

Michelle D. Truglia's Statement – Judicial Review Council (Feb. 23, 2010)

Good Afternoon Co-Chairs – Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and the Honorable Members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Public service is indeed a high calling, and I am honored to have been nominated by the Governor to serve on the Judicial Review Council. Having practiced law for nearly twenty-three years in both the public and private sector, and at the trial and appellate levels of both state and federal court, I believe that I have the breadth of knowledge and experience, as well as the proper temperament to competently execute the duties and obligations expected of Council members. If confirmed, I will work hard to maintain your trust and confidence as a committed member of the Judicial Review Council.

I have been a resident of Stamford, Connecticut for the past twenty-one years and live there with my husband, Anthony, and our two children Anthony the III and Haley. Both of our children attend The King School in Stamford. Young Tony is a high school senior who lets us know every day that he is starting college in the fall and that our days of supervision and scrutiny are numbered. Haley is in the 6th grade and mostly dreams of the day her brother leaves for college so that her household dominion is secured once and for all. Primarily because our children are still young, my husband and I volunteer a considerable amount of our free time, energy and effort supporting their academic, athletic and charitable endeavors.

When I applied to college in the fall of 1971, many colleges and universities around the country had not yet graduated a class that included women. To say that there was a paucity of female role models in law was an understatement as, very few law firms

had women associates and, virtually none had women partners. As a consequence, I worked as a legal secretary/paralegal for seven years before I applied to law school in the fall of 1983. I graduated in 1987 from the University of Bridgeport, now the Quinnipiac College School of Law, where I served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Connecticut Probate Law Journal and earned the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Law School.

Robinson & Cole hired me as a summer associate in 1986, followed by an offer to start as a first year associate in the fall of 1987. I worked in their trial and appellate section practicing commercial litigation for five years in state and federal court in Connecticut and New York. During my tenure with Robinson & Cole, I served as the Secretary for the Fairfield County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and as a Member of the Connecticut Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Thereafter, I worked briefly in the employment discrimination field before moving on to public service with the Attorney General's Office in 1994.

I moved through the ranks quickly at the Attorney General's Office, achieving the status of A.G. 3 in just four years (A.G. 4 is the highest rank). During my nine year tenure with the Attorney General, I successfully defended twelve appeals taken to the Appellate and Supreme Court of Connecticut, four appeals in Federal District Court, one to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and one at the United States Supreme Court. In addition, I was a guest lecturer at UCONN Law School on the subject matter of my appeals.

In 2003, I was confirmed as only the sixth woman to ever serve in the nearly 100 year old Workers' Compensation Commission. It is a position I hold with great humility

and pride. My duties currently include researching various legal issues, presiding over formal administrative hearings involving injured claimants of private employers and employees of the State of Connecticut, and the training of entry level commissioners. I have served as an appellate judge on the Compensation Review Board and as a contributing member of various agency sub-committees. I have also been a guest lecturer of the Connecticut Bar Association on Workers' Compensation issues.

I humbly offer my skills, experience and good judgment to the Judicial Review Council to further the effective administration of justice and the dignity and integrity of the judiciary. Thank you for your time and consideration this afternoon, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.