

Young

## OPENING STATEMENT

Good afternoon Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. It is a privilege to appear before you today and I thank you for allowing me to introduce myself to the committee.

I would like to use this opportunity to publicly thank Governor Rell for the honor of her nomination. I would also like to thank my wife and my family for allowing me to pursue this nomination as I know that it has, and will, impact their lives as well as mine.

As you may know, with the exception of my years in law school, I have been a citizen of Connecticut all my life. I graduated from Danbury High School in 1976 and attended the University of Connecticut and Western Connecticut State College, graduating in 1981 with a degree in political science and minors in sociology and speech communications.

I graduated from Western New England College School of Law in 1984, with a much more illustrious classmate, John Kissel. In my last two years of law school, I was appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be a food stamp fraud prosecutor for the Department of Public Welfare and I continued in that role while awaiting the results of the bar exam.

I next spent the next year as a temporary assistant clerk at the Danbury Superior Court, where I was fortunate to see first hand the many roles a Superior Court judge plays and the positive impact a judge can have in public service. The judges I clerked for were each very kind in teaching a rookie lawyer what it means to be a litigator and an advocate.

In 1985, I entered into a general private practice in Danbury, moving to Hartford in 1987, where my practice became exclusively litigation. In 1992, I became the Connecticut Corporation Counsel for Agency Rent-A-Car, which evolved into National Auto Credit, Inc. I next formed a partnership in 1994 with two other attorneys. Over the next fourteen years, we have grown from three attorneys and two secretaries to fifteen attorneys and approximately 25 employees and I am very proud of the success of my firm.

In 2003, I was appointed by the Chief Justice and the Chief Court Administrator as a fact finder, arbitrator and attorney trial referee. Over the last five years, I have very much enjoyed coming to the Hartford Court two or three times a month to serve in those capacities. In fact, serving in those roles really made me want to explore the opportunity for a greater role in public service.

I believe that I have the experience as a trial attorney to provide benefit to the people of the State of Connecticut. I am a board certified civil trial advocate. I am a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an honorary society which promotes performance, integrity and diversity. I am also a state chair of that organization.

I have been active in both the Hartford County and the Connecticut Bar Associations. I have recently given a seminar for the Hartford County bar as a member of the litigation committee. I am on the Professional Discipline Committee, the Connecticut Lawyer Committee and the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

In my community, I am proud to be known as “Coach.” I have coached baseball, basketball and soccer in town leagues for the past ten years and I am still coaching both little league and amateur baseball teams. I know I have at least as much fun as the kids, but don’t let them know.

I again thank you for this opportunity to speak with you and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

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