

Opening Statement of Darlene M. Soltys
Nominee for Associate Judge, District of Columbia Superior Court
December 3, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as a nominee for a position as an Associate Judge in the District of Columbia Superior Court. I thank the Judicial Nomination Commission, and its Chairman, the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan for recommending me to the White House, and to the President for nominating me. Thank you also to Congresswoman Norton for her kind words in introducing me this morning. I am honored by the presence of those who are here today, my law enforcement partners from the FBI and the Metropolitan Police Department, and my colleagues from the United States Attorney's Office. I would like to acknowledge and thank my parents, who are here today, Al and Emily Soltys. I am who I am because of them. I am also grateful for the love and support of my spouse, Pilar Suescum and our daughters, Gabriela and Lilian.

I was raised in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. My father's 32 years at the National Security Agency taught me the value of hard work and the importance of public service. I came to Washington, D.C. in 1987 to attend law school at Georgetown University. Since then, I have lived on Capitol Hill. Serving the community and the public interest is one of the most satisfying aspects of my profession. My legal career began as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Gregory E. Mize of the Superior Court, who, I am honored to report, is in attendance at this hearing. Thereafter, I have served as a prosecutor, handling diverse criminal offenses in Washington D.C., in both the Superior Court and in federal district court for the District of Columbia, and in the circuit court for Prince George's County, Maryland. This career path has exposed me to the myriad of issues plaguing our community and impressed upon me the importance of the Governments' responsibility to ensure justice in our society. I have had the privilege to appear before many fine jurists who care deeply about the fair administration of justice and due process for all. These inspiring role models are essential to the effective functioning of our legal system.

I would be honored to put my experience to work, to ensure that the people of our city receive impartial and thoughtful consideration of their matters, and that justice is served, with fairness and respect for all.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.