

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
SENATOR GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

D.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES NOMINATION HEARING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

Thank you, Senator Akaka. I want to extend a welcome to the nominees appearing before us today - we appreciate your time and your willingness to serve on the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Judges have the significant responsibilities of protecting citizens' rights and liberties, upholding and interpreting the law, and equitably resolving disputes. I trust that if confirmed, each of you will fulfill these responsibilities with honor, courage, and character befitting the court.

Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed each of the nominee's biographical questionnaires and believe each of them is well qualified to serve as an Associate Judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Each of them would bring extensive legal experience to the bench.

Judge Dalton has spent about fifteen years practicing or presiding over family law matters. Family law is never an easy area of law to practice, but Judge Dalton has spent a great deal of time advocating for the best interests of children, parents and custodians, and I understand that she has served the D.C. Superior Court well as a Magistrate Judge.

Ms. Pasichow has a strong history of public service, serving as an Assistant United States Attorney for more than twenty years. She has experience in a number of different areas of criminal law.

Mr. Epstein has more than twenty-five years of litigation experience in private practice. He also has a history of public service, working as an Assistant United States Attorney, as an attorney in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, and as a U.S. District Court law clerk.

This is just a brief summary of these nominees' qualifications to be Associate Judges for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

I look forward to hearing more from the nominees about their education, experience, and interest in pursuing public service, and again, I want to thank each of them for their time today and their willingness to serve the District of Columbia. I hope that the Committee will vote on these nominations in the very near future.

Thank you, Senator Akaka.