

MSPB NOMINATION HEARING TESTIMONY

RAYMOND ANTHONY LIMON
VICE-CHAIR
U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
September 22, 2021

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to appear before you today.

I want to thank President Biden for my nomination to the position of Vice-Chair of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

My personal journey and how I arrived here today begins with my parents. They inspired my passion for service, education, and hard work. They raised ten children (with two sets of twins!) and I am the oldest of those 10 children. My immigrant grandparents' work ethic and dedication to their children inspired the next generations and infused us with passion to be life-long learners and to be active members in our communities. As a first-generation college graduate, I honor my family's sacrifices that have made it possible for me to be here today.

From a young age, I knew I wanted to study the law and become a lawyer. Though we did not have lawyers in my family or in the neighborhood where I grew up, my parents always supported my dream. At the age of seventeen, I moved away from home and worked my way through college. It was at the University of Nevada Reno where I obtained my degree in Political Science and Pre-Law. However, with limited means, I tempered my law school dreams and sought a new dream – to represent my country as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

I proudly served for two years in Honduras. It was there that I met my wife, Susana, another Peace Corps Volunteer, who joins me today. After the Peace Corps, we both attended Indiana University in Bloomington where I received my law degree. We were active students at Indiana, where we both took internships at Bloomington's City Hall. We volunteered on the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter— Board of Directors and organized various home builds. I led fundraisers for the local Boys & Girls Club by organizing the annual law students versus faculty basketball games. Those games were far more intimidating than moot court. My love for basketball blossomed in Indiana where I became a certified High School Basketball referee. Today, I organize weekly basketball pickup games in Hyattsville, Maryland.

These are a few examples that show why service is so important to me. Serving in my community, whether in Central America or in America's heartland, has opened opportunities for me in ways that otherwise would not have happened.

Shortly after law school, I joined the Federal workforce as a civil servant. I worked at the Office of Personnel Management; the Corporation for National and Community Service; the State Department;

and now at the Department of the Interior. My experiences working internationally and nationally are what grounds me and what informs my deep commitment to protecting our country and our workforce.

This commitment to the love of service and learning, which I was born into, and which I have been surrounded with throughout my entire career continues to evolve. This commitment is what my wife and I have hopefully shared with the “joys of our life,” our two sons, Drew and Sean. As you can see, family is extremely important to me. It is for this reason that I feel called to this position, to do my part, and to apply my expertise to serve the Federal family.

The common thread running through my career has been my whole-hearted commitment to public service. Although each of us has a different story of what brought us into public service, those stories all contribute to making our government better! If confirmed, it will be a privilege for me to serve as the MSPB’s Vice-Chair.

Finally, I’d like to thank all the public servants and volunteers who have helped me along the way. From members of the Armed services, my colleagues in the civil and foreign services, Peace Corps, VISTA, and AmeriCorps volunteers to the state and local government officials and various good government groups that have supported and mentored me over the years. In looking back at my career, I want to keep the call to public service stronger than ever, thus that is why I’m committed to promoting and protecting the merit system principles. To that end, I would also like to acknowledge my niece, Kalie who recently became the Washoe County Recorder in Reno, Nevada; and my nephew, Ian, who just started his career with the U.S. Coast Guard. I’m excited about the new generation of Americans who are ready to serve, and I am prepared to do my part to make that happen.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to appear before you today and to answer questions you may have.