

**Prepared Statement of Marisa J. Demeo**  
**May 13, 2009**

I would like to introduce my parents, Palmer DeMeo and Emilia Mauras Demeo, my sister Priscilla, my cousin Melissa Milam and her husband Terrell, and my partner Angela Arboleda, who works for the Senate Majority Leader. Many other people have come here today to show their support for my nomination from the court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Public Defender Service, and others who serve the community at the national and local level. Although time does not permit me to mention each of them individually, it is this broad support that creates in me the sense of a responsibility to serve the public and to do so fairly and impartially.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee for scheduling this hearing and taking the time to consider my qualifications for the position of Associate Judge. It is a true honor to have the privilege to appear before this Committee today. I would like to thank the Committee's staff as well for their hard work in collecting and reviewing my qualifications.

I would like to thank Federal District Judge Emmet Sullivan and all the members of the D.C. Judicial Nominations Commission for forwarding my name to the White House.

I want to thank President Barack Obama for nominating me for the position, and the staff in the White House who worked diligently and conscientiously throughout this process.

My father's parents were immigrants from Italy who came to this country with little education but with the belief that they wanted to have a better life and the willingness to work hard for that better life for them and their children. That hard work paid off when my father had the opportunity to attend Georgetown University. My mother was born and grew up in Puerto Rico, her own parents having only reached a high school education. Despite socio-economic barriers, my mother through faith in God and hard work excelled in school, went to the University of Puerto Rico, and came to the United States for a better life. My parents met here in D.C. and as they say, the rest is history.

My parents raised my brother, sister and me in a strict environment in which we were taught the values of faith, family, integrity, education and hard work. I also learned growing up the values of being humble and fair.

With those values, I have studied hard, worked hard, and dedicated my career to serve the public. Over the last 5 years, I have particularly dedicated myself to serving the District of Columbia by my work as a criminal prosecutor, as a magistrate judge and an adjunct professor at Howard University School of Law.

I hope you will find after reviewing my record that I would be a fair and impartial judge who would bring integrity and respect to the bench. Thank you.