

ciary—it would be a heck of a thing to leave you off at this point. I apologize.

Now I will yield to Senator Kennedy for a moment.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I want to join in welcoming the panel and pay a special welcome to Alice Richmond, who has been representing the first circuit and who has had a very distinguished career in her own right, and I want to add my welcome to her.

I want all of our panel to give our best wishes to the president of the American Bar Association, Jack Curtain, who is a resident of Massachusetts, has been a long-time friend, and just got out of the hospital today from successful surgery, and I think all of us look forward to his early return to his practice of law and also leadership in the ABA, and I wish you would extend to him my very warm regards and wishes, and extend my appreciation to the time that you spent, Ms. Richmond.

Thank you.

Ms. RICHMOND. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me say to the entire panel, I appreciate your waiting until this hour, and the reason why I asked you to is I consider the testimony of the ABA to be very, very important. I know there is some controversy and has been over the last several years, but I for one and, as chairperson of this committee, have in fact always thought and continue to think that your participation in this process is essential and that is why you are, to your chagrin, I suspect, awarded what we consider to be the position of honor as the first public witness. You probably at this hour wish that maybe you had not been awarded that position.

With that, let me invite you, Mr. Lancaster, to make any comment you would like, any opening statement on behalf of the committee, and then we will ask you some questions, if we may, or if your colleagues would like to make a statement, that is fine.

**PANEL CONSISTING OF RALPH I. LANCASTER, JR., CHAIRPERSON, STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION; ALICE E. RICHMOND, FIRST CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE, STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION; AND JORGE RANGEL, FIFTH CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVE, STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

#### **STATEMENT OF RALPH I. LANCASTER**

Mr. LANCASTER. Thank you, Senator. Our introductory remarks will be very brief.

Mr. Chairman, as you indicated, I am Ralph Lancaster. I practice law in Portland, ME, and I have the privilege of chairing the ABA's Standing Committee on the Judiciary, and as you also indicated, with me tonight are Alice Richmond, who practices law in Boston, MA, and is the first circuit representative on the committee, and Jorge Rangel, of Corpus Christi, TX, who is the fifth circuit representative on the committee.

We appear to present the views of the committee on the nomination of the Honorable David H. Souter, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

At the request of the Attorney General, our committee evaluated the professional competence, the judicial temperament and integrity of Judge Souter. Our work included discussions with Federal and State judges, practicing lawyers and law school deans and professors and faculty members, some of whom are specialists in constitutional law and experts on the Supreme Court practice.

The committee reviewed many of Judge Souter's opinions and, in addition, as our report reflects, Judge Souter's New Hampshire Supreme Court opinions were reviewed by three reading committees, one chaired by Rex Lee, the former Solicitor General of the United States, who now is the president of Brigham Young, one chaired by Ronald Allen, of Northwestern University, who is a professor there, and one chaired by Dean Paul Brest, of Stanford.

In addition, the three members who appear here before you tonight interviewed Judge Souter and, based upon our evaluation, the committee has reported to the Attorney General and to this committee that it is unanimously of the opinion that Judge Souter is entitled to the committee's highest evaluation for a nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States, well qualified.

I have filed with this committee a letter describing the results of our investigation and shall not repeat those results in detail here, but I do request that that letter be included in the record of these proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be placed in the record.

[The letter referred to follows:]