

December 3, 2015

Opening Statement of Senator James Lankford

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Hearing

Nominations of Hon. Carol Waller Pope to be a Member, Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Robert A. Salerno and Darlene M. Soltys to be Associate Judges, D.C. Superior Court

Good morning. Today we will consider the nominations of Mr. Robert Salerno and Ms. Darlene Soltys for the position of Associate Judge on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, as well as the nomination of Ms. Carol Waller Pope for the position of Chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. The Committee takes these nominations very seriously, and so we are pleased to have strong nominees before us.

Mr. Salerno is a native of New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University, and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. After graduation, Mr. Salerno practiced law with several D.C. area firms, honing skills in civil litigation and white collar criminal defense. This year, he became special counsel of Schulte Roth & Zabel.

Ms. Soltys is a native of Washington state. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, and a law degree from Georgetown University. After graduation, Ms. Soltys clerked for the Honorable Gregory E. Mize on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Following her clerkship, she embarked on a 23 year career in prosecution, working for the D.C. Attorney General, the Maryland State Attorney, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In addition to these impressive resumes, Mr. Salerno and Ms. Soltys possess the necessary legal skills and judgement to serve the District of Columbia. Committee staff reached out to a variety of these nominees' colleagues and affiliates, who spoke highly of them.

Ms. Pope is a native of Pittsburgh. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Simmons College, and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. After law school, she worked at Boston University, the Department of Labor, before joining the Federal Labor Relations Authority in 1980.

Committee staff also had the opportunity to interview Mr. Salerno, Ms. Soltys, and Ms. Pope on an array of issues, ranging from notable cases to their community service and pro bono work. They have thoughtfully and competently answered each question to our satisfaction.

To date, the Committee has found you to be qualified for the positions you have been nominated, I look forward to speaking with you a bit more today on your experience and accomplishments and how you intend to bring them to bear in a fair and impartial manner for the FLRA and the District of Columbia.