

**OPENING STATEMENT OF MILTON C. LEE, JR.
NOMINEE, ASSOCIATE JUDGE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SUPERIOR COURT APRIL 20, 2010**

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today, to have you consider my qualifications for a position as an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Before I begin I would like to introduce my family who are here with me today: my wife Claudia, my son Joshua, my sister and brother, Sandra and Michael. There are a number of people I need to thank, but first and foremost, I would like to express a most heartfelt appreciation to my family, who have supported me in every way possible, and who have sacrificed beyond words to allow me to pursue a career of public service to the citizens of the District of Columbia where I was born and raised.

There are many other people, some in the gallery, who have been important role models and colleagues throughout my professional career, and while I will not take time to acknowledge them individually, I would like to express my appreciation to them for their sharing their wisdom, friendship, counsel and integrity with me on countless occasions. I would like to specifically acknowledge Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield of the D.C. Superior Court for his support.

I would like to thank Judge Emmett G. Sullivan and the members of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission for recommending me to the White House, and President Barack Obama for nominating me.

Finally, I would like to thank this Committee for acting upon my nomination in such a thorough and timely fashion. Throughout the vetting process, the staff of this Committee has treated me with professionalism, respect and courtesy, for which I would like to express my appreciation.

I am fortunate and blessed to be under consideration for a position as an Associate Judge on the Court that serves this city and its residents.

I was born and raised in the District of Columbia. I am the product of the city's educational system. I graduated from American University with an undergraduate degree. I received my law degree from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

After receiving my law degree, I served as a member of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. I practiced in the D.C. Superior Court for many years. After almost nine years as a defense attorney, I joined the faculty at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. I taught in the Juvenile Law Clinic

for two years before transitioning to the classroom where I taught Evidence, Criminal Law and Procedure and Trial Advocacy among other courses.

Since 1997 I have held the position of Magistrate Judge in the District of Columbia Superior Court. As a magistrate judge I have served in each of the Court operating divisions and have for the last five years served in the Family Court. During that time I have presided over juvenile delinquency matters and domestic relation and child support matters. Most recently I have served as the presiding judge of the Court's Fathering Court Initiative. That initiative is the Court's effort to provide a problem-solving approach to child support issues for men returning to the community from a period of incarceration. Those efforts focus on providing employment, parenting training and wrap-around services to help the participating men act like fathers in every sense of the word. It is our hope that we will develop a national model for fathering programs.

I have spent my professional life serving the citizens of the District of Columbia through the city's judicial system. If confirmed, I would be honored to be in a position to continue that service as an Associate Judge on the Court. I recognize that many people come to the Court at a time of when anxiety is high in their lives. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Their cases should be resolved fairly and efficiently and in a manner that demonstrates the highest level of professionalism. That is the commitment that I make to people of the city where I was born and raised.

I am honored to be considered for this position, and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee might have about my qualifications.