

Statement of Senator Charles E. Schumer
On the Nomination of
Raymond J. Lohier to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

I am extremely proud to support the nomination of Raymond J. Lohier to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I recommended Mr. Lohier to the President not only because of his exceptional qualifications and outstanding professional record, but also because I believe he brings the kind of practical real world experience our courts desperately need.

Mr. Lohier's academic credentials speak for themselves. He is a cum laude graduate of Harvard College and a graduate of the New York University School of Law, where he was Editor in Chief of the Annual Survey of American Law and recipient of the Vanderbilt Medal. As a young lawyer, Mr. Lohier clerked for the Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Jr., who serves on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Early in his career, Mr. Lohier gained valuable private sector experience as an associate in the prestigious law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, where he handled a mix of complex civil and criminal cases. During this time, he also served on the New York Gubernatorial Task Force on Minority Representation on the Bench.

Mr. Lohier's devotion to public service drew him to the Department of Justice. He served first for three years in the Civil Rights Division, and then in 2000 he became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York – one of the top, if not the top, prosecutor's offices in the country.

He swiftly distinguished himself in the Southern District, and was promoted with unusual speed. He became deputy chief and then chief of the Narcotics Unit, and rose to deputy chief, and finally, chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force. In that job, Mr. Lohier was on the front lines of the war against financial fraud, which is currently one of the most important missions of the Department of Justice. He worked on the prosecution of Marc Dreier, resulting in a 20-year prison sentence for Dreier's ponzi scheme. And, he has overseen the investigation into Bernard Madoff's unprecedented financial fraud. Since his nomination to the Second Circuit, he has served as Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lohier has demonstrated his dedication to his community and his profession. He serves as the First Vice-Chairperson of the Brooklyn Community Board 6, and has held leadership positions in local and national bar associations.

I have always had three standards in evaluating judicial nominees: excellence, moderation, and diversity. Mr. Lohier easily meets all three. His academic and professional experiences clearly put him at the forefront of the legal profession. His experience in both the public and private sectors suggests a mainstream worldview that will allow him to understand and appreciate the arguments of the range of litigants that will appear before him. And finally, his Haitian heritage will enhance the diversity of the federal bench.

Mr. Lohier's outstanding leadership skills, his intellect, his commitment to justice, his deep connections to New York, and his extensive experience make him an exceptional choice for a position on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.