

**Statement of David B. Barlow
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Before the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate

**Hearing on the Nomination of the Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
to Serve as Attorney General of the United States**

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Leahy, Members of the Judiciary Committee, it is my privilege to appear before you today in support of the nomination of my former colleague, United States Attorney Loretta Lynch, to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

I would be remiss if I did not first thank this Committee for the strong support I received in 2011 when my own nomination to serve as United States Attorney was before you. It was a tremendous honor to serve as U.S. Attorney. I always will be grateful for the trust that you reposed in me when you supported my nomination.

It is now my privilege to recommend Ms. Lynch to you. You already have heard and read much about her storied 30-year legal career. So instead of elaborating on her many credentials, I want to take just a few minutes to share a couple of personal observations about my former colleague.

I first met Loretta at a conference of United States Attorneys several months after I was sworn in. What I remember most vividly was the way she handled a portion of the program where the U.S. Attorneys were asking questions of the leadership of the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. Loretta moderated the session. Some of the discussion surrounding budgets, resource allocation, hiring authority, and the like became understandably intense as my colleagues and I argued our various views and articulated the many needs our districts had during lean budgetary times.

Loretta was calm and unruffled. She asked hard questions, but did so in a dignified and respectful way. Where strong feelings created the risk of bringing more heat than light to the exchange, Loretta brought only light. She was clearly tough, but also fair and gracious.

That initial impression of Loretta was confirmed and deepened as I served with her on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (the "AGAC"). As you know, the AGAC is a committee of roughly a dozen or so United States Attorneys who serve as a voice of their colleagues to the Department and provide counsel to Department leadership on various management, policy, and operational issues. Loretta was the chair of the AGAC during the time that I served as a member of it.

You already know that United States Attorneys are not a timid group. All are accustomed to being in charge. All are used to expressing their views. And all are, at least in part, the products of different backgrounds, experiences, and places. If you put twelve or so

United States Attorneys together in a room, as the AGAC does, you will get a wide variety of ideas and perspectives, often strongly held.

It takes someone special to lead that group. For the AGAC to work well, that someone needs to be smart, insightful, organized, articulate, inclusive, and experienced. Loretta was and is all these things and more. She always was well-prepared. She made sure that all points of view were considered. She listened far more than she talked. She facilitated consensus whenever possible and made space for dissent when opinions could not be reconciled. And by her example and her conduct, she elevated the discourse and refined the exchange of ideas. Through these experiences, my initial impressions of Loretta Lynch were confirmed: she is tough, fair, gracious, smart, and independent.

In conclusion, during my time as United States Attorney, I had the privilege of serving with a truly outstanding group of U.S. Attorneys throughout the country. I learned much from them and was inspired by their service and commitment. Of all of these dedicated and talented public servants, the Honorable Loretta Lynch truly stood out. If confirmed by the Senate, I believe she will make an excellent Attorney General of the United States.