

Statement of Senator Schumer

Nominations Hearing – February 11th, 2014

While I am unable to appear at today's hearing, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the confirmation of a highly qualified and accomplished New Yorker, Leslie Caldwell, who has been nominated by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice. I ask that my remarks be included in the Committee's record of this hearing.

Leslie Caldwell is an eminently qualified prosecutor with the credentials and experience to lead the Criminal Division. Ms. Caldwell has given years of tireless service to protecting the people of New York, during her long tenure as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York from 1987-1998, where she rose through the ranks to become Chief of the Violent Criminal Enterprises Section, prosecuting complex multi-defendant cases against violent organized crime syndicates responsible for drug trafficking, racketeering and murder. Her notable cases include winning a conviction against a Queens drug lord responsible for the murder of a uniformed New York City police officer, Edward Byrne.

The tenacity displayed by Ms. Caldwell in New York led her to be appointed to leadership positions in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California by Robert Mueller. There, Ms. Caldwell led the Securities Fraud, Economic Crime sections and later rose to become Chief of the Criminal Division supervising prosecutors throughout the bay area in the prosecution of white collar crime, computer crime, intellectual property, health care fraud and securities fraud cases.

In 2002, then-Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Michael Chertoff asked Ms. Caldwell to lead a task force created to oversee the investigation into the collapse of the Enron Corporation. From January 2002 until May 2004, Ms. Caldwell oversaw all aspects of the investigation, which resulted in the prosecution of approximately 30 defendants. After leaving government service, she returned to New York where she has been a partner with the law firm of Morgan Lewis & Bockius since 2004.

Ms. Caldwell graduated Penn State University summa cum laude, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated from the George Washington University Law School cum laude, where she served as Articles Editor on the Law Review. In 2007, she was named by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America.

Ms. Caldwell's distinguished resume, experience and dedication to public safety exemplifies the kind of public servant that would well serve the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.