

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to be Associate Attorney General. If I am confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with you to further the important work of the Department of Justice.

I also would like to thank the President and the Attorney General for the opportunity to be considered for this position.

I am grateful to Chairman Grassley and Senator Ernst for their kind introductions today. Although I have not lived in Iowa in some time, I will always consider myself an Iowan.

I would like to introduce my family. With me today is my husband, Jonathan Cohn, whom I met at Harvard Law School, and who is one of the smartest lawyers I've ever known. He has also served in the Department of Justice. Born and raised in midtown Manhattan, he was a bit of a novelty when I first brought him home to Pella, Iowa. We had some fun taking him around to meet the cows on my uncle's dairy farm, but he took it all in stride and now enjoys visiting my hometown.

Sitting with him are our sons, Willem, age 9, and Gerrit, age 7. This is the second confirmation hearing Willem has attended. At my confirmation hearing to be a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board five years ago, he sat still about as long as could be expected of a four-year-old. When he got fidgety, Senator Leahy's counsel kindly invited him to the anteroom and gave him a notepad and pen to keep him entertained. We didn't think it was wise to bring two-year-old Gerrit to that hearing, but he did attend my swearing-in in Justice Kennedy's chambers and was delighted when the Justice served juice and cookies. We will see how long Willem and Gerrit last today.

My parents, Ruth and Ivan Brand, are also with me today. They had to make an extra effort to be here, as my dad returned Sunday night from visiting my brother Thomas, who lives in New Zealand, and my mom took a break from a visit to my brother Andrew, who lives in Phoenix. Since my sister Deborah lives in Missouri, they have quite a job visiting all of us and their ten grandchildren.

My mother-in-law, Helena Cohn, traveled here from New York. Helena immigrated to the United States from the Netherlands, and my kids call her Oma, the Dutch word for grandma.

Finally, I'm grateful to the friends who have taken the time to be here to support me today.

I have been blessed with opportunities in both public service and the private sector to work in a wide range of areas of law and policy. Working with top-notch lawyers in private practice, I learned a great deal about law and lawyering, and I had the opportunity to manage litigation concerning a broad spectrum of legal issues. But my heart has always been in public service, where I have spent the majority of my legal career. My love of public service dates back even to my college years, when I studied political science at the University of Minnesota-Morris. In college and law school, I took every chance to gain experience in government, including, of

course, my internship with Chairman Grassley. My first experience with the Department of Justice was working my 1L summer as an Honors Intern in the FBI's National Security Division.

Chairman Grassley and Senator Ernst have already described my professional biography, and so I will not take up the Committee's time repeating it. Suffice it to say that serving as Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy, working with components throughout the Justice Department to develop policy solutions for the challenges they faced, was a tremendous privilege.

I am honored to be nominated to be Associate Attorney General. I am also humbled by the opportunity to take on such a serious responsibility. I have deep admiration and respect for the institution of the Department of Justice, for its critical work, for its tradition of independence, and for the dedicated public servants – lawyers, law enforcement officers, and many others – who work there across Administrations. If confirmed, I will strive to undertake my role with integrity, independence, and fidelity to constitutional principles and the rule of law.

I look forward to entering back into public service – serving the Department of Justice, its client the United States, and the public interest – if I am confirmed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today. I look forward to taking your questions.