

Opening Statement of Joseph R. Palmore
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Good morning, Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Paul, and members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I thank you and your staff for holding this hearing. I also want to thank the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, the Honorable Marie Johns, for recommending me to the White House. And I am grateful to President Biden for nominating me.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some important people in my life, several of whom are here today. I could not be more fortunate to be married to Dr. Tara Palmore. I wouldn't be sitting here before you without Tara's steadfast support and encouragement. We have three sons—Simon, Teddy, and Charlie—who make me proud every day.

My mother, Sandra Palmore's status as my biggest fan gave me the confidence to become the first lawyer in our family. She also taught me the importance of education. She was not able to complete her college education right out of high school because her family couldn't afford it. But she went back to school at night when I was a boy. Attending my mother's college graduation at the University of Texas at San Antonio is one of my proudest childhood memories.

My father, Russell Palmore, passed away on December 28, 2023, just as the Judicial Nomination Commission process was about to begin. Despite the terrible loss, I decided to proceed because I knew that's what my dad would have wanted. He was immensely proud of my professional achievements and told me over the years that he thought I should consider becoming a judge.

I have been an appellate litigator for more than 20 years. I served as deputy general counsel of the Federal Communications Commission, where I oversaw all litigation involving the agency. I then served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General, where I had the honor of representing the United States before the Supreme Court. My docket was diverse and split between civil and criminal cases.

For the last nearly 10 years, I have served as co-chair of the Appellate & Supreme Court Practice at Morrison Foerster. I have represented clients in federal and state appeals all over the country. I have also engaged in substantial pro bono work and now chair the firm's pro bono committee.

I'd like to finish my remarks by noting where my legal career started—by clerking for Judge Dennis Jacobs on the Second Circuit, Judge John Gleeson on the Eastern District of New York, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. They modeled for me what it is to be an excellent judge: hard work, fidelity to precedent, mastery of the factual record, respect for all parties, timely decision-making, and clearly written opinions.

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I have lived in the District of Columbia for more than 20 years and raised my family here. I love this city and its people. With your advice and consent, it would be an honor for me to return to public service in a new role as an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome your questions.