

**Opening Statement of Robert D. Okun**  
**Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court**  
**November 20, 2012**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to the White House and President Obama for nominating me, and I also would like to thank Congresswoman Norton for taking the time out of her busy schedule to introduce me at this hearing today. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee members and staff for considering my nomination so expeditiously.

I would like to begin by introducing the members of my family who are here today: my father-in-law, Irving Korostoff, my mother-in-law, Ethel Korostoff, my sister, Ellen Okun, my brother-in-law, Donald Zack, my daughter, Julia, my son, Eli, and last but not least, my wife, Sue, who has been my source of support and guidance throughout the entire judicial nomination process. I also would like to recognize my late parents, Bill and Judy Okun, who would be very pleased to see me sitting here today, and without whom I would not be sitting here. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my many friends and colleagues, some of whom are here today, and to thank them for all their support and kindness over the years.

My entire career has been devoted to public service and the majority of my career has been specifically dedicated to serving the people of the District of Columbia. In fact, I started my legal career as a judicial law clerk in the District of Columbia Superior Court, serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Frank E. Schwelb. I also spent a significant portion of my career as a consumer protection attorney, first at the Federal Trade Commission and then at the U.S. Department of Justice. Last, but not least, I have served as a prosecutor for almost 19 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, litigating a wide variety of cases in both Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. It would be a privilege and an honor for me to continue my public service, and my commitment to the citizens of the District of Columbia, as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you might have.