

Opening Statement of Lisa O. Monaco

April 13, 2011

Thank you, Chairman Franken. And thank you, Senator Brown for your generous introduction.

I also want to thank the President for his confidence in nominating me, the Attorney General for his support, and the Members of this Committee for considering my nomination.

I come before this Committee today as someone who has been extremely fortunate – in my life and in my work. I would like to acknowledge my Department colleagues here today with whom I am privileged to serve. And I thank my family and friends for their support.

I would not be sitting before you today if not for the support of my parents. They have enabled me to enjoy many blessings – including pursuing work I am committed to in a Department I love. Of all the good fortune my three brothers and I have enjoyed, the greatest gift our parents have given us is their example, in the choices they have made, large and small. They have taught us about hard work, integrity and what it means to live one's values. Because of these lessons I am able to appear here today, tremendously honored to be considered for this position.

The Department of Justice has been my professional home for nearly 13 years. I have spent my entire career as a line prosecutor, a senior manager in the Department, and Chief of Staff at the FBI. In that time, the world has changed. The events of September 11, 2001, altered forever the way the Department and FBI operate. I have been part of the transformation of the Department's national security mission and functions, and my experiences have taught me that our Nation faces complex and evolving national security threats. To combat them we must be aggressive and agile in our approach and we must act consistent with the rule of law.

Every morning for the last five and a half years, I have reviewed intelligence and threat streams together with talented analysts, agents and prosecutors. I have been privileged to work for and alongside Director Mueller and the national security professionals in the FBI to help advance the Bureau's transformation from a law enforcement agency that investigates crime after the fact to a national security organization focused on preventing the next attack.

The same principles guided Congress in creating the position for which I have been nominated, and those principles guide the National Security Division today. Both were born of the lessons of September 11th. The National Security Division was created because this Committee and the Congress recognized that, in order to protect national security, we must bring together all tools and talents to focus on combating the terrorist threat. Congress had the wisdom to remove barriers – legal and structural – to allow committed professionals to share their information, their talent and their missions. The National Security Division is the embodiment of that vision. It is the place where intelligence lawyers come together with agents and prosecutors to focus on the most serious threats – be they terrorists planning attacks or spies and cyber criminals bent on

stealing our secrets. The mission of the Division most fundamentally is to prevent terrorism and to protect the American people.

If I am fortunate to be confirmed, I will have the solemn responsibility of serving alongside the outstanding men and women in the National Security Division. If confirmed, I will lead the Division as our nation marks the tenth anniversary of September 11th, having spent the past decade working to enforce the law and keep the country safe in a way that also protects the freedoms we hold dear. I pledge to give my all to carrying forward the work of those who have gone before me, mindful of the gravity of the duties I will be assuming and committed to doing so in the best traditions of the Department of Justice.

Thank you.