

Opening Statement of Andrea L. Hertzfeld
Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court
October 22, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it is an honor and privilege to be here today. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. I extend my thanks to each of you, and to the Committee staff for all of the hard work that has gone into considering my nomination. There are many other people to thank as I sit here today. I extend my deep appreciation to the Chair of the Judicial Nomination Commission, Judge Emmet Sullivan, who has provided great support and encouragement throughout this process, and to the Commission's dedicated members for recommending me to the White House. I extend my humble thank you to the President for nominating me to serve the people of the District of Columbia in this capacity, and to Congresswoman Norton for her support as I appear before you today.

I can only try to express my appreciation for the support of my colleagues, family, and friends, especially those who are present here today. In particular, I want to recognize my current boss, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Jessie Liu, who has wholeheartedly supported and encouraged me as I have traveled this path. I thank the many colleagues from the United States Attorney's Office present here who have served with me in the pursuit of justice for the past nine years. It has been my great opportunity and privilege to work with all of you. The Honorable Kelly Higashi, my former chief at the United States Attorney's Office is here today, and I cannot thank her enough for her support, guidance and friendship throughout the years. Also here are several members of the law-enforcement community from the FBI and the Metropolitan Police Department. It has been an extraordinary and humbling opportunity to work alongside these brave men and women in their tireless efforts to protect our community and especially children who are the victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. These colleagues have served as a tremendous source of inspiration every day I have walked into the courthouse.

I reserve special thanks for the people in my life who are here because they love and support me in my home and community. My husband, Charles Tompkins, is here today, as he has been every day of our lives together, to support my pursuit of a career in public service. He has sacrificed much, including our time together, and has been without complaint about the around-the-clock demands that are often made in a job where emergencies are frequent and every case merits answering the phone in the middle of the night. He has made these sacrifices with incredible grace and patience.

My parents, Don and Linda Hertzfeld are also here today. They traveled here from my hometown in rural Ohio to once again extend the unwavering support they have provided me throughout my entire life. Without that support, I have no doubt I would not be sitting here before you today. My parents raised five children, including me and my beloved twin sister, Anne Henderson, who has, with the same unfailing support, taken time away from her husband and three wonderful children to travel from Ohio to support me as I appear here before you. My parents also raised my three younger siblings, who are triplets. I am so fortunate to have parents who, in the chaos of raising five children under atypical circumstances, managed to teach me through their words and actions

the non-negotiable values of integrity, fairness, and hard work. If confirmed, it is these values that will serve as my guide posts each and every day I sit on the bench.

I moved to the District of Columbia immediately after graduating from Harvard Law School with the intention of pursuing a career in public service. I was drawn to Washington, D.C. by its vibrancy, diversity, and sense of community. After spending six years practicing complex civil litigation at two major law firms, I had the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming an Assistant United States Attorney. For the last nine years, I have had the distinct privilege of serving the citizens of this City in both the Superior Court and the United States District Court.

Throughout my legal career, I have sought to be fair-minded to each and every person whose life I have impacted, whether that person was a victim of crime, a supporting family member or friend, or a defendant whose future my prosecutorial decisions would impact. I have sought to uphold the law and the values of fairness and justice. If given the opportunity, I will commit to continuing to adhere to those principles in adjudicating any controversy that comes before me. Thank you again for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering any questions you might have.