

Opening Statement of Senator James Lankford
Nomination of Ann C. Fisher to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission;
Nomination of Ashley E. Poling to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory
Commission; Nomination of Catherine Bird to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor
Relations Authority; Nomination of Rainey R. Brandt to be Associate Judge on the
Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and Nomination of Shana Matini to be
Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
July 16, 2019

Good morning. The hearing will come to order. Today we will consider five nominations: Ann Fisher and Ashley Poling to be Commissioners of the Postal Regulatory Commission; Catherine Bird to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority; and Rainey Brandt and Shana Matini to be Associate Judges on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

MS. ANN FISHER currently serves as the Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations at the Postal Regulatory Commission. She previously served in several senior staff positions in the U.S. Senate including as Deputy Staff Director of this Committee under Chairman Collins.

MS. ASHLEY POLING currently serves Ranking Member Gary Peters as his Director of Governmental Affairs and Senior Counsel on the Committee. She previously served as Counsel to Senator Jon Tester and Senior Counsel to Senator Heidi Heitkamp on the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management.

MS. CATHERINE BIRD currently serves as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services. She previously served as Legislative Director for California State Senator John Moorlach [More-Lock] and as a Legislative Aide for California State Senator Ted Gaines.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE RAINEY RANSOM BRANDT currently serves as a Magistrate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court. She is also an adjunct associate professor at American University's Department of Justice, Law and Criminology.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE SHANA FROST MATINI currently serves as a Magistrate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court. She previously served as a trial attorney in the Office of the Attorney General of D.C.

The Committee takes these nominations very seriously, and we are pleased to have these nominees before us.

Committee staff reached out to many of the colleagues and affiliates of the nominees, and they spoke highly of your professional abilities and fitness to potentially serve in the roles to which you have been nominated.

Staff interviewed the nominees on an array of issues, and each has thoughtfully and competently answered each question.

I look forward to speaking with each of you more today on your experience and accomplishments and how you intend to bring them to bear for the federal government and the District of Columbia.

I now recognize Ranking Member Sinema for her opening statement.