

Statement of Senator Daniel K. Akaka

Nomination Hearing for Kathryn Oberly to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Alfred Irving, Jr., to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court

**Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
November 17, 2008**

This hearing will come to order.

Good afternoon. I want to welcome our nominees, along with their family and friends, to the Committee today.

Today, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs meets to consider the nominations of Kathryn Oberly to be an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and Alfred Irving, Jr., to be an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Superior Court.

I am pleased to be holding a hearing today to consider such distinguished and well-qualified candidates. I have been impressed with the caliber of the recent nominees to the District of Columbia bench, and Ms. Oberly and Judge Irving are no exceptions to that pattern.

Normally, we would not move forward with nomination hearings so late in the session. However, these two nominees clearly are well qualified, and we have not identified any potential concerns that warrant further investigation. That is why we are working hard to consider these nominations in the final few days of the 110th Congress.

Both of the nominees before us have an impressive legal backgrounds. Ms. Oberly currently is General Counsel of Ernst & Young. She has served with distinction in the public sector at the Department of Justice as well as the private sector, and she has argued numerous cases before the United States Supreme Court. Judge Irving currently is a magistrate judge on the D.C. Superior Court, and he also spent fourteen years as an accomplished attorney with the Department of Justice.

I look forward to this opportunity to hear from both nominees.
Thank you.