

Statement by Senator Charles E. Schumer (D.-N.Y.)

Nomination of Vincent L. Briccetti for the United States District Court, Southern District of New York

February 16, 2011

I am proud to introduce to the committee Vincent L. Briccetti, a superb lawyer who will be a brilliant and experienced addition to the bench of the Southern District of New York.

Vince has reached the apex of his profession through sheer hard work and raw intelligence. The son and grandson of Italian butchers, Vince was born in Mt. Kisco, New York and grew up working in the butcher shop while he went to school, eventually graduating from Columbia University and Fordham University School of Law. He spent many of his summers working as a waiter.

After graduating from law school, he earned a prestigious clerkship with Judge John M. Cannella in the Southern District of New York, and then entered private practice for two years. Vince's dedication to the rule of law had already begun, but his public service commenced when he entered the U.S. Attorney's office in the Southern District of New York in 1985. For four years, he tried an impressive array of cases, including a sweeping tax fraud cases that earned him too many awards to list here today. He then became the Deputy Chief of the Appellate Division of the United States Attorneys' office and defended the office's convictions and practices on appeal.

Following a distinguished career at the prestigious law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, he steered his practice back to White Plains and established his own law firm there. For the last 17 years, he has practiced as a criminal defense lawyer in state and federal court. He has tried approximately 50 cases to verdict or judgment. I have heard from judges and practitioners alike that Vince is a lawyer whose involvement invariably improves the outcome of any specific case with which he is involved, and who has in general been one of the Bar's great assets. He has treated his duty as a lawyer to dedicate time to *pro bono* work (through serving on the local Criminal Justice Act panel) not as an obligation, but as a calling. To quote former federal district court Judge Stephen C. Robinson's letter to this committee:

"On at least three separate occasions, when I had some doubt as to whether a party before me was receiving adequate and appropriate counsel, I asked Vince to take up the representation. Vince always stood ready to respond to my requests for assistance in the name of justice. I can tell you that all of the judges in our courthouse held Vince in the highest regard."

While he ran his own firm and represented clients, Vince also continued to assist the government by serving as a special prosecutor at the behest of the Westchester County District Attorney when he or she was conflicted out of a prosecution. The current District Attorney in Westchester County has commended him as "possessed of the highest moral character and integrity."

Everywhere you go in and around New York, you hear superlatives about Vince Briccetti: That he is the very model of an ethical, fair, dedicated lawyer; that while he is a terrific advocate, there is no one you

would rather see on the opposite side of a case to ensure a full and fair hearing of the issues at stake; and that he is a dedicated member of the New York community. It will be a tribute not just to Vince but to the bench when we add "thoughtful and brilliant federal judge" to the encomia.

Thank you Chairman Blumenthal, Ranking Member Grassley, and to the nominees and their families.