

**Opening Statement of Acting Associate Attorney General Stuart F. Delery**  
**U.S. Senate Confirmation Hearing**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**  
**Washington, D.C.**

I am deeply honored to appear before you today as the nominee to be the Associate Attorney General of the United States, and I thank you for your consideration. I would like to thank the President for nominating me, the Attorney General for her support, and Senator Coons for his kind introduction.

It is also a tremendous honor to serve the people of the United States at the Department of Justice. But I would not be here without the support and sacrifice of my family. My husband Richard is a great lawyer himself with vision and a passion for justice. He has sacrificed personally and professionally during my time in government, and I am acutely aware and grateful that this is what makes it possible for me to have such an all-consuming job. Richard is also a world-class parent, as reflected in the terrific young people that our children are becoming. Michael and Sebastian, I could not be more proud of you. And I know that my time in government has not been easy for you either -- I have been away too much, and even when I am home, you too often see me on a call or perched at the end of the dining room table with a briefing binder or a computer. So thank you for your understanding and support as well.

I am indebted to my parents for the firm foundation they gave me, and for the models of hard work, character and dedication that they provided, and I am sorry that they could not be here today. My father, Gus, passed away back in 1996, and my mother was unable to travel to Washington today. My sister Janet teaches 8th grade math in public school in Charlotte, North Carolina, so she is unable to be here as well on a school day. But all are inspirations to me.

I would also like to thank the many mentors, too many to name, who taught me how to be a lawyer: how to read a record, construe a statute, follow precedent, look at all sides of an issue with fairness and respect, and do my homework. These are all hallmarks of what I have tried my best to do every day at the Department of Justice.

In 2013, I was honored to be confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division. It was a privilege to lead the talented and dedicated lawyers and staff of the Division in defending government programs and our national security, safeguarding taxpayer money from fraud, and protecting the health, safety, and economic security of all Americans. For the past 14 months, as the Acting Associate Attorney General, I have been fortunate to meet even more of the exceptional public servants who make the Department's work possible -- including (among others) litigators protecting the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, safeguarding the environment and competition in the marketplace, and ensuring that the tax rules are followed, as well as the grant professionals supporting law enforcement across the country.

There is no question that the Department's most important resource is its people. My grandfather, after service in the Army in both World Wars, was a lawyer in the Justice Department for more than 30 years. After I came to the Department, my uncle looked through some boxes in his attic and found my grandfather's certificate of service signed by Robert

Kennedy. I like to think of my grandfather somewhere in the building where I work now, serving as a lawyer for the United States just like my colleagues do so well today. I am honored to follow in his footsteps, and in those of so many others who built the traditions of the Justice Department over many years -- in particular the expectation that the Department will apply the law fairly and objectively.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I look forward to continuing to support the priorities of Attorney General Lynch in protecting national security and public safety, in addressing human trafficking, and in improving the relationships between law enforcement and the communities we serve. I would also continue to focus on three areas that have been of particular importance to me.

First, I would continue to work to ensure that the Department is doing all it can to protect the interests of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. I led the effort to start the Department's Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative earlier this year, and I am now working closely with our team to strengthen and coordinate our enforcement of laws that protect those who protect or have protected our nation. Second, I am committed to protecting the health and safety of all Americans by ensuring that the food we eat and the medicines we take are safe. And third, I am dedicated to protecting the government and the American people from fraud of all kinds -- whether against consumers, investors, or the public fisc, and whether committed by individual bad actors taking advantage of seniors or major government contractors cheating the Treasury. During my three years in the Civil Division, the Department recorded the three largest annual recoveries ever under the False Claims Act, and saw record numbers of qui tam complaints filed and record recoveries for whistleblowers. I am eager to continue this important work.

Finally, I would like to underscore that, in everything I do, I will continue to bring to the job a commitment to advocating zealously in court on behalf of our nation, to providing candid advice, to being open to hearing all sides of an issue, and most of all to working tirelessly with our strong team of career professionals to defend and advance the interests of the United States.

I thank you again for your consideration and welcome any questions you may have.