

Opening Statement of Ebony M. Scott
Nominee to be an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Thank you, Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman, for holding this hearing today to consider my nomination to serve as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Thank you also to the Committee staff for their hard work preparing for this hearing. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, the Honorable Emmett G. Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and I thank President Joseph Biden for the honor of this nomination.

As Maya Angelou has said, I come as one, but I stand as 10,000. I did not travel the road that led me here today alone. I would like to thank and acknowledge my Court family—in particular, the Chief of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Anita Josey-Herring and my mentor, Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, for their immeasurable support. I am truly fortunate to have the support not only of my colleagues present and past, but my friends and family members, too many to name, many of whom are watching virtually, and all of whom I am deeply grateful to.

I would like to recognize and thank my husband, Jon Scott. His love has been enduring, and his encouragement and understanding has been endless.

I would like to recognize my maternal grandmother, Gladys Slaughter, who is watching from my hometown of Buffalo, New York. Thank you for your support, and most importantly your love. I would like to recognize my father-in-law, John H. Scott, and mother-in-law, JoEllen Scott. I would also like to recognize my husband's Mother, Dorothy Harris Scott, who passed away in 1996. Although I never met her, her spirit is with me, and I honor her memory today.

I would like to now tell you a little about my background. My mother, Darnetta Adamson, who is watching from home, is my hero. My mother had me as a teenager, and even though she had many hurdles to cross as a result of having a child at a young age, she always modeled for me grace, hard work, humility, and strength. As I have told her many times over the years, the pride that wells up in her when she looks at me, is the same pride that wells up in me when I look at her.

My father, Dewitt Oliver, who we lost at a young age in the beginning of the COVID pandemic, was also a source of strength for me and a man of dignity and valor. Likewise, my paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Morse, who we lost just a few months after my father, was also a source of strength and encouragement. My Grandmother instilled in me the pursuit of excellence, which I have carried with me every step of my career, including in my current role as a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Since my appointment to the bench, I have presided over the Court's high-volume civil calendars, dutifully applying the law to the facts, and serving the Court, and the people who come before, me with respect. Prior to my service on the Court, I was a civil trial attorney and Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and brought a variety of matters in the Superior Court over the course of nine years. I also served as a General Counsel and Deputy Director at District of Columbia Agencies, and worked on administrative and personnel matters affecting local and governmental employees. I began my career as a Judicial Law Clerk on the District of Columbia Appeals, and conducted research and writing on issues that were appealed from the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

I can assure the Committee that my broad range of professional experience has well-equipped me to be a prepared, thoughtful, and fair Associate Judge, should I be confirmed. I truly love this city, and

have built my personal and professional life here. It would be an honor of a lifetime to continue to give back to a city that has given me so much.

I look forward to answering the Committee's questions.