

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHARLES J. WILLOUGHBY, JR.**  
**Nominee to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court**  
**September 21, 2023**

Good morning, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Paul and members of the Committee. I am humbled, honored, and grateful to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, The Honorable Marie C. Johns, for recommending me to the White House and President Joseph Biden for nominating me.

Additionally, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the current U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Matthew Graves, as well as former U.S. Attorneys Ronald Machen, Vincent Cohen, Jessie Liu, and Channing Phillips for their leadership and support. I would also like to thank former U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Virgin Islands Ronald Sharpe for his guidance and mentorship throughout my legal career. I am thankful to my current and former colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office, the many law enforcement officials with whom I have had the opportunity to work, and the defense bar of the District of Columbia, who have all in some form or fashion, inspired, encouraged, and challenged me.

There are no words to capture the appreciation and love that I reserve for my family and close friends. It is because of their unwavering and unconditional support, that I sit before you today.

Born as the eldest of two sons of Charles Willoughby, Sr. and Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby, here in Washington, D.C., my parents instilled in me early on the importance of being a public servant. My father, an attorney, worked as a public servant in local and federal agencies for most of his legal career – including in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. My mother, an educator and administrator, served in various capacities in public schools and in institutions of higher education throughout D.C. While my late father is not with us today, it brings me great joy to have my mother in attendance. She continues to inspire me and reminds me of the importance of serving my community.

As a second-generation Washingtonian, it is a great honor to be considered for a judgeship on a court that I first visited as a young child more than 30 years ago, where my father appeared when he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Some of my fondest memories are of watching him in court and it was no surprise to many when I followed in his footsteps and attended the Howard University School of Law, just as he had done.

Also, with me today is my beautiful wife, Cassandra Vincent. We met in St. Thomas, where she was employed as a Detective for the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department and I was beginning my career as a prosecutor. Her love and dedication are underscored by the fact that she graciously relocated from her beautiful native island to support me when the opportunity arose for me to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia. Cassandra and I are blessed to have three sons – my two stepsons Amileo and Dante, who could not be with us today – and our son, Chaz.

Shortly after graduating from Howard, I began my legal career as an Assistant Attorney General in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where I began prosecuting misdemeanor matters and was soon elevated to prosecuting violent crime felonies. In 2014, after five years on the Island, I returned to D.C. to join the U.S. Attorney's Office, where I have served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for almost a decade. During my tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, I have appeared in both D.C. Superior Court and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia prosecuting a wide range of criminal matters, including homicides, and cybercrimes.

Throughout the course of my legal career, I have made it a priority to exercise sound judgment, be respectful to all whose paths I crossed, and above all maintain fidelity to the law. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents and community of the District of Columbia in a new role if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed to be an Associate Judge. Again, I thank you for your consideration of my nomination and I look forward to answering your questions.