

Statement of Andrea Tucker
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Nomination of the Honorable Merrick Brian Garland to be Attorney General of
the United States
February 23, 2021

First, I would like to say good morning to Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, all the members of the Judiciary Committee, and my fellow witnesses. Thank you so much for having me here today.

My name is Andrea Tucker. I am a native Washingtonian and the proud mother of three scholars in DC Public Schools. I am honored to be here today and am thankful for the opportunity to come and speak on behalf of Judge Garland.

I met Judge Garland roughly five years ago when he came to my children's school to meet with one of the fifth grade students he was tutoring. Unbeknownst to me, a few months later my then-second grader would have the honor of becoming Judge Garland's next pupil. This was something that my child's teacher thought he could benefit from, specifically to help bring him out of his shell and help him with his reading comprehension.

Judge Garland normally tutors a student until they graduate Elementary school in the fifth grade and then he starts with another child in second grade. So over the last four years, Judge Garland has had weekly tutoring sessions with my son. At the end of every school year, Judge Garland always invites all of the children in the tutoring program, which he started, to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals for a tour--to see the courtroom, meet the U.S. Marshals and the Marshals' dogs, and get a feel for what the Judge does for a living. Judge Garland also has a pizza party for the students, where they exchange gifts like books and other educational materials so students can continue with their studies over the summer. One year, when my son was struggling with multiplication, Judge Garland gave him some flash cards to practice with over the summer so Judge Garland could quiz him when they returned the following school year.

Of course, this past year was a bit different due to the pandemic. Judge Garland didn't miss a beat. He quickly pivoted from tutoring in person at the school, once in person tutoring was no longer an option, and contacted the school's tutoring

coordinator to get my contact information and offered to virtually tutor my son. On top of that, he knew my son has a twin sister in the same class, so he also offered to tutor my daughter. The Judge felt like all students could benefit from tutoring and extra support, not just the ones that are behind or struggling. What parent would turn that down, especially during a time like this?

So, in the end, Judge Garland coordinated with my kids' school to get all the appropriate work packets and tutored both my children once a week over Zoom, carefully guiding them through virtual learning and their school work.

All the extra help was much appreciated. The fact that he still wanted to tutor during a pandemic and give so much of his time to both my children was amazing. This shows his dedication to our actual community and love for children.

One thing that made Judge Garland special as a tutor was that he always began each session by asking how my children were and what they had done that was fun or interesting in the last week since they met, getting to know them and engaging them personally. He made tutoring fun, interactive, and effective. Or, in the words of my daughter, "he made the math more understandable for me." I mentioned earlier that when a student graduates fifth grade, Judge Garland usually begins with another student. But as my children approached their fifth grade graduation, they asked Judge Garland if he didn't mind staying with them for the upcoming year if they were online. He quickly agreed. My children are now in sixth grade, and I can see their work with Judge Garland paying off in their grades.

When you confirm Judge Garland—and I believe you should confirm him quickly—he is eagerly looking forward to getting back to his students, and continue tutoring them, even as he settles into a new, challenging role. This speaks to the character of the man who will serve as Attorney General: he is a man who actually does what he says he will, not one who just pays lip service to helping our communities. Character, commitment, and dedication—someone who will do what they say they will do—that is what you are getting in Judge Garland.

Thank you.