a better sense of how you will approach the many difficult questions that will come before you if you are confirmed.

I think the committee for holding this hearing and look forward to speaking with each of you.