

**OPENING STATEMENT OF DANNY LAM NGUYEN**  
**Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**September 7, 2023**

Good morning Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Paul, and members of the Committee. Thank you and your hard-working staff for holding today's hearing. I am honored to be here as you consider my nomination to serve as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I was extremely grateful in 2020 when I was nominated by former President Donald Trump, and I am similarly grateful to President Joseph Biden for renominating me earlier this year. I want to thank the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and its Chair, the Honorable Marie Johns, as well as its former Chair, Judge Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House. I am also thankful to Chief Judge Anita Josey-Herring and the judges of D.C. Superior Court for their support throughout this process, and to former Chief Judge Robert Morin for encouraging me to apply for a judgeship on this esteemed bench.

I cannot say enough about how appreciative I am for my family, colleagues, and community who have supported me throughout my career. In particular, I want to thank Judge Reggie Walton of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for his invaluable mentorship and guidance in both life and work. I also want to thank former United States Attorneys Ronald Machen, Vince Cohen, Channing Phillips, and Jessie Liu. I had the honor of serving as an Assistant United States Attorney under each of these exceptional leaders, and I appreciate their support and encouragement over the years. I am very grateful for the support of my brother, Matt, as well as my extended family, who are all watching today's hearing remotely.

I am the proud husband of Gwen Stamper, an accomplished attorney in her own right and an even better human being. Every day—on top of juggling life as a professional and parent—she finds a way to make me laugh, keeps me grounded, and inspires me to be a better person than I was the day before. I would not be sitting here today without her love and support. More importantly, she is a wonderful mother to our two children, Blake and Paxton, who bring us a level of joy and fulfillment that we never knew existed. I am so blessed to have them here today.

However, I cannot talk about who I am as a person, and who I will be as a judge if confirmed, without talking about my parents, Vinh Nguyen and Huong Lam. My parents escaped Vietnam on a boat in the late 1970s after the fall of Saigon, and after spending months in a refugee camp in Malaysia, they came to the United States with almost nothing in tow. While my parents knew a college education would open doors for them in their new home, they could not afford to get one—not only did they have little money, but my mom was seven months pregnant with me when she arrived here. They had no choice but to make ends meet. And through hard work, persistence, and sacrifice, they did just that, and my parents were able to give me the education—and the life—that they never had for themselves. They gave up so much, so that I could have so much more. Although they are unable to attend today's hearing, they are here with me today, as they are every day, through the values of hard work, persistence, and sacrifice—values that have served me well in my career, and that will serve me well if I am confirmed to be a judge. I cannot thank them enough.

I have been a part of the District of Columbia legal community my entire 17-year career. I have had a diverse practice that includes appearing before D.C. Superior Court as well as federal district courts across the country. These experiences have enabled me to work on a wide range of civil and criminal matters that touch upon many different areas of the law. I also have had the opportunity to work with people from different walks of life, from different neighborhoods of the District, and from different parts of the country. I believe that this broad range of experiences has prepared me well to handle the broad range of matters that come before the judges of D.C. Superior Court. I hope to have the opportunity to join them and help further the mission of the Court to ensure equal access to justice for the members of our community.

Thank you again for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions.