

Opening Statement of Rainey Ransom Brandt
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
July 20, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear today at this confirmation hearing for my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. It is indeed an honor and a privilege. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission – particularly its chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan – for recommending me to the White House, and President Barack Obama for nominating me. I also wish to express my appreciation to the committee members and staff who have been most courteous and professional throughout this process. Finally, special thanks to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for taking the time out of her busy schedule to introduce me.

I would like to begin by introducing my family: my Mom, Eloise Ransom; my husband, Deputy Chief U.S. Marshal Robert Brandt; and my sister, Nona Ann (Cricket) Ransom. There are a number of Superior Court Judges here in support of my nomination, too many to name, but I would like to acknowledge Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, former Chief Judge Rufus King, Judge Russell Canan, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, and Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters, former Presiding Judge of the Civil Division. Also here are a number of friends, former students, and colleagues from the Department of Justice and American University, among them the U.S. Marshal for the D.C. Superior Court, Michael Hughes, and the Assistant D.C. Chief of Police Michael Anzallo. I am grateful for all the support, guidance and love they have given me.

My entire career has been devoted to public service, the law, and improving the administration of justice. It began 21 years ago as a professor teaching justice and law to the students of American University – where I have taught ever since. It is one of my great satisfactions in life that my students still reach out to let me know how my classes inspired them to enter public service and make a difference. As a judge, I hope to continue to be a role model for others while ensuring that the rights of all who come before me are respected and protected.

For 14 years at the D.C. Superior Court as Special Counsel to the Chief Judge, I have provided counsel, advice and training to nearly all of our judges and countless attorneys on a broad range of legal issues from bond reviews to trial logistics to sentencing options. My job puts me in day-to-day contact with judges seeking my guidance on how to work through the practical realities facing them in the courtroom – from issues of substantive law, to procedural issues, to managing challenging and unexpected courtroom situations. I also have worked diligently within the Court to make sure that its processes and rules are fair and understandable for those persons who appear before the court: lawyers and parties, self-represented persons, the accused, victims and their families. I believe that my hard work, creativity, and commitment to the Court, along with that of so many of my dedicated colleagues, have helped improve access to justice for all who come to the Court daily seeking to be heard and to solve the difficulties that brought them to us. I have been fortunate to experience the justice system from a variety of perspectives, and, if confirmed, I would bring those skills and experience to the bench, in order to continue furthering the court's mission of being open to all, and trusted by all, while providing justice for all. Thank you. I will be pleased to respond to any questions you or other Members of the Committee might have.