

April 20, 2010

Senator Andrew McDonald, Co-Chair
Representative Michael Lawlor, Co-Chair
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**Opening Statement Relative to the Nomination of John A. Danaher III to Serve
As A Judge Of The Superior Court For The State Of Connecticut**

Good morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and the members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is John Danaher, and I would like, first, to express my appreciation to Governor Rell for nominating me, and I would also like to express my appreciation to this Committee for considering my nomination. I am accompanied today by my wife, Anne Morrison Danaher.

I was born in Connecticut, the third of six children, and have lived in Connecticut all of my life, attending public high school in West Hartford, and thereafter pursuing undergraduate and graduate education at Connecticut colleges. I graduated from Fairfield University with a Bachelor's Degree in English and a certification to teach high school English. I graduated from the University of Hartford with a Master's Degree in English, and I then graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where I served as Executive Editor on the Connecticut Law Review.

In 1972, after graduating from college, I was hired to teach elementary and junior high school science and English at the Robinson School in West Hartford. In 1977, I entered law school, graduating in 1980, and then began a clerkship with the Honorable T. Emmet Clarie who was, at that time, the Chief Judge of the United States District Court in Connecticut. In 1981, I became an associate attorney in the trial department of the law firm of Day, Berry and Howard. During my time with that firm, I represented, for the most part, defendants in civil cases. However, I also handled some plaintiffs' civil cases, and participated in a number of trials in both capacities, both in state and federal courts. In addition, I defended a small number of criminal cases in Connecticut's G.A. courts.

In 1986, I was appointed to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. My first assignment was to serve as a member of the prosecution team assigned to the case of United States v. Gerena, a multi-year assignment in which nineteen individuals were charged in connection with the 7.2 million dollar robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford. That case involved eighteen months of pretrial hearings, followed by a six month trial of some of the defendants. It also included approximately fourteen different appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and a successful appeal to the United States Supreme Court. There was a second, two month jury trial in that case.

Thereafter, I was with the United States Attorney's Office until 2007. I served in a variety of capacities, including interim United States Attorney from May 2001 through November 2002. I prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including a large number of bank fraud cases, cases involving crimes against children, money laundering, and one murder case. I held a number of positions within the office, including that of International Security Coordinator, Ethics Advisor, representative to the New England Bank Fraud Task Force, among others. I co-founded the office's Crimes Against Children Working group with Assistant United States Attorney Kari Pedersen, who is now, of course, Judge Kari Dooley. I also drafted the office's Capital Case protocol, elements of which appeared in a protocol made available nationally by the Department of Justice. I participated in the office's Capital Case review committee in thirteen capital cases. As United States Attorney, I made the office's recommendations regarding capital cases to the Attorney General of the United States.

Over the course of those 27 years I tried cases, both to juries and to the bench, in Connecticut Superior Court and in the United States District Court. I appeared once before the Connecticut Supreme Court and argued many times in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

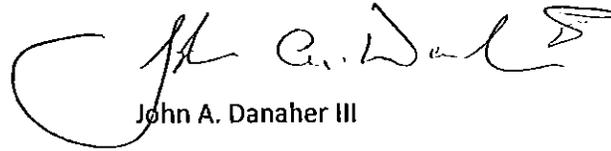
In March 2007, Governor Rell appointed me to serve as the Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. Since my appointment, I have done my best to assist the men and women in the Department to achieve our mission of ensuring public safety for the citizens of Connecticut. I believe that as Commissioner, one of my principal obligations is to do all that I can to ensure the safety of our employees. If our employees are protected and supported, they can better achieve the Department's goal of protecting the public.

My wife and I have raised four children, three of whom are now in either college or graduate school. I have served as President of the Hartford County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and I was a barrister in the Oliver Ellsworth Inns of Court, a program designed to assist younger trial lawyers to develop their courtroom skills.

Throughout my career, I have done my best to represent my clients vigorously. As a prosecutor, I served as an aggressive advocate for the people of the United States, but I also viewed that position as one in which achieving justice did not always mean seeking an indictment, a conviction, or the maximum possible sentence. As Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, I continued to devote myself to law enforcement, and to the other public safety duties that are a part of that assignment, but I have done all that I could to ensure that my responsibilities, and those of the members of our Department, have been carried out with integrity, respect for those whom we encounter, and with an overarching commitment to the mission of protecting the public.

If I am appointed, I would do all in my power to respect the interests of the parties to litigation, to victims, and to achieving a just result at all times. I would do so with a complete commitment to those responsibilities. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a distinct "III" at the end.

John A. Danaher III