

**Statement for the Record of John P. Carlin
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
January 8, 2014**

Thank you, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley, and distinguished Members of this Committee.

It is an honor to appear before you today, and I thank you for considering my nomination. Thank you also for your leadership on the pressing national security issues that we face. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity I have had to meet with several of you to discuss some of those important issues in advance of this hearing.

I want to start by thanking the President for his confidence in nominating me, and the Attorney General for his support. It is a true honor to be considered for this position, and an opportunity for which I am very grateful.

In addition, I would like to recognize my family, for their love and support over the years. My wife, Sarah, who has made countless sacrifices to allow me to pursue a career in public service, and our daughter, Sylvie, for her tolerance for the many evenings I have missed at home. My parents, Patricia and Roy, for teaching my sister and me by lesson and by example, the importance of dedication, discipline, and always doing what's right. I also want to thank my sister Jennifer, my brother-in-law Don, and their children, Daniel and Katie, for their support. Because of all of them, and their selflessness, I have been able to choose the path that has led me here today.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to spend my entire legal career with the Department of Justice, and privileged to have served in several different roles – first, representing the United States of America as a federal prosecutor, and then, in a series of positions focused directly on protecting the nation's security. For more than a decade, I have learned from, and worked alongside, legendary public servants as the United States undertook fundamental changes in our approach to combating the threat of terrorism and other emerging national security challenges. While serving as FBI Director Bob Mueller's Special Counsel and, later, as his Chief of Staff, I worked with the lawyers, policymakers, and leaders that helped the Bureau evolve from a law enforcement agency into a threat-based, intelligence-driven national security organization. As Principal Deputy and Chief of Staff to Lisa Monaco, now Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, when she was Assistant Attorney General, I had the chance to help lead another evolution – one in which the Justice Department's National Security Division continued to adapt to meet the growing and evolving cyber threat, and further developed its all-tools approach to disrupting a growing range of national security challenges.

These experiences have taught me about the transformative power of lawyers in our government—and the sense of duty and mission that comes with it. Serving as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security for approximately the last 10 months, I have been both humbled and driven by the responsibilities and mission entrusted to the position.

First, this position is charged with leading the Department's National Security Division – which Congress created to unite the Department of Justice's national security elements to bring all tools to bear in the fight against terrorism and other threats to national security. Legal decision-making is an integral part of operational planning, with lawyers at the table to ensure adherence to new and changing legal requirements and to facilitate consideration and use of all legally available options to detect and disrupt threats to our nation's security. If confirmed, I will remain committed to this all-tools approach, and to adapting it as the threats to our country continue to evolve.

Second, the Division serves as a bridge between the Intelligence Community and the Department of Justice, to support the approach Congress embraced when it removed legal and structural barriers to information-sharing among intelligence and law enforcement professionals. This bridge has allowed us to maximize our disruption options and offers our best chance to prevent the next attack before it happens. If confirmed, I will build on the relationships that I have made during my time in the national security community, to ensure that the bridge we have worked so hard to build remains strong and grows stronger.

Finally, I am committed to ensuring that as we adapt our intelligence practices to stay ahead of our adversaries, our critical operations are conducted within the bounds of the law and consistent with our nation's values. I recognize that these values include protecting vital civil liberties, privacy, and the rule of law.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.