

Opening Statement of Donna M. Murphy
Nominee, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia
June 15, 2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my qualifications for a position as an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission, chaired by the Honorable Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and President Barack Obama for my nomination. I would also like to thank the Committee staff for their professionalism in this process.

I am pleased that many of my family members, friends, and colleagues are here with me today. While I cannot acknowledge them all by name, I would like to introduce my family: my husband, Keenan Keller; my daughters, Claire and Lillian Keller; my parents who traveled here from Pennsylvania, Jack and Isabelle Murphy; and my father- and mother-in-law who traveled here from Ohio, Albert and Inell Keller. I am grateful to all of my family, friends, colleagues and mentors for the support and encouragement they have provided in my chosen career of public service and particularly in my application for this position on the D.C. Superior Court.

I was born and raised in Norristown, Pennsylvania; however, I have chosen Washington, D.C., as my home. I first visited the District of Columbia on a family vacation when I was approximately 12 years old, and I decided at that time that I would move to this city and make it my home. I followed through on my decision and moved to the District to attend college at American University. I did leave for a few years to attend Yale Law School and to begin my legal career by serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Myron Thompson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. After my clerkship, I moved back to Washington to work for the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, and I have lived here since that time.

Throughout my career I have been fortunate to hold positions where my job every day is to do justice. This began with my clerkship, where Judge Thompson taught me a tremendous amount about the law while underscoring the importance of treating everyone who walks into the court with respect and dignity. Judge Myron Thompson is a smart, fair and respected jurist. He is one of my role models and has been an inspiration to me in seeking a position on the D.C. Superior Court.

As an attorney and manager in the Civil Rights Division for the last 20 years, I have had the opportunity to protect and defend the civil rights of many people whose rights otherwise might never have been vindicated. I have challenged myself by working in a variety of complex substantive areas, including federal voting rights enforcement; civil enforcement of federal laws prohibiting systemic law enforcement misconduct; and enforcement of federal laws prohibiting discrimination in credit, housing and public accommodations. I have worked in these areas as a deputy chief and special counsel, supervising numerous investigations and cases involving potential pattern or practice civil rights violations. I have trained dozens of new Department of Justice lawyers to enforce the law in a thorough and professional manner. I have been honored by the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout this great

country by doing justice. I also have been fortunate to have tremendously talented and dedicated colleagues.

If I am confirmed for the position of Associate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court, I look forward to the opportunity to focus my legal skills and energy on serving people in the District of Columbia, and bringing to the bench my extensive litigation, negotiation and management experience. I am truly honored and humbled to be considered for this position, and I would welcome the opportunity to devote myself to providing justice in a fair and respectful manner for the people of the District of Columbia. Thank you again for your time and your consideration of my nomination.