

Opening Statement of Julie H. Becker
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
March 2, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as a nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court. It is a great honor to be nominated and considered for this position. I would like to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission and its chair, the Honorable Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House, and I thank the President for nominating me. I am also grateful to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for introducing me this morning.

I am here today with my parents, Allan and Patricia Becker, and my husband, Alan Silverleib. I am immeasurably grateful for their love and support, and for the joy I receive from my three-year-old daughters, Anna and Rebecca, who are at school today. I am also fortunate to be joined by a number of friends, mentors and colleagues who have encouraged me not only during this process, but throughout my career as an attorney. I would not be here today without them.

I have spent the past fifteen years at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. I have been privileged to work with hundreds of individuals and families to secure and maintain decent, safe, and affordable housing. I have represented clients in every ward of the city, and I have dedicated my career to the goal of ensuring that all members of our community have meaningful access to the legal system.

The vast majority of my work as an attorney has taken place in D.C. Superior Court. I have tried cases in its courtrooms, spent time in the clerks' offices, and negotiated settlements in the hallways. I have served on two of the court's Rules Committees, helping to write and revise rules of procedure for the Landlord and Tenant Branch and the Housing Conditions Calendar. These experiences have given me the opportunity to think critically about every aspect of court proceedings, and to help create a better, more efficient process for all parties.

Over the years, I have learned a great deal from judges on the Superior Court bench about the skill, patience, and dedication that the job requires. I look forward to the challenge of living up to their example. If I am confirmed, I will work every day to ensure that the law is applied fairly in every case, and that all parties appearing in court are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Thank you again for the honor of considering my nomination. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.