

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Nominations of Ron A. Bloom and Roman Martinez IV to be Governors of the United States
Postal Service, and James A. Crowell IV and Jason Park to be Associate Judges on the Superior
Court of the District of Columbia
April 2, 2019**

Senator Gary C. Peters, Ranking Member

Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Chairman Johnson, and thank you to the nominees for being here today and for your willingness to serve.

Today we are considering two nominees to serve on the United States Postal Service Board of Governors and two nominees to serve as Associate Judges on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

The D.C. Superior Court and the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors perform very different functions, but both are critically important to the communities they serve. Both have also faced a common challenge in recent years: too many empty seats.

Prolonged vacancies on the D.C. Bench slow the administration of justice, and, for years, vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors have prevented the Board from tackling the immense financial and operational challenges facing the Postal Service.

Mr. Bloom and Mr. Martinez, if you are both confirmed, the Postal Service Board of Governors will have a quorum for the first time since 2014, a crucial step towards helping the Postal Service address its daily challenges. Although Congress must take on the challenge of passing bipartisan postal reforms, we will have to rely on and work closely with the Board of Governors to ensure the Postal Service continues to be a vital public service for every community, business, and household across America.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that we are holding this hearing today and moving one step closer to a fully functioning Board of Governors. As you know, seven of the nine Senate-confirmed seats on the Board of Governors are currently vacant, which means that after today we still have a lot work to do to get qualified nominees confirmed and serving on the Board.

I would also like to thank you for honoring this Committee's tradition of considering nominees for the Board in bipartisan pairs. I look forward to working together to continue that tradition while moving qualified nominees through the process as quickly as possible.

Mr. Park and Mr. Crowell, you have each demonstrated a longstanding commitment to public service. Throughout the nomination process this Committee has heard nothing but praise for your legal abilities and professionalism.

I look forward to hearing from each of the nominees. Thank you.