

**Opening Statement of John P. Howard, III**  
**Nominee to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals**

Good morning Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee. I am honored and deeply grateful for the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination. I am thankful to you and your hard-working staff for holding this hearing. Thank you to the Judicial Nomination Commission and its Chair, Judge Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House. I was extremely grateful to have been originally nominated last year and am honored once again to be nominated for the second time this year. I am grateful to Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby and the judges of the D.C. Court of Appeals for their time, encouragement, and guidance. It is humbling to be considered to be a colleague of the group of jurists this Committee has assembled over the years.

I am cognizant that I have never made it anywhere on my own, and, for nearly sixteen years, little would have been possible without my wife, Brandi Howard, especially our greatest blessing—our two-year old son Jack, whose infectious joy permeates our lives. Thank you to the judges I began my career under, Alexander Williams, Jr. and David C. Simmons. Thank you to my clerk family and my colleagues. I would also like to express gratitude for the love and support of my Georgetown Hoya family and my Howard family, both from Howard University and the Howard family I was blessed to be born into.

Watching eagerly from his farm in Greer, South Carolina, I would like to thank my grandfather Rev. Mickey Fisher. I would like to acknowledge my late grandmothers, Marilyn Fisher and Tala Howard, who loved me without limit. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my late father, Pete Howard. I was blessed to be raised by him. Dad taught in action and word, and a lesson he lived was to seek to command respect, not demand it, starting by respecting everyone as equals in God's eyes. I hope my back will be half as broad as his in the eyes of my son.

For over seven years, it has been my privilege to serve my fellow citizens as an administrative law judge on two local administrative courts, where I have presided over nearly two thousand cases. I have worked to ensure that every party appearing before me can meaningfully participate in the adjudicative process and is heard; that the law is applied impartially; that my written decisions are clear; and that justice is provided in a timely fashion. At my current court, this is no small task as our cases require written decisions and each judge must process hundreds of cases yearly, which are appealable to the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Prior to becoming an administrative law judge, I was in private practice. I began my career as a judicial clerk, before joining Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP as a member of its first class of Pro Bono Scholars. Following my wife's graduation from law school, we moved to Texas where I engaged in solo practice, before returning to the District.

If I am so blessed to receive your support and to be confirmed, I will remain committed to serving the residents of the District of Columbia. Thank you again for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.