

Opening Statement of Rainey R. Brandt
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
July 16, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear today, as you consider my nomination to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The committee members and their staff have been very welcoming and I appreciate the hard work and careful consideration of my nomination. I would like to thank the DC Judicial Nomination Committee and its chair Judge Emmett Sullivan for recommending me to the White House, and the President for nominating me.

It is an honor to be seated here today with my colleague and friend, Judge Shana Matini. Our friendship began over twenty years ago when we clerked together at Superior Court. I am fortunate to have the support and guidance from many friends and colleagues, some of whom are here today. I thank you all for helping me get to this point. Five of them in particular who are present, I would like to recognize at this time: Chief Judge Robert Morin, as well as former Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, have been with me every step along my judicial journey. Deputy Director of Interpol, Michael Hughes, whose friendship is a source of support and guidance. Judge Michael Rankin and Judge Stephanie Duncan Peters, for whom I clerked, and learned so much about how to be a good judge.

I would like to observe that my mom, Eloise Ransom, who died 3 years ago, is in my heart and I know she is proud of what both her daughters have accomplished. My sister, Cricket Ransom, a dedicated DC public school teacher, is here today to offer her support. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my husband, Chief Robert Brandt of the United States Marshals Service. His unconditional love and support enable me to give 110% to DC Superior Court.

I have lived in the District of Columbia for over 30 years. Much of my legal career has been at Superior Court, first as a student practicing attorney, then judicial law clerk to Judges Michael Rankin and Stephanie Duncan-Peters, then as a special counsel to three chief judges, and now as a magistrate judge. In addition to my work as a lawyer and judicial officer, I teach at American University and have done so for over twenty five years. All of these experiences have given me the opportunity to be a good public servant, and prepared me to become an associate judge.

Since 2012, I have been a magistrate judge at DC Superior Court. During my tenure I have been assigned to the criminal, civil and domestic violence divisions. I am well-prepared to assume the additional responsibilities of an associate judge. In addition to my caseload responsibilities, I serve on a variety of court committees and have taken on the leadership role of currently being the Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge.

Each day I see people from all walks of life, with varied degrees of temperament and vulnerability. I work diligently to ensure that all litigants who appear before me feel they are heard and each case handled fairly— all while preserving the rule of law.

It is an honor to serve the citizens of the District of Columbia as I maintain the court's mission of being open to all, trusted by all, providing justice to all. Thank you again for your consideration, and I look forward to answering your questions.