

Opening Statement of Peter J. Kadzik
Nominee for Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of
Justice
October 30, 2013

Madame Chairman, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Department of Justice. In my time at the Department, I have sought to improve the Department's responsiveness to inquiries from congressional committees and Members of Congress and, if confirmed, I will continue to improve our performance.

In many respects, I consider myself to be the beneficiary of the "American Dream." All four of my grandparents were immigrants from Poland. They worked hard so my parents could graduate from high school. My parents also worked hard—my father worked in a factory in Buffalo, NY for more than 30 years—so that their children could attend college and graduate school. I began working part-time when I was a junior in high school to help finance my education and I continued to work through college and law school.

I had the good fortune to attend the Georgetown University Law Center, and then to clerk for Judge Flannery on the U.S. District Court here in the District of Columbia. Judge Flannery had previously served as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and he steered me into that office and remained my mentor throughout my career. As I have often said, there has been no greater honor in my career than to stand in a courtroom as an Assistant United States Attorney and state that "I represent the people of the United States of America." Returning to the Department of Justice has long been my dream and I look forward to continuing to work for the people of the United States. If confirmed, I also look forward to working with you to assist the Committee in performing its legislative and oversight functions.

If I may take a moment, I would like to introduce my family here with me today: my daughter Melissa, a former Peace Corps volunteer who works for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta; my daughter Mary-Pat, who works for the University of Chicago Endowment, and her husband David Barron; and my son P.J., who works for the Malala Fund, a non-profit organization, in New York City. My daughter Alison, also a Georgetown Law graduate who practices in San Francisco, could not be here today because she is more than eight months pregnant with our first grandchild, so she remained in San Francisco with her husband, Chris Gathright. My step-son Jack, who attends the Field School here in Washington, could not be here because he is participating in the cross-country championships. And finally, also with me here today is my wife, Amy Weiss.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have.