

**GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRMAN CLEMONS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

**THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY. MY NAME IS RAQUEL VELEZ AND I GRADUATED FROM THE JUDICIAL MARSHALS ACADEMY ON SEPTEMBER 2005. CURRENTLY , I AM WORKING IN THE NEW HAVEN DISTRICT. THE REASON I AM HERE TODAY IS BECAUSE I FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME , AS A LATINA , TO LET YOU KNOW MY ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT I AM FACING TODAY AT MY PLACE OF WORK.**

**I FILED A SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWSUIT AGAINST THE JUDICIAL MARSHAL SERVICES AND MY DISTRICT CHIEF AND OTHERS. AS YOU MAY KNOW, IN MY COMPLAINT I STATED HOW I WAS SEXUALLY HARRASED AND HOW MY BUTTUCKS WERE GRABED WHILE WORKING AT THE COURTHOUSE . AND BECAUSE I COMPLAINED , I HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO RETALIATORY , HARASSING AND INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOR BY MY SUPERVISORS.**

**MY QUESTION NOW IS WHY ? I HAVE COME TO A CONCLUSION, AND IT IS ONLY ONE REASON, TO PREVENT OTHER MINORITY EMPLOYEES TO COME FORWARD. I THINK THIS IS WRONG AND I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THE ONLY THING I WANT TO DO IS MY JOB. I CANNOT FOCUS ON MY JOB WHEN I HAVE TO WORRY OR EXPLAIN TO THEM WHY I TOOK A DAY OFF OR WHY I AM REQUESTING A PERSONAL DAY OFF AND EXPLAIN THAT MY DAUGHTER IS SICK AND I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF HER. THESE BEHAVIORS MUST STOP AND I URGE YOU TO PLEASE DO SOMETHING FOR ME AND OTHER CO-WORKERS THAT PERHAPS MAY BE EXPERIENCING SIMILAR SITUATIONS .**

**THANK YOU,**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**