

**OPENING STATEMENT OF JUDITH A. SMITH
NOMINEE, ASSOCIATE JUDGE, D.C. SUPERIOR COURT
APRIL 20, 2010**

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, to have you consider my qualifications for a position as an Associate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court. I am honored to be nominated and want to thank the Judicial Nomination Commission, and in particular the Chair of the Commission, The Honorable Emmet Sullivan, for recommending me to the White House and finally to President Barack Obama for nominating me. I also want to thank the Senate Committee staff for their professionalism and assistance throughout this process.

I would like to introduce my family who travelled from Florida to be here with me today: my parents, Richard and Sarah Smith and my sister, Christine Carter. I especially want to acknowledge my son, Jalen Pierce Smith, who is getting his first civics lesson today. There are a number of friends, colleagues and role models here or watching the hearings as well who have supported me both professionally and personally throughout my years of public service in the District of Columbia. I truly appreciate their advice, support and encouragement.

I was born in Columbus, Ohio, where I attended public schools. I received my Bachelor's degree in Accounting from The Pennsylvania State University, became a Certified Public Accountant and worked for Price Waterhouse for three years in Boston and Columbus. I then relocated to Washington, D.C. more than twenty years ago to attend the Georgetown University Law Center and embark on a career in public interest law. After graduating, from Georgetown, I was fortunate to clerk for an exceptional jurist, The Honorable A. Franklin Burgess, Jr., Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court, for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Following my clerkship, I spent the majority of the next fifteen years in public service in the District of Columbia. I served as a Special Education Attorney, Juvenile Services Attorney and Supervising Attorney at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and also as an attorney for the District of Columbia Public Schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia. I appeared before dozens of current Superior Court judges and several Federal court judges over the years as I worked on special education and juvenile justice issues. I then had the great fortune to be appointed as a Magistrate Judge in the Family Court of the D.C. Superior Court in September 2008, presiding over, primarily, abuse and neglect matters. In this position, I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of the District. If confirmed, I will continue to serve with integrity and provide fair, efficient and respectful justice to those who come before me.

I am honored to be considered for this position, and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee might have about my qualifications.

Thank you.