

**Opening Statement of Neil H. MacBride**  
**Nominee to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury**  
**U.S. Senate Committee on Finance**  
**September 22, 2021**

Thank you, Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you Senators Warner and Kaine for your kind introductions. I am deeply honored that President Biden nominated me to be General Counsel for the Department of Treasury, and I am grateful to Secretary Yellen for her confidence in me.

I would like to begin by introducing my family: my amazing wife of 29 years Christina Jackson MacBride, and our three children, Duncan, Charlotte and Alistair. As you all know, public service places great demands on one's family, and I am very thankful to Chris and my children for their constant love and support throughout the last several months, and especially during my prior 15 years of public service.

I would also like to acknowledge my incredible parents: Ruth Parkerson MacBride, who just turned 90 and is watching today's hearing from home, as well as my dad, Harvey MacBride, who passed away several years ago. And I'd like to acknowledge my wonderful in-laws, Rear Admiral Grady Jackson (USN Ret.) and Linda Jackson who are watching from home.

My parents instilled in me a deep commitment to public service. They were children of the Great Depression and both from humble roots: my mom grew up in rural Indiana while my dad, the son of immigrants, was raised in the South Bronx. My parents modeled hard work and personal responsibility but also firmly believed that government had an obligation to help out those who were down on their luck, and that Americans should give back to a country that had given them so much opportunity.

My parents' example led me to law school and subsequently into 15 years as a government attorney, serving in all three branches of government. The highlight of my public service, however, was spent right here in the United States Senate, when I was incredibly fortunate to spend four years as chief counsel to then-Senator Joe Biden on the Judiciary Committee.

I joined Senator Biden's staff one week before the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks on our Nation and witnessed first-hand the strength, resolve and resilience of this great body and its Members during those challenging days. It is humbling to be seated on the "other side" of the dais in a Senate hearing room, after logging hundreds of hours on the back bench in Dirksen 226. Having spent four years working on the Judiciary Committee — including with Senator Cantwell, Senator Grassley, Senator Cornyn, and former Senator Hatch — I have enormous respect for the significant work of this Committee in ensuring that the people's work is done.

I learned so much about the law and public service from then-Senator Biden, and was privileged to work with him on important bipartisan legislation to protect vulnerable victims, whether of domestic violence, corporate fraud, or terrorism. I believe that experience, including seeing up

close Congress enacting laws that are carried out by the Executive Branch, were incredibly helpful when I was later honored to serve as the United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. As U.S. Attorney, I partnered frequently with Treasury's enforcement offices to tackle banking and financial crimes – working closely with FinCEN, OFAC, SIGTARP and IRS Criminal Investigation -- and know first-hand the importance of their missions.

Treasury's responsibilities cover a range of issues that generate no shortage of complex, difficult legal questions. The Department has a crucial role to play in promoting a more fair and equitable economy, maintaining an effective tax system, bolstering our national security, and ensuring the continued dynamism of the U.S. economy.

My job as General Counsel will be, as Congress directed in its authorizing legislation, "the chief law officer of the Department." My role will not be to make policy or to oversee enforcement actions, but to provide legal advice to Secretary Yellen and other component heads, to manage Treasury's litigation positions and to ensure that the Department's regulatory actions comply with the laws Congress enacts. I would be very fortunate to work alongside the Treasury Legal Division's dedicated, experienced, and immensely talented lawyers and professional staff.

If I am confirmed, I look forward to working closely with Congress, and especially Members of this Committee. I have enormous respect for this institution, and I am committed to maintaining a close working relationship between Treasury and Congress.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear before this Committee and I look forward to answering your questions.