

Opening Statement of Leslie A. Meek
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court

Good morning Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman and members of the Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination to serve as Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Superior Court. I am honored to be here. I am also honored by President Joseph Biden's nomination of me for the District of Columbia Superior Court and I thank him for it. I am thankful to the members of the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Commission and its Chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House.

I am thankful for the support of my family and friends and all of the love they share with me as I journey towards this endeavor. I am the proud mother of two wonderful adults, Lauren Meek a burgeoning artist in New York City and Kendrick Meek Jr. a third-year law student at the University of Miami. Throughout this process they have been tremendous motivators, with kind and generous encouragement. I could not have asked for better children or cheerleaders.

I am a first-generation American, born to parents who immigrated to the United States from Jamaica. It was their intention to come to this country and live the American dream, and I am the personification of those dreams.

My mother, Lois Eccleston-Capp, always gave me the space to dream, and the support to accomplish my dreams; she is my heart and I thank her for her enduring support, her prayers, and her faith in me.

I am thankful to my late grandmother, Lucille Butler-James, who didn't have the privilege of attending college herself, but seemingly every day of my young life, impressed upon me the importance of an education.

I am thankful to my late father, Harold Dixon, who taught me by example how determination, focus, and industry can overcome obstacles.

I thank my late mother-in-law, former Congresswoman Carrie Meek for all that she taught me, her friendship, and her love. Carrie frequently shared her philosophy, "To be a true public servant, you have to love people." Recalling this mantra reminds me that I am on the right track.

I am currently an Administrative Law Judge with the District of Columbia Government. During the last 16 years I have successfully served the District as both an Administrative Law Judge and Administrative Appeals Judge. In that time, I have adjudicated over 7,000 cases concerning a number of entities, including the Department of Employment Services, Department of Health, Department of Public Works, Department of Energy and the Environment, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Tax and Revenue, and the Department of Transportation.

My 16 years of adjudicatory experience has taught me the importance of maintaining a respectful and courteous judicial temperament, and should I be fortunate enough to be confirmed, I remain committed to humbly serving the District's residents with unbiased, sound, and efficient judicial review of the cases that come before me.

My legal career began when I was hired out of law school to serve as a prosecutor for the Miami-Dade States Attorney Office. During that time, I prosecuted criminal cases in the County Court. I

then served as General Counsel to United Teachers of Dade and as a prosecuting attorney for the City of Miami and the State of Florida Comptroller's Office. In these positions I litigated civil, labor and employment law cases before administrative courts. These experiences honed my litigation skills and prepared me well for my position as a judge.

My professional experiences have given me a solid understanding of the role of adjudicator and the importance of ensuring that justice is applied fairly and impartially. I am eager to use my skills to serve the District of Columbia as a Superior Court Associate Judge and I stand ready to answer any of your questions as you consider entrusting me with this very important position.