

April 23, 2010

Good Morning Chairmen McDonald and Lawlor, Ranking Members Kissel and O'Neill, and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Susan Connors. I would like to thank Governor Rell for nominating me and all of you for the opportunity to be here before you today.

By way of background, I was born and raised in Middletown, CT. I was exposed to our judicial system, its judges, state's attorneys and other personnel from a very early age. My mother retired from the judicial department after 34 years of service after having worked her way up to Chief Clerk of the Criminal Court for Middlesex County. She instilled in both my sister Mary Ann and me a respect for our court system and the judicial process. Both of us went on to pursue careers in the law. I attended the University of Connecticut School of Law and graduated with honors. While a student there I worked in Aetna in their law department and also had the privilege of clerking for Justice Berdon who was then a Superior Court Judge sitting in New Haven. Upon graduating I accepted a position at Schatz & Schatz, Ribicoff & Kotkin which was then one of the largest firms in the region. I began practicing in the area of commercial litigation. Our economy then was unfortunately much like it is now and I brought probably a thousand cases to judgment in foreclosure and breach of contract matters. I conducted hundreds of pre-judgment remedy hearings, examination of judgment debtors and the like while also handling a fair amount of pro bono divorces as well as some victim's

rights cases. In addition to the incredible legal experiences I had at SSRK, it was there that I met my current partners, Andrew Krevolin and Stuart Roth; truly two of the finest trial lawyers, partners and men that I could have ever had the pleasure of knowing. They say when you affiliate yourself with people of the highest caliber you aspire to their level. I have been truly blessed to have been with Andy and Stu.

Since forming our own firm in 1995 my litigation practice has focused on the areas of personal injury, worker's compensation and family law. I have tried numerous cases to both judges and juries; arbitrated and mediated hundreds of others. I have appeared in eleven (11) of the twenty three (23) G.A. courts and all but one of the J.D. courts. I have appeared before at least one third of the sitting judges and a majority of the State Trial Referees. I am therefore very familiar with courtroom procedure and appropriate judicial temperament. Having been an associate in a very large firm and a partner in a small firm I am familiar with the dynamics and pressures facing practitioners. In addition to managing my practice and our firm I have served the courts, the community and our State. I currently serve as a Special Master in the family courts pre-trying cases. I have also served as an Adjunct Professor of Moot Court at the University of Connecticut School of Law where I instructed students on oral advocacy, legal reasoning and brief writing. I also currently serve on the Harbor Management Commission for the Town of Old Lyme where I have resided for the past ten years as well as serving the Chairperson of the Home Inspection Licensing Board for the State of Connecticut.

I have enjoyed my service in these capacities, but truly look forward to service on the bench. I honestly could not have been more honored or thrilled by this nomination so again I'd like to thank the Governor and all of you for this opportunity. I assure you that if I am confirmed I will carry out the responsibilities of a Superior Court Judge with all of my intelligence, patience and integrity. Thank you and at this time I will do my best to attempt to answer any questions you may have.

Susan A. Connors