

Opening Statement of Shana Frost Matini
Nominee to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
July 16, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and thank you for considering my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I want to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission, and in particular the Commission's Chair, the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and the President for nominating me. I also wish to recognize and thank Chief Judge Robert E. Morin, who is present today, for his support and leadership, and to thank the Committee staff for their hard work in preparing for this hearing.

I am pleased to be joined today by members of my family. My father, Robert, resides in California and could not be here today, but he is watching the hearing online with, no doubt, a great deal of pride. My mother, Lynda, traveled from her home in Florida to support me today, as she has done every day of my life. My husband, Ali, and our daughter, Sofia, are also present – their love and encouragement means the world to me and I am thankful to have them in my life. I am also joined by a number of friends and colleagues. I am grateful to each of them for their friendship.

It is a great honor to be considered for Associate Judge on the Court where my legal career began when the Honorable Richard A. Levie hired me to serve as his law clerk. I am forever indebted to Judge Levie, who is here today, for his guidance and unwavering support throughout my career. My clerkship also provided an opportunity to form long-term relationships with my fellow law clerks, including my friend and colleague Judge Rainey Brandt, who clerked the same year as I did.

Upon graduation from law school in the District and after my clerkship, I worked in both the private and non-profit sectors before joining the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General, where I served the District and its citizens as an attorney in the Civil Litigation and Equity Divisions. As a litigation attorney for the Office of the Attorney General, I practiced regularly in the Superior Court, and always found the judges before whom I appeared to be thoughtful, fair and dedicated. Not only did I learn so much as a practitioner in Superior Court, but when I was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge, I was provided invaluable guidance from my Superior Court colleagues. Since my appointment as a magistrate judge, I have served the Court in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions, and thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that each assignment presented and the ability to serve my community. I am humbled by this nomination and, if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, the opportunity to continue serving the District of Columbia as an Associate Judge of the very Court where I started as a young lawyer and have learned so much. I look forward to answering any questions the Committee has for me.