

Opening Statement of Tovah R. Calderon
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals
September 14, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman and members of the Committee. I am honored and humbled to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I would like to thank you and your staff for holding this hearing, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for the kind introduction. I also would like to thank the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and of course, I would like to thank President Joseph Biden for nominating me. I am also grateful to Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and the other D.C. Court of Appeals judges for their kind words, guidance, and encouragement as I have gone through this process.

I would not be here today if not for the love and support of my family and friends. I would like to acknowledge my parents, Stan and Marlene Calderon, as well as my brother, Michael Calderon, his wife, Julie, and their four children, Alexis, Andrew, Teddy, and Olivia. They are supporting me from their homes in Chicago, just two and half hours from where I grew up in northwest Indiana. I also would like to acknowledge my many aunts, uncles, and cousins, as well as the countless friends and colleagues who have supported me over the years and who are cheering me on today. I am truly fortunate to have so many good people in my corner. Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank my best friend and husband of more than 14 years, Gregory McCampbell, who has served our country as a member of the military and now as a federal civilian employee like me. He inspires me every day to work hard and to be a better person, and I am forever grateful for his unconditional love and support.

I grew up in the Midwest and moved to the District of Columbia in 1995, following graduation from the University of Michigan. I came to D.C. for a summer internship but immediately fell in love with the City and decided to make it my home, which it has been now for the last twenty-six years. As a student at Howard University School of Law, I interned at the D.C. Public Defender Service and also worked as a student lawyer in the school's criminal justice clinic, where I represented indigent individuals charged with misdemeanors in D.C. Superior Court. After graduation, I served as a judicial law clerk for one year in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Since then, and for more than 20 years, I have proudly represented the United States in the enforcement of federal civil rights laws at the Department of Justice. I currently serve as an Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Department's Civil Rights Division. But most of my time at the Department has been spent in the Civil Rights Division's Appellate Section. My practice in that office has been extraordinarily broad and has included both criminal and civil cases. I have handled appeals at every stage of appellate litigation and in almost every federal circuit court in the country. I also have had the privilege to work closely with the Office of the Solicitor General on cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Although I started in the Appellate Section as a line attorney, I eventually worked my way up to the position of Deputy Chief, with responsibility for supervising the work of more junior attorneys and helping to manage the day-to-day operations of a busy office. My career in the Civil Rights Division has provided me with

a deep appreciation for the rule of law, and I am grateful to each and every one of my colleagues over the years from whom I have learned so much.

An express part of the Department's mission is to "ensure fair and impartial administration of justice." This responsibility is unique to lawyers representing the United States, and I believe it has prepared me well for a career on the bench. If confirmed, I will work hard to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice for my fellow residents in the District of Columbia.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering your questions.