

Opening Statement of Carmen G. Iguina González
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 and humbled 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 for holding this hearing. I also wish 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 thank President Joseph Biden for nominating me.

I am the person and lawyer I am today because of the people in my life who have supported me along the way. I want to take a moment to acknowledge them. First, I want to thank my husband, Jason Alcorn, who has been my best friend and partner for over twenty years. For your love and your constant encouragement, I can never thank you enough. To my children, *mis nenes*, you fill my days with joy and laughter. It is the greatest privilege of my life to be your mom, and I am so proud to have you here with me today.

Next, I wish to thank my parents, Dr. Luis Iguina and Dr. Gloria González. For 40 years, my father worked as a doctor at the San Juan VA Medical Center, caring for U.S. veterans in Puerto Rico. My mother's own medical career was dedicated to caring for children. Thank you both for instilling in me the values of hard work and dedication to family. To my siblings, Antonio and Elena, thank you for being the best cheerleaders a little sister can ever have. To my husband's parents, the Rev. Dr. Paul and Shodie Alcorn, you exemplify a life centered around faith and service. And to my extended family in Puerto Rico, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Maine, and my friends and colleagues all over the country, thank you for your unconditional love and support.

As I sit here today, my mind is on my grandmother, who raised three children on her own and worked her way through law school by attending classes at night. As a young girl, I sat by her side in her small office and watched as she helped her neighbors. I learned from my grandmother that to practice law is a privilege, and to serve our community is the highest calling.

Those values have led me throughout my career and have been shared by so many of the wonderful lawyers that I have had the opportunity to work for and with.

I have had the great privilege to serve as a law clerk for three remarkable jurists: Judge Kiyoko Matsumoto, the late Judge Stephen Reinhardt, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Each in their own ways taught me what it means to be dedicated to the fair and impartial administration of the law and committed to that vital promise engraved over the entrance to the Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I very much look forward to upholding those values as an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

My own career in the law has been broad. In addition to my clerkships, I have worked in small and large nonprofit organizations and law firms, and taught law at a large Midwest public university and a private HBCU here in D.C. These experiences have afforded me extraordinary opportunities to work on matters presenting questions about corporate law, statutory construction, administrative

law, criminal law, and more. Each opportunity has fueled my love of the law and my respect for the institutions charged with upholding it, which now in turn fuels my passion for judicial service.

I wish to serve as an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to serve the community of Washington, D.C. I carry with me the lessons of my grandmother helping her neighbors, my parents caring for those who most needed care, and the judges that I have worked for. I became a lawyer because I wanted to be of service, and courts are integral to that work. Not only because of their role in maintaining the rule of law, but also in ensuring that every litigant who walks through the courthouse doors is treated fairly and with dignity. It would be an honor to serve the District of Columbia in that vital role.

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